

Melissa Farley is the radical feminist researcher mentioned previously, and, as noted, is an ardent prostitution abolitionist whose world view is that all ‘**prostitution is like rape**,’ and claims that ‘**prostitution is bad for the body, bad for the heart**’ regardless of whether the prostitute is adult or consented. Why providing pleasure for pay would be bad for the body OR the heart, unless sex with multiple partners FOR FREE is also bad for women. Her concern is never for male sex workers- in her world, neither they or transgendered prostitutes exist. So whether or not it is bad for them, *she simply doesn’t care*.

Perhaps she is unaware of the many **scientific** studies (as opposed to her ideologically driven ‘studies’) which show that sex is actually very good for men AND women. Those studies didn’t limit the benefits of sexual activities only to married couples, but claim that sex in general is a great stress reducer and life extender. It goes without saying that the positive benefits of sex in such studies refers to consensual and adult sexual activity, not rape or sex with minors.

One does not need to be a researcher to recognize that rape- truly coerced sex- is harmful to the victim. And despite arguments by agenda driven abolitionists, when someone has been violently raped or sexually assaulted, *they do not need to be convinced of the emotional damage, trauma and pain that result*. It can take years of therapy and powerful antidepressants to relieve that trauma and to resume a normal and enjoyable sex life with someone, including their long time partner (unless the partner was the rapist).

Unfortunately, in some states, a violent sexual encounter is only legally considered ‘rape’ if it involved vaginal penetration. Anal or oral penetration are not considered rape no matter how violence. Which is ironic because much of the sexual activity performed by sex workers does not involve vaginal penetration, and yet to those abolitionists, it is still ‘like rape.’

Minors are said to be victims of rape even if they consent, if the sex partner is an adult more than a certain number of years older than the minor. In some states, the age difference is 5 years; in others, an 18 year old who has sex with his/ her 17 year old boyfriend/ girlfriend, is considered a rapist if the age of consent in their state is 18... but if the age of consent is 16 or even lower, then they are not a rapist. One state may require a lifetime sex offender registry for the ‘rapist’ even if the ‘rapist’ marries the ‘victim,’ while a state right next door will consider their behavior perfectly legal.

There is ‘date rape’ and marital rape and stranger rape, and if a woman who is in the midst of sexual intercourse with her lover and at the last minute decides she no longer consents but the man doesn’t stop, it is rape. When a woman is drunk and allegedly incapable of giving consent, and an equally drunk male partner has sex with her anyway, it is rape. There are many degrees of rape, some include violence, others do not. Only the victim can quantify the degree of emotional pain and suffering that result from not consenting to an act of sex.

When *everything* is called ‘rape,’ even when the alleged victim denies being raped, the emotional damage that real rape victims experience is ‘devalued’ and diluted. Real rapists must be delighted to know that cops are much less likely to investigate *their* crimes because the cops are too busy setting up stings to arrest sex worker ‘victims’ or their non violent clients. Imagine the confusion of the real victim who was violently sexually assaulted and who reported the crime only to learn that the cops may or may not investigate, that their rape kit may not be processed, their rapist may never be caught or punished because their government believes it is more important to ‘rescue’ adult women who have not asked for help. Our federal, state and local governments have once again signed on to the ideological crusade of some radical feminists and religious conservatives who believe that ‘prostitution is like rape’ and ‘ought to be eliminated.’

Indeed, real rape victims get screwed!