



Sex Workers Protest New Law



Pope Francis Overhauls Vatican Laws,...



79 Teens Rescued in US Sex-Trafficking Sweep

COMMENTS

60 comments

Normajeana

48 people listening

- Unfollow	Post comment

Newest | Oldest | Top Comments

onemilarepa

28 minutes ago

Why the law perpetuates our "hatred" and "fear" of prostitutes? I always know I'm in for a boring shallow article when there's an allegation of the other (invisible) guy being filled with hatred and fear. This is just a sloppy way of saying, "anyone who disagrees with me is wrong and bad."

Like Reply

Patricia Schwarz

1 hour ago

"In the late 1990s I wondered why a migrant group that often appeared in media reports and was well-known to me personally was absent from scholarly migration literature."

Academics are total cowards. The War on Drugs is missing from any academic histories of the world. For example you cannot learn anything about the history of drug interdiction in Afghanistan by reading a history book written by an academic. There's no mention of the hashish trade or Nixon or anything. You have find memoirs written by hippies to learn anything at all about that history. The academics won't touch it. It's like it never happened. There was never a War on Drugs in Afghanistan and it never had anything to do with history or foreign policy whatsoever. According to the academics that is. Not the hippies though. They remember. And they wrote a lot of it down.

Like Reply

Gayleg

1 hour ago

". . . her murder is simply another clear act of male violence and entitlement by a man who wanted her to be disqualified from seeing their children."

This is about right. She was murdered by a man who was her intimate partner, like so many millions of other women. This case is no indictment of the Swedish

policies on prostitution, which are clearly the best in the world. It is a domestic violence case.

The so called "Sex worker rights" advocates you cite as condemning the Swedish system are groups of Johns and Pimps- the same people whom the Swedish system rightfully puts in jail. Its the one country in the world that DOES NOT stigmatize and jail prostituted women.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

Normajeana

29 minutes ago

@Gayleg Excuse me? Are you claiming that those of us who have given our life to decriminalizing consenting adult commercial sex are 'johns or pimps'? Really? Do you have so little respect for the adult female to make choices for herself that you are willing to claim we sex workers /sex worker rights activists are nothing but MEN?

The Swedish model presumes that adult women are too stupid to know what choices they ought to make. It would appear that in your case, they may be right. Anyone who thinks the Swedish model for prostitution is "the best in the world" clearly has no capacity to think rationally. If you are a man (difficult to know what gender "Gayleg" is), you show exactly why adult women ought to be able to make choices apart from condescending, patronizing, infantilizing buffoons of either gender.

You don't have to like sex work to understand that it isn't your business what adult women do with their bodies. My body, my choice- NOT YOURS, NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S- but MINE! Grow up and leave other adults alone. Clearly you need to get a life, and butt out of ours.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

Scarecrow57

3 hours ago

How about we just legalize the oldest profession? Tax it, Regulate it. Require health checks. Come on not a big deal; except for the ladies who aren't getting it done at home.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

oldsailor4

2 hours ago

@Scarecrow57 your wife being an exception im sure

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

Gayleg

1 hour ago

We shouldn't legalize it because it feeds on the exploitation of young and vulnerable girls and women (also boys, but that's not the subject of the article). The average age of a girl starting in prostitution is 13 and declining. In the US, they are typically throwaway and runaway kids, forced in by predatory men. In other countries they are sold by their own families due to desperate poverty and gender bias (meaning these poor families keep and feed their boys.)

These are not consensual relationships. Would you choose to be prostituted ?

Like Reply

Patricia Schwarz

54 minutes ago

@Gayleg You cannot regulate what you ban. And banning things doesn't get rid of them.

Many people a "Harry Potter's wand" attitude towards the law. They act like banning something is the same thing as making it go away.

Banning something doesn't make it go away. It just means that you give up any regulatory power you might have had if you hadn't banned it.

But hey I guess you probably can't see that because you've got that magic wand in your hand and even though its powers have not yet made prostitution go away, you're not going to let go of that magic wand because it makes you feel in control to stand there and wave it.

Am I right? Even though that magic wand hasn't worked and never will work, it makes people feel too good to stand there wave it and so they're not going to give it up.

Like Reply

Normajeana

20 minutes ago

@Gayleg Actually, Gayleg, you are misquoting a study that was done years ago of JUVENILE prostitutes, a study in which no one over 18 was included. In 31 years of FBI Bureau of Justice Statistics arrests of females for prostitution, it shows that the average age for arrested females is between 25 and 29. Over a thirty one year period, from 1981 to 2011: And a chart of these minors can be found

here: http://www.policeprostitutionandpolitics.com/pdfs_all/Database%20Spreadsheets/multi%20year%20docs/Page%208%20Prostitution_arrests_by_age_x4_1981-2011.pdf

FEMALE ARRESTS PROSTITUTION OVER A 31 YEAR PERIOD 1981- 2011:

- **Female prostitution arrests all 1981- 2011: 1,925,045**
- of this number, **34,901 were under 18** and **1,890,145 were over 18**
- **Of those under 18,**
- the majority were 17: **16,994**
- followed by age 16: **8,987**
- then by age 15: **5016**
- age 13-14: **3,454**
- age 10 to 12: **256**
- age under 10: **187**
- Of those over 18, the majority were ages 25- 34: **771,353**
- age 18- 20: **235,839**
- age 21-24: **425,486**
- **total 18 to 24: 661,325**
- age 35- 65+ were: **457,471**

- for a total over 25 of : 1,228,824

For anyone who wishes to view the source documents, you can find links to the FBI stats

here: http://www.policeprostitutionandpolitics.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=109:links-to-stats&catid=35:links&Itemid=54

http://www.policeprostitutionandpolitics.com/html_cop_sex_trafficking/Cops%20prostitutes%20and%20child%20sexual%20exploitation-%20Sex%20Trafficking/assets/player/KeynoteDHTMLPlayer.html#240

Like Reply

BeansAndGreens

3 hours ago

Prostitution should not be a crime. I'm not going to speculate on all the reasons that women and men become prostitutes, but we all know that many are driven to it by desperation. Keeping it illegal only adds to their miseries and, like illegal immigrants, puts them in a position where they can be abused and exploited yet remain too fearful -- for good reason -- to turn to the authorities for help.

I've been to parties where very wealthy old men were accompanied by young and very pretty women. Money in the form of access to luxury and high society in exchange for sex, and vice versa. Perfectly legal, because actual money does not change hands. If that is legal, then why not two poor or middle class people exchanging actual money for sex? And why is it legal for a desperate person to take a filthy and dangerous job, such as slaughterhouse worker, or a backbreaking job, such as farm worker, but not legal for a desperate person to prostitute themselves?

We can and will debate the moral implications and social drivers of prostitution for a long time to come, but in the meantime, we should decriminalize it.

2 Like Reply

SanityAdvocate

7 hours ago

The "woman murdered recently near Melbourne, Australia" was in fact a drug addict who worked as a prostitute to pay for her habit. This was well publicised, but the author obviously chose to ignore it since it didn't fit here narrative.

The striking thing about this article is the almost complete absence of any evidence. The author summarises the opinions of people with whom she disagrees and makes snide remarks about them. That is pretty much the whole article.

By the way, there is a lot of stigma around the purchasing of sex (by men principally), just as there is around the selling of it (by women principally). The men manage a degree of social acceptance by hiding what they are doing and because it is something that they do for maybe an hour a week, whereas many of the women do it full-time.

Having sex for pleasure based on attraction is normal and it is what almost everyone aspires to. Indeed, it is a central pre-occupation of life. Having sex with people based on payment even if they are repulsive, boring, inconsiderate, selfish, insensitive, brutal and entitled is deeply contrary to fundamental human urges. People who do it are never going to be held in high regard, except perhaps for some faux praise from people with an agenda. Victim status is the highest status that prostitutes can reasonably aspire to.

2 Like Reply

1April

3 hours ago

@SanityAdvocate Wait, so if someone is an addict, it matters less if they are murdered?

Like Reply

SanityAdvocate

2 hours ago

@1April @SanityAdvocate That is such a dumb comment.

The fact that she was a drug addict is relevant only in that it brings a little reality to the discussion of prostitution, amongst a stream of bullstust about "agency" and how prostitution is just work.

Of course this woman's murder was a tragedy --- a tragic end to a tragic life.

2 Like Reply

Normajeana

17 minutes ago

@SanityAdvocate So you are perfectly ok with cops raping prostitutes, extorting us for sex, money and information? Because that's what they do with the laws you give them. http://www.policeprostitutionandpolitics.com/html_cop_sex_trafficking/Cops%20prostitutes%20and%20child%20sexual%20exploitation-%20Sex%20Trafficking/assets/player/KeynoteDHTMLPlayer.html#121

Like Reply

tinwoman

7 hours ago

Here's waiting for the ravening hordes of MRAs to arrive screaming that prostitution is Wonderful and anyone with a female screen name who opposes must be a dried up old hag who's "jealous". MRAs who can't get any women to have sex with them tend to be advocates of prostitution.

I shudder when I think of any woman forced to get money by being shut up alone in a room with these unstable, hateful people. A fate worse than death, truly.

Like Reply

Normajeana

10 minutes ago

@tinwoman As a female who worked as a sex worker, I can tell you that being a sex worker was the best job I ever had. I spent 10 long miserable years working for the LAPD before I became an honest call girl... and I know what misery can be found in many jobs. I was NOT forced to become a prostitute- I chose the work at age 32. You need to grow up, tinwoman, and understand that all women don't answer to you or those other victim pimps who claim all of us sex workers are victims and if we say we are not, we must be a man using a female screen name.

Do you make that claim because your view of women is that we are unable to speak for ourselves? Because you, in your sad little world,

think you speak for us? The clients I had when I was working were hardly men who couldn't get women to have sex with them. However, many of them did have wives like you, which sent them into our arms in the first place. We thank you for being the way you are and we are assured that as long as there are women like you in the world, we will always have a job.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

tinwoman

8 hours ago

Communities are allowed to decide that they do not want prostitution in the same way that they are allowed to decide they do not want to have extortion rackets, crack houses, and chop shops. People who want to engage in those activities can find some other line of work if they are as logical, rational, and empowered as they claim.

Arguing that these things "will always be there" is no argument. Crime of all kinds will always be there but we still make laws to deal with it.

If prostitutes object to being portrayed as victims under decriminalization laws like Sweden's, then surely they'll have no beef with being treated like criminals. After all, if they're not victims and the activity is illegal, then they're criminals. End of discussion.

All the pseudo-feminist stuff is just bullshit. Prostitution is a societal blight and a personal failure, unless the woman is a sex slave or drug addict (as almost all of them are). And if she is, then it's a failure of all of us to fail to address the problem.

[1 Like](#) [Reply](#)

jesse_covner

8 hours ago

@tinwoman In the country where I live, very few are slaves nor drug addicts. Sex work, for them, is a means for some of them to enter the middle-class, to buy property.

Now, I'm curious. How is it a personal failure to choose to sell sex? And if it was legal, how is it a societal blight?

You compare it to other forms of crime which is non-consensual, like auto-theft and extortion. You compare it with "crack-houses"... not a crime but a location where drug addicts live. Yes you are right that as prostitution is illegal it is in the same legal status as extortion. But in what other ways is prostitution similar?

[1 Like](#) [Reply](#)

Todd Dunning

8 hours ago

@jesse_covner @tinwoman

"...In the country where I live, very few are slaves nor drug addicts. Sex work, for them, is a means for some of them to enter the middle-class, to buy property."

Jesse, your country sounds like a real winner there.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**tinwoman**

8 hours ago

@jesse_covner @tinwoman Where do you live, sunshine?

Tell the truth.

Drug pushers and burglars can enter the middle class too.
Justification for these activities?

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Todd Dunning**

8 hours ago

@tinwoman

Couldn't agree more, tinwoman... Bravo.

[1 Like](#) [Reply](#)**Pir_Gomelez**

3 hours ago

@Todd Dunning @tinwoman Todd's Country Style Pastimes include : Early Times, Ham Radio and Woodworking : Todd's hand turned lathe produces West Virginia Apple Wood butt plugs and BDSM racks of noted quality and Master Craftsmanship. Todd is a real artist in wooden sex toys.

[1 Like](#) [Reply](#)**1April**

2 hours ago

@tinwoman The consensual exchange of sex for money is hardly tantamount to extortion, chop shops, or a public health problem like addiction. To advocate for the continued criminalization of sex work is to assert that you want the state to have a say in your sex life; you do not want the option to purchase sexual services, and you want the police to enforce that, for you and everyone else.

Which is a pretty fucked up kink, I have to say.

[1 Unlike](#) [Reply](#)**Normajeana**

6 minutes ago

@tinwoman How many of us sex workers do you know? Since you probably do not know ANY, then where do you get off claiming that most of us are sex slaves or drug addicts?

So I guess then, people also have a right to ban homosexuality? and that would of course include same sex marriage? How about if a community didn't want churches? Can we just ban any group of people and professions we like - just because they might offend us?

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Horuss**

9 hours ago

We live in a hypocritical culture that condemns the selling of sex in real life while glorifying it behind closed doors. Seems to me "we" do not fear or hate prostitutes. Lots of hypocrites hate them. Lots of other women fear them. Many, many men are all for them. If they weren't they wouldn't be in business.

Clearly, the only way to deal with prostitution is to legalize and regulate it, start condemning the hypocrites and the Victorians who want to make it shameful, and try to have our culture and ourselves start acting like grownups when it comes to prostitution. It has always been around and always will be no matter what anyone says or does.

3 Unlike Reply

tinwoman

8 hours ago

@Horuss I live in a country where prostitution is legal, and no, it's not clear to me at all that this is a solution. All legalization has done is make my city a hub of trafficking. That's no answer.

If we want to act like grownups, that means learning that men have no right to sex necessarily and there does not need to be an underclass of poor/foreign women dedicated to selling their bodies to them. This means realizing that some things, like sex slavery, are unworthy of a developed society.

It means realizing that 99% of prostitutes are not unusually sex-positive gorgeous law students, but illegal immigrants who were brought to one of the concrete houses in the hellish-looking industrial parks, often without knowing where they were going, and raped and plied with drugs until they become pliant slaves.

That is the face of prostitution. And now it's legal here. It is depraved. And I hope Sweden's approach will be more widely adopted soon.

You don't sound like a grown up. You sound like a kid who watches too many rap videos about the joys of pimpin'.

1 Like Reply

Pir_Gomelez

3 hours ago

@tinwoman @Horuss more racism, she blames all the problems of the world on dark skinned people and their 'rap'

1 Unlike Reply

Aaron Bonn

9 hours ago

Thank you, Salon, for publishing Laura Agustin. I have been following her blog for a few years now and hers is an interesting, unique, and iconoclastic voice that has deserved a bigger platform for a while now. Hope to hear more from her here.

1 Unlike Reply

Todd Dunning

9 hours ago

Or, choose not to be a prostitute.

Problem solved; on to the next Salon liberal victim narrative.

1 Like Reply

tinwoman

8 hours ago

@Todd Dunning Here in Germany, it is legal but practically no Germans do it. There is no need. But there are a lot of trafficked women,

particularly from Eastern Europe. They are slaves for all practical purposes. A Russian pimp makes the fabled African-American "stable boss" look like a piker.

Women don't choose to be prostitutes ordinarily. There is far too much demand for willing women with all the rights of citizens to ever begin to meet it. There will be trafficking of the unwilling as long as it is allowed here. And I'm against that.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

BeansAndGreens

3 hours ago

@Todd Dunning You have no sympathy for the desperate, do you, Todd?

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

starcaller

1 hour ago

@BeansAndGreens Many people are put into desperate situations by their own poor choices. Either we coddle them like children, or treat adults as adults and let them live with the consequences of their actions. Maybe if their own parents weren't so inept, we wouldn't have to deal with these problems.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

GrantS

9 hours ago

They take money is the answer to the first question.

The second answer is: they used to be diseased and took money that could have gone to wives or families.

The disease part might not be true anymore, or NOT AS true as in the past, but the money is still being taken for what could be free.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

Canuckistan Bob

11 hours ago

Perhaps just as important, or maybe even more important, would be understanding and even destigmatizing johns as well as prostitutes. As long as the customer is usually despised, and may often despise themselves, it is going to be difficult to remove the stigma from any other aspect of the business. Laws can swing in the direction of punishing the johns, as apparently they have in Sweden; make the john the bad guy, that'll solve the problem, right? Guess what, it doesn't.

But it will be a very cold day in hell before anybody speaks or thinks of johns without loathing and derision, I would think. I certainly can't see feminists rushing to the barricades over giving johns sympathy and respect, and the thought of any politician speaking up for john's rights is ridiculous. And its a sure bet johns aren't going to organize and speak up for themselves.

So we have an unspeakable, unmentionable, uncontrollable, and ineradicable demand to deal with, which we attempt to control by punishing those who meet/exploit it. Works every time, just ask the drug warriors.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**tinwoman**

8 hours ago

@Canuckistan Bob I will always think of johns with loathing and derision. But you're wrong that they face any stigma. Authors make a point of writing about their experiences in brothels, and have for more than a century. Spitzer is enjoying a comeback in his political career. DSK still has his loyal defenders. Berlusconi will never really pay for the time he spent paying for sex with a child. Where is this stigma you speak of? Men go to prostitutes totally openly and they don't care who knows it. I wish there was a stigma.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Gerry Q**

4 hours ago

Authors are expected to have a racketsy lifestyle. Politicians... well, don't get me started. [Though 'Ruby The Heartstealer' does not reasonably fall in the category of a child IMO, and it is hard to see Berlusconi's trial on this account at least as other than politically motivated.]

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Canuckistan Bob**

4 hours ago

@tinwoman Really? Do you like personally know any of these men, the non-Berlusconi and non bad boy writers, who use hookers and brag about it? Its a dead certainty that you do personally know men who have paid for sex; the industry is very very large after all. Surely some co-workers or family members have bragged about it, right? Your dad/brother/coworker?

1 [Like](#) [Reply](#)**tinwoman**

4 hours ago

@Canuckistan Bob @tinwoman Yes, I have met men who have bragged about it. Among others, in South America I met two rich Jewish lawyers from New York with fiances back home who laughed and joked about the dirt poor women they paid to have sex with them in Caracas. Their disrespect of the women, and their inability to see them as people, was obvious. Since they were "on holiday", they also propositioned me. I said no and they turned on me quite nastily. Stupid bastards with way too much money and probably quite typical of the kinds of men who think it's okay to pay poverty-stricken teenagers to suck their dicks.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**BeansAndGreens**

3 hours ago

@tinwoman @Canuckistan Bob

Why bother to mention their religion, Tinwoman?

Like Reply

Pir_Gomelez

3 hours ago

@BeansAndGreens @tinwoman @Canuckistan

Bob Tinwoman is a noted antisemite and racist on salon.com

1 Like Reply

boston14

12 hours ago

Being promiscuous is disgusting for anyone.

1 Like Reply

vasumurti

10 hours ago

@boston14

"Being promiscuous is disgusting for anyone."--boston14

I beg to differ.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, 1992, I was involved in a "threesome" or a "menage-a-trois" (not sure which is the correct term!) with Adriana (the girl I was dating at the time) and her roommate, Tiana.

As we undressed, Adriana's cassette of music (I think it might have been Skid Row or some other heavy metal band she was into) was playing, and Tiana squealed, "Squeeze my titties!"

(My friend Chris, into porn, later commented, "Women actually talk like that!")

Adriana and Tiana made it a point to wear matching underwear, and Tiana brought the condoms and lubricants.

Tiana asked me to shower before sex... and Tiana then joined me in the shower, merely commenting that the water was too hot.

In the bedroom, Tiana put a condom on me, lubricated, kissed me several times, and after she was through with me, put a fresh condom on me and turned me over to Adriana.

The next day, Adriana phoned, saying she and Tiana weren't feeling well, and asked if I could take them both to the local hospital. At first, I said I couldn't do it right away, and in the background during the phone conversation, I heard Tiana saying, "After what we did for him...!"

As I took them to the hospital, Tiana, very promiscuous, said she didn't care if I told anyone about what had happened the night before.

And true to her word, she casually told one of her other lovers, Vigid, about me, and when he saw me, he was casting a jealous look in my direction!

When Tiana said she was dating two Sikh gentlemen, "Bittu" and "T.S." at the same time, I said she reminds me of Prince, showing up at the Grammys in 1985 with Wendy and Lisa!

On the other hand:

On September 2, 2007, I was matched on eharmony.com with Michelle, a single mother with three beautiful daughters.

As we got to know each other, I found Michelle to be very sexually expressive, admitting casually, for example, that she masturbates.

Michelle asked me, "Have you ever made out for hours on end till your lips hurt?" She spoke of "road-head" (giving a guy head while on the road, or driving) a term I'd never heard before!

Michelle boasted that she was skilled at fellatio, and proved it to me twice on the Sunday (October 14, 2007) we were together!

Michelle said she became pregnant at 15, and because she had her three daughters at such a young age, they were more like siblings to her.

Michelle said when she found out her oldest daughter (still in high school at the time) was having sex with her boyfriend, she immediately put her on birth control.

But Michelle, who says she likes to make out for hours on end, apparently didn't want too much foreplay, when she visited me here in the SF Bay Area.

When we got to her hotel room at the Holiday Inn Express near the Oakland airport, she said we'll need condoms. I came prepared (no pun intended!)

And we quickly got into bed, and I came shortly thereafter.

Afterward, when I treated Michelle to dinner at Golden Lotus, a vegan Vietnamese restaurant in downtown Oakland, I mentioned the movie *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, and I thanked her for the pleasant lovemaking we'd enjoyed earlier in the afternoon.

Michelle's soft, sexy squeal of delight indicated I'd pleased her!

When I spoke with Michelle over the phone in January 2008, I told her I'm not averse to casual sex, but I'd like to think what we had was the start of an actual relationship... her tone of voice suddenly changed, and I haven't been able to speak to her since!

An article appeared on AlterNet (a liberal headlines email newsletter) a few years ago, entitled, "Women Have Lots of Casual Sex -- Get Over It!"

I commented: Many men (myself included) are attracted to promiscuous women, even if in Madonna's case it is just a carefully crafted image.

We don't judge them, or call them "sluts" or "whores," either. In 1986 or 1987, my roommate Burke (himself a womanizer!) commented favorably about Madonna's carefully crafted image, saying, "She'd do anybody!"

AlterNet user jessicarenae responded:

"I just have a simple question for you-- if you are so attracted to promiscuous women (like Tiana) because it increases your chances of getting laid, if you impregnated one of these women, would you help take responsibility for the child because you are against her aborting it?"

I responded: YES! This goes without saying. And this almost happened a few years ago. In October 2007, I spent a weekend with a beautiful woman from out of town, kind enough to visit me here in the San Francisco Bay Area, whom I met online through [eharmony.com](http://www.eharmony.com).

The second time we made love, the condom slipped. We were both worried about a possible pregnancy and are both opposed to abortion.

Late in the evening, she got her period, and our fears were diminished. But had she gotten pregnant, I would have married her in a heartbeat!

And the thought of marrying her anyway crossed my mind afterward. In the months that followed, *she* was the one who ended communication with me. So you can hardly accuse me of being "love 'em and leave 'em," i.e., an exploitative male, in this regard!

Feminists For Life, PO Box 320667, Alexandria, VA 22320

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

tinwoman

7 hours ago

[@vasumurti](#) We have to start flagging this idiot. He has diahorea of the keyboard and it stinks up so many threads.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

Canuckistan Bob

4 hours ago

[@tinwoman](#) for once I agree with you 100%.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

MysteryPrincess

10 hours ago

[@boston14](#)

Then why do guys get cheered for it?

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

boston14

12 hours ago

So now sex workers aren't supposed to be stigmatized? I hope the author's daughter takes up this profession. LMAO

1 [Like](#) [Reply](#)

MysteryPrincess

10 hours ago

[@boston14](#)

If you honestly think about it, why should anyone be stigmatized for having consensual sex? (Assuming there's no adultery).

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

SanityAdvocate

7 hours ago

[@MysteryPrincess](#) You seem to think that the word "consensual" sanctifies everything.

Let's forget about sex for a moment. Are there people you admire and people you don't? Or are you so heavily into being non-judgmental that you rate everyone exactly the same?

Are people who stand up for themselves and who conduct their lives with integrity more likely to gain your admiration? If so, you could not admire prostitutes. A prostitute basically gives up

the normal expectations of reciprocity in a sexual relationship and accepts doormat status in exchange for money. The customer gets a pass from being attractive, considerate, sensitive, caring and every other desirable quality in a partner. The prostitute accepts totally shitty sexual relationships because that is what she has contracted to do.

Is this the sort of person you admire? If so, then you are one of the few. Almost no-one respects what prostitutes do. A few say they do because they want to be supportive. Others make positive noises because they want the option to purchase the services of prostitutes themselves. But the whole business is sordid and degrading, and it will always be regarded as such by anyone with reasonable values whose ideology has not forced their head up their arse.

PS. Prostitutes have sex with married men all the time, so they are enablers of adultery (of which you apparently disapprove), even if they are not technically committing it.

1 Like Reply

vasumurti

12 hours ago

While it is known that the feminist movement originally opposed abortion as "child-murder" (Susan B. Anthony's words) and as a form of violence that women are forced to turn to in a patriarchal society...

...a society that shows virtually no concern or respect for new mothers, it is generally not known that many of the early American feminists—including Lucy Stone, Amelia Bloomer, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton—were connected with the 19th century animal welfare movement.

Together, they would meet with anti-slavery editor Horace Greeley to toast "**Women's Rights and Vegetarianism.**"

When women began protesting the double-standard which said sex before and/or outside of marriage was acceptable for men but not for women, H.L. Mencken (1880 - 1956) commented in "The Suffragette," a chapter from his 1922 book, *In Defense of Women*, that women weren't demanding that men be virtuous, "*but that the franchise of dalliance be extended to themselves.*"

Similarly, feminists were outraged in 1981, when Lady Diana Spencer's virginity had to be confirmed before she could marry Prince Charles.

When Diana passed away in 1997, she was referred to as "the people's princess," beloved by all.

Does "slut-shaming" exist anymore? There's a double-standard when it comes to sex, yes, but it's worse for men than for women!

Otherwise, why isn't there a sex comedy movie entitled, *The 40 Year Old Spinster* ?!

Does porn or merely posing nude differ from prostitution?
I've never had to pay for sex, but I have friends who have paid for sex.

During the '80s, someone once wrote into the *Reader*, a liberal San Diego

newspaper, saying that using attractive women in advertising: magazines, billboards, posing next to prizes on television game shows (what to speak of women stripping, working in topless bars, or merely posing nude!) is a subtle form of prostitution -- women using their bodies for income.

A recent online news item, for example, shows a photo of UFC Octagon Girl Arriany Celeste in shorts and in a top clearly meant to show off her cleavage. Additional photos show her in revealing clothing.

Arriany Celeste is **a hostess** on the UFC's web show, *UFC Ultimate Insider*. She has worked for the UFC since 2006, and has also modeled for *Playboy*, *Maxim* and *FHM*.

In mainstream secular American society, with single parent households in which women often have to work outside the home to support themselves (and, in many cases, their children) where do we draw the line with criminalizing women for using their own bodies for income?

Prostitution was ***legal*** in ancient India for the identical reason the Prohibition of alcohol in the United States failed (and the current prohibition of marijuana is failing as well).

In his purport (commentary) to the *Srimad Bhagavatam* 1.11.19, A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada writes:

"We may not hate even the prostitutes if they are devotees of the Lord. Even to date there are many prostitutes in great cities of India who are sincere devotees of the Lord.

"By tricks of chance, one may be obliged to adopt a profession which is not very adorable in society... even in those days, about five thousand years ago, there were prostitutes in a city like Dwarka... This means that prostitutes are necessary citizens for the proper upkeep of society.

"The government opens wine shops, but this does not mean that the government encourages the drinking of wine. The idea is that there is a class of men who will drink at any cost, and it has been experienced that prohibition in great cities encouraged illicit smuggling of wine.

"Similarly, men who are not satisfied at home require such concessions... It is better that prostitutes be available in the marketplace so that the sanctity of society can be maintained."

Pro-choice feminist Tracy Clark-Flory writes on Salon.com:

"At \$25-\$30 per hour, prostitutes make approximately four times what they likely would outside of the sex industry. Of course, that doesn't take into consideration on-the-job risks like contracting an STD (condoms were used in only a quarter of dealings) or being assaulted; researchers estimate that sex workers are assaulted an average of once a month.

"There's also the threat of being arrested, but according to the *Economist*, 'Prostitutes are more likely to have sex with a police officer than to be arrested by one.'"

Problems such as contracting STDs, being assaulted, pimp violence, etc. would not exist if prostitution were legal. And if any sex workers were abused or

attacked, they could report the crime to the police without the fear of being arrested themselves.

I'm a pro-life **Democrat** (Republicans treat non-Christians like second-class citizens), but even some conservatives concede that prostitution can, depending upon the circumstances, be completely victimless.

In a 1995 column entitled "Prostitution as a Privacy Right," Robert Craig Paul, a syndicated columnist for the *Washington Times*, wrote:

"If a woman's right to control the use of her reproductive organs permits her to enter into a cash transaction with an abortionist, then how can this fundamental right of privacy not apply to other transactions involving her use of her body?"

"...abortion has been against the law and restricted with greater intensity for more of our history than prostitution, reflecting social norms that abortion, viewed as infanticide, is more immoral than prostitution..."

"In contrast (to abortion), prostitution is entirely an act between consenting parties that does not affect the bodily integrity, identity and destiny of a third party (the unborn)..."

"It is legal nonsense that privacy conveys the right to abort, but not the right to ingest drugs or engage in sodomy..."

"It will be interesting to watch the court sort out on the basis of *Roe v. Wade* why it is legal for a woman to contract for abortion but not prostitution."

Some feminists oppose pornography. Others do not. Some feminist groups like COYOTE ("Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics") support the legalization of prostitution.

So it's disingenuous for pro-choicers to claim pro-life feminists aren't real feminists, especially when the history of the feminist movement shows otherwise.

Even if the views of pro-life feminists do not represent the feminist majority but are in the minority, like Feminists For Animal Rights... Feminists For Life and their pro-life feminist views should similarly be welcomed by other feminists for serious discussion.

Feminists For Life, PO Box 320667, Alexandria, VA 22320

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

SanityAdvocate

4 hours ago

@vasumurti "Problems such as contracting STDs, being assaulted, pimp violence, etc. would not exist if prostitution were legal."

You are an idiot. All of those problems exist in countries where prostitution is legal. Do some research.

1 Like [Reply](#)

Chronic Logic

13 hours ago

Who could possibly hate and fear prostitutes?!

I fucking love prostitutes!

In fact, prostitution should be legalized!

1 Like Reply

ThomasPaine

13 hours ago

@Chronic Logic The answer to your question is...wives.

Like Reply

Douglas Moran

13 hours ago

After listening to sex educator and sex worker Sabrina Morgan speak on sex work at South by Southwest Interactive this past Spring, I think her (and many sex workers') differentiation between decriminalizing vs. legalizing sex work is very much on point. This is the difference between what many in the sex worker community advocate (decriminalization, i.e. eliminating anti-prostitution laws) vs. legalization (such as in Sweden). It seems clear to me that the Swedish model is a disaster for sex workers, and a different approach is needed.

The conflation of sex trafficking and sex work is a bad one, and shouldn't affect the push to decriminalize. If people are being kidnapped for forced sex work, then prosecute them on kidnapping and slavery charges (and whatever else is appropriate--assault, theft, etc.); there's no need, in my view, to bring sex work into it at all.

But of course, the American culture is so schizophrenic over the sex that I don't expect any rational solution any time soon. Porn will continue to be a huge industry despite the moralistic rantings of various religious groups, even among the members of those same religious groups. And similarly, as people like David Vitter have proven, people will continue to go to sex workers, no matter what they spout publicly. It's nuts, but it's not going to be fixed soon. (Not that I think we should stop trying!)

Like Reply

jennifer74

14 hours ago

I enjoyed reading this piece - thought it was thought provoking. I do find it true that no "solution" has been found. Legalizing prostitution in Germany has proven disastrous, yet there are many disasters that result from stigmatizing and criminalizing the "agency" as well. I remain unsure of what the answer is, or if there even is one.

Like Reply

tinwoman

8 hours ago

@jennifer74 There are probably no perfect answers, only less worse solutions. It's a battle we'll always be fighting.

Like Reply

rd

14 hours ago

Again, the sweeping headline. I've never hated or feared any prostitute. Speak for yourself, author or editor that came with the headline.