

The Naked Anthropologist

Dr Laura Agustín on Migration, Trafficking and Sex

European Women's Lobby lies about sex trafficking, prostitution and sporting events

6 June 2012 in [trafficking](#) by [laura agustin](#) | [1 comment](#) | [print](#)

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(<http://www.lauraagustin.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/EWLredcard.jpg>)

The European Women's Lobby – which should not be allowed to call themselves that – continue to use public money to further a campaign that contradicts the laws of several European states that allow people to sell and buy sexual services. This red-card nonsense is part of [Together for a Europe Free From Prostitution](#) (<http://www.womenlobby.org/spip.php?rubrique187&lang=en>), which overtly spreads what they themselves call *abolition*: true missionary endeavour, even if these missionaries look like so-called liberated western women. How do they get away with this? Is there no oversight for funding to such groups? I suppose the Germans, Dutch, Czechs et al just ignore it all, but in times of purse-tightening it is annoying that zealots are allowed to throw public money around like this. I wonder what happened to the question that was put in the [European Parliament](#) (<http://www.lauraagustin.com/funding-for-ewl-anti-prostitution-campaign-challenged-in-parliament>) about this?

Money is the key: It has become easy to get funding nowadays to campaign against trafficking; no thinking is required; just flash your ideology like a red card. Funders then get to tick the box showing they *care about trafficking*, which in turn makes them look good. Never mind that the message is a lie, since there is [no evidence that sex trafficking increases](#) (<http://www.lauraagustin.com/have-you-signed-the-letter-to-stop-arrests-of-sex-workers-during-the-olympics>) when big sporting events take place. Evidence is irrelevant to ideological fanatics, of course, but it shouldn't be to Brussels technocrats. Two mega-events are cited, the London Olympics, which begin in late July, and the UEFA European Football Championship, which begins any minute now.

The text accompanying this message deliberately misinterprets that evidence, provided by relatively sound investigation and staid sources.

This year, thousands of young girls and women are at risk of trafficking and sexual exploitation to satisfy the demand for prostitution on the sidelines of the Olympic Games in London and the UEFA Euro 2012 in Poland and Ukraine.

The number of human trafficking victims in Greece increased by 95% during the 2004 Olympic Games. Ahead of the 2006 World Cup in Germany, predictions were for more than 40,000 women and children to be trafficked into the country to meet the prostitution demands of millions of football fans. During the 2011 World Cup, South African authorities noted a 'huge' increase in the sex trade, with the number of women and girls involved in prostitution, as well as the number of brothels, doubling.

The European Women's Lobby has called on Members of the European Parliament to take a stand against prostitution at sporting events. Nineteen MEPs supporting

