

Responses to Illogical Arguments/Lies Against Decriminalization of Adult Prostitution

There are some very strange and illogical arguments put forth by both liberals and conservatives against decriminalizing consenting adult commercial sex. This series of posters was designed to provide sex worker allies with useful information to respond intelligently to those who oppose decriminalization. Links to all of the material in these posters can be found on our website (listed at bottom) and a more thorough examination of and rebuttals to the various lies told by prostitution abolitionists can be found on our www.policeprostitutionandpolitics.com website. If you need specific information regarding any issue related to sex work, contact me at normajeanalmodovar@gmail.com

ILLOGICAL ARGUMENT /LIE

RESPONSE

#1

Would you want your daughter/ mother/ sister to be a prostitute?

FYI: not all sex workers are female, and this is a sexist argument anyway. You might ask if they want their daughter, mother or sister to clean toilets for a living...

If your daughter/ mother/ sister *was* a prostitute, would you want them to be arrested, go to jail, lose their children or be at risk of being raped or extorted by a cop or corrections officer? **Not** wanting a loved one to do a particular type of work is not a rational argument for prohibiting adults from engaging in whatever work they choose, even if you find their work offensive or immoral, as long as they are not harming anyone else.

#2

Prostitution is dangerous and many prostitutes get raped by their 'johns'- so by keeping it illegal, we are protecting women. Besides, no

woman would consent to engage in prostitution, so all commercial sex is 'like rape.' Therefore, all prostitutes must be victims. We must rescue them!

FYI: there are many other dangerous professions in which women are 'allowed' to work... such as the military and law enforcement. According to the FBI Bureau of Justice Statistics, more cops have been killed (1,422) from 1991 to 2015- than sex workers (270). There are only about 652,936 state and local cops, while there are, allegedly, many more prostitutes. Apparently sex work is much safer than police work, based on the FBI stats.

Furthermore, if 'rape' is an issue, perhaps these eye opening statistics from the FBI will knock their socks off:

The average annual rate of arrests for reported violent rapes and sexual assaults is 5%. From 1991 to 2016, there were 6,315,408 unsolved rape and sexual assault cases. Ask those liberals and religious conservatives who claim to be concerned about sex workers being raped why they don't care about non sex workers being raped.

A prostitute is more likely to be raped by a cop than by his/ her clients, because prohibition give cops so much power over their lives and whenever laws can be selectively and arbitrarily enforced, police corruption always has been and always will be the end result. If a woman is considered an outlaw by the cops and may actually be arrested for being a prostitute, it is unlikely that she will report being the victim of rape or any other crime, particularly if her rapist/ abuser is a law enforcement officer. She knows that it is unlikely that anything will be done to the rapist- especially a rapist cop.

LAPD officers James Nichols and Luis Valenzuela were still employed for five years after the numerous complaints from sex workers reporting being raped by them. Finally convicted and sentenced to prison.

Women have consented to engage in commercial sex for thousands of years. For many, it is a much better alternative than working for McDonalds or cleaning toilets for a living!

Being arrested is NOT being rescued!

This 'statistic' came from the 2001 "Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the US, Canada and Mexico" by Richard J. Estes and Neil Alan Weiner but this was a study of **CHILDREN and NO ONE OVER 18 WAS INCLUDED**. Even for 'children' that isn't an "average age" for 'entering' prostitution. More juveniles are 15, 16 and 17 when they get into prostitution, which is still an inappropriate age for them to engage in adult activity, but arresting them puts them at risk of being raped by a staff member or other inmate. Arresting adult prostitutes and their adult clients because children are involved in prostitution means there are fewer resources available to help juveniles who need help.

Furthermore, on the same page (92) where this 'statistic' for the 'average age' is found, the report states *that 96% of all child sexual exploitation is at the hands of someone the child knows and trusts- NOT strangers seeking to buy the sexual services of children.*

Why don't you care as much about the 96% of child sexual assault victims whose predator is a priest, preacher, teacher, rabbi, imam, parent, neighbor, babysitter or cop? According to this same study, the ages of the victims in the 96% of child sexual assault cases are **much younger** than those involved in prostitution. These victims tend to be younger than 11 and even as young as infants and toddlers. Don't they matter to you?

#3

"The 'average age of entry' into prostitution is 12 /13/14 - therefore even adult prostitutes could not have consented because they were juveniles when they became prostitutes."

#4

"There are between 100,000 to 300,000 children being trafficked into prostitution every year! And according to the Polaris Project, each trafficked woman and child is forced to entertain between 25 and 48 men every day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year!"

The report upon which this lie was based said that there were many children AT RISK of being trafficked into prostitution, and even then, the researchers said they could NOT state with any certainty that there were even that many children AT RISK. No one knows how many minors run away from home, much less how many might be at risk of being 'sex trafficked.' But here's what we do know- in 2013, cops managed to find 655 male and female juvenile prostitutes to arrest, using millions of dollars in federal grant money to find them. In 2014, for the annual FBI "Operation Cross Country" sting, it took **50.6** agents to find one juvenile victim.

But that's not the worst of the bad math. If there were even 25,000 juveniles involved in prostitution, and each of them 'entertained' 10 men per day and worked only 200 days per year, that would be **50,000,000** men or **46% of the entire male population over 20**. That doesn't include the adult male and female sex workers who account for 98% of all sex workers, so imagine how many clients of prostitutes there would need to be to keep all those sex workers employed!!!

WHEN YOU DO THE MATH, THE NUMBERS JUST DON'T ADD UP!



Wouldn't neighbors complain?

UPON WHAT DO THEY BASE THESE ABSURD NUMBERS?

FYI: according to the 2010 census there are only 107,965,933 males between the ages of 20 and 79- who are the most likely to have the financial resources to hire and

"johns" getting parked and ready to line up for their appointment at a "residential brothel" where each "sex slave" will be forced to service 25 to 48 men daily- 7 days per week - or so claims the Polaris Project!

enjoy the services of a sex worker of any age. And the FBI stats show that there were a total of 31,485 female juvenile prostitutes arrested over the past 36+ years- from 1981 to 2016- which was 1.6% of all female prostitutes arrested. There were more juveniles arrested in the early to mid 1980s than there were in any later years up to 2016, and the majority of these juveniles were ages 15, 16 and 17.

ILLOGICAL ARGUMENT /LIE

RESPONSE

#5

“We have to protect the children, so we must mandate long prison terms for sex traffickers- and men who buy the sexual services of children should be considered sex traffickers too.”



FYI: as we have already stated, government funded reports claim that the 96% of all child sexual exploitation cases are committed by someone whom the child knows and trusts, not strangers seeking to buy the sexual services of minors. These victims are far younger than those who are ‘trafficked’ into prostitution.

The majority of juveniles involved in prostitution are in their mid - teens, not ‘children’ as prostitution abolitionists would have everyone believe. Even in states where the age of consent is 16, the government considers anyone under 18 who is involved in prostitution to be ‘sex trafficked’ regardless of their consent to engage in sex work.

Many states are proposing legislation that would mandate a sentence of 15 years to life for anyone convicted of ‘sex trafficking.’ Yet when law enforcement officers sexually molest children under 12, they are often sentenced to probation, as was the case for Pike County, Ohio Deputy Chief Clyde Franklin Sanders Jr. who plead guilty to raping a three year old girl-

The above image is from our ‘Rogues Gallery’ of pedophile cops, judges, DAs - pages and pages of men who do not **buy** the sexual services of the children whom they sexually abuse. Sadly, many of these government agents receive probation or very minimal sentences for raping very young children.

TWICE- and received ‘community control’ (probation).

If these people really cared about ‘the children’ - why do they not demand a mandatory sentence for ALL those who sexually molest children, including priests, preachers, teachers, parents and cops?

#6

“All or most prostitutes have vicious pimps who beat them and take all their money, so we must charge their pimps with sex trafficking and put them away for life.”

FYI: The government says that ANYONE to whom I give ANY of my earnings as a prostitute is a PIMP... and wants to charge them with ‘human trafficking’ and punish them with decades in prison and a lifetime of sex offender registry... (unless it is a cop) BUT WHY? It is MY money- and if the IRS wants ITS cut, why can't I give MY money to anyone I want? Why can't I call the cops IF someone takes my money against my will?

PIMP Norman Wielsch

Also known as

California State drug agent Norman Wielsch

who, with other law enforcement officers, stole from prostitutes and ran a prostitution ring... Wielsch admitted in court to stealing the drugs from law enforcement evidence lockers before selling them for cash. He was sentenced to 14 years, but NOT for anything related to the prostitution ring he and other cops ran... *the Feds didn't deem it important enough to prosecute them for pimping, pandering, extortion or theft...* 2012



PIMP Thomas Ramsey

Also known as Chatham NJ

Police CHIEF Thomas Ramsey...

He had faced up to five years in prison and more than \$15,000 in fines for promoting prostitution... Sentenced to probation 2005



AND FINALLY...

#7

“But what about the violence? Surely you can't deny that many of their johns rape and beat them, even if they don't have a pimp! How can we protect prostitutes if we decriminalize prostitution?”

Of course some sex workers experience violence at the hands of their clients. Many wives and girlfriends also experience domestic violence and abuse at the hands of their husbands and boyfriends. How do we protect **them**? What if we made it impossible for wives and girlfriends to report being victims of violence by making personal relationships a crime and threatening anyone with arrest if they reported being a victim?

Would that help stop violence?

According to the World Health Organization, 35% of women around the world are victims of sexual or physical violence, and assault at the hands of an intimate partner is by far the most common form of such violence. In fact, the report says, a whopping 29.9% of women globally are found to be domestic violence victims.

Indeed we need to protect ALL children from ALL predatory adults, not just the children who are ‘trafficked’ into prostitution or from the men who ‘buy’ the sexual services of children.

How are we protecting children by insisting that all adult sex workers are victims of ‘sex trafficking’ regardless of their age or consent, and demanding that laws be created to incarcerate for decades or even life- **their non violent, non abusive clients against whom no criminal complaint was filed?**

Why do cops arrest sex workers and charge them with ‘sex trafficking’ of themselves?

Why do prosecutors refuse to prosecute cops who threaten to arrest a ‘suspected’ prostitute unless the ‘suspected sex trafficking victim’ provides the cops with sexual favors, because the prosecutor claims it is consensual? If adult sex workers cannot consent to having sex for money with their clients, how can they ‘consent’ to having sex with a cop who has threatened to arrest them unless they ‘cooperate’?

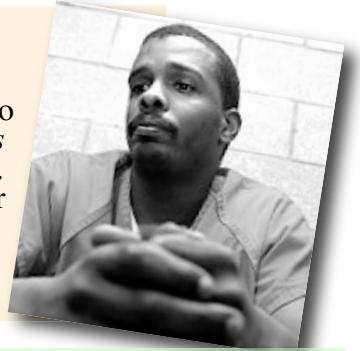
Shouldn't a cop who solicits/ rapes/ extorts or pimps a prostitute - especially a minor- be given a greater sentence than that which is imposed on a non violent, non abusive client who may not have known the prostitute was a minor?

PIMP Wayne Taylor

Also known as

NYPD Detective Wayne Taylor

pimped out 13-year-old girl and forced her to dance naked at parties and have sex with "as many as eight or nine men" in a single night. The girl says Det. Wayne Taylor "bought" her for \$500 and threatened to arrest her for prostitution if she didn't follow his orders. Served just over 3 years in prison - 2010



In many states, ‘pimping’ is broadly defined as financially benefitting in any way from the ‘sexual labor’ of a prostitute. Some people suggest that we impose the death penalty on ‘pimps’; many states are passing strong anti- ‘human trafficking’ laws with long mandatory sentences- some include life sentences... so why do cops get a pass when they are the pimps?

You should know who the police and the government consider ‘pimps’ and what happens to those who actually do the kind of ‘pimping’ most people think of when they hear about a ‘pimp’... like these cops.

PIMP Titus Taggart

Also known as

NY State Trooper Titus Taggart

Admitted to organizing parties with prostitutes while off-duty was sentenced to **three years probation** and 300 hours of community service... he transported prostitutes over the border from Canada which is *International sex trafficking*. 2013



The reality is that most sex workers do not have a stereotypical ‘pimp’ because they don't need one. They may work for a madam or an escort service, and under the law anyone to whom they give a portion of their earnings is a ‘pimp,’ but certainly not the kind that most people envision. In the internet age, many sex workers place ads on adult venue websites and do not pay anyone other than the owners of the website. They get to keep all their money!

In order to thwart the independent sex workers, the government wants to shut down such websites and has already closed some sites where sex workers posted ads, such as ‘Myredbook,’ and has shut down the primary website for sex worker ‘backpage.com’ and other mainstream websites where adults place their ads. This means that more sex workers will be forced to go back to work for someone else and give up their autonomy- and more of their income.

Cops have found it useful to post fake ads on those sites to catch adults who are seeking minors, so why do they want to shut down a website that has been so useful in helping them catch predators?

Of course, the cops also use it to arrest consenting adult sex workers, wasting the scarce and valuable resources that would be better spent helping real victims like victims of rape and domestic violence.

Even worse is that domestic violence within law enforcement families is *greater than within the general population*. According to a number of studies, law enforcement families experience violence at a **40% rate compared to 10% within non law enforcement families**. Do you really think keeping prostitution a crime will protect sex workers from violence when these cops who abuse their own families are put in charge of the sex workers’ lives and can **ARREST them**, even when they ask for help?

Wouldn't it be better for sex workers if adult prostitution were decriminalized so that they could report crimes against them when they occur, just as all other men and women in all other jobs and relationships can do?