

Towards a European abolitionist movement: The EWL campaign 'Together for a Europe free from prostitution'

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EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

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**Recent developments in
Europe:
Prostitution is high on the
political agenda!**



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Moving towards abolition...?

- ✓ **France:** parliamentary resolution (Dec 2011), governmental programme, Minister's commitment
- ✓ **Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, UK:** consultations on a new legislation
- ✓ **Active coalitions of NGOs** (Abolition 2012 in France, Turn Off the Red Light in Ireland) + men against prostitution
- ✓ **Finland and Denmark:** abolition back in the debate



Moves in the regulationist approach

Changes in the Dutch model

- ✓ Police and governmental reports portraying a bad situation for women: decrease of their well being, 50 to 90% of women in 'legal industry' being forced
- ✓ Increase of trafficking and organised crime: half of the owners of legal brothels have a criminal record
- ✓ Increase of hidden prostitution: 83% of ads for prostitution relate to illegal brothels
- ✓ **New law proposal:** 21 as minimum age, criminalise non-registered women and buyers of non-registered women



Moves in the regulationist approach

The logics of regulation in Europe

- ✓ Prostitution schools in Spain
- ✓ 'Pavement fees' for prostituted persons + threats on social benefits if refusing a job as prostitute in Germany and France
- ✓ Rewarding employees through prostitution in Hungary
- ✓ Sex supermarkets in Spain and Austria (Funmotel)



Si quieres trabajar YA
y ganar dinero al instante

Te ofrecemos **Incorporación inmediata, formación profesional con clases teóricas y prácticas**

Qué necesitas:
Ser atrevido, mayor de edad y tener buena presencia

Reinvéntate, no esperes más
Primera Academia de Prostitución y Artes Sexuales de España

Info. [Redacted]

Solo para mayores de edad (18 años)



Ten years of abolition in Sweden

Impact on persons affected by prostitution

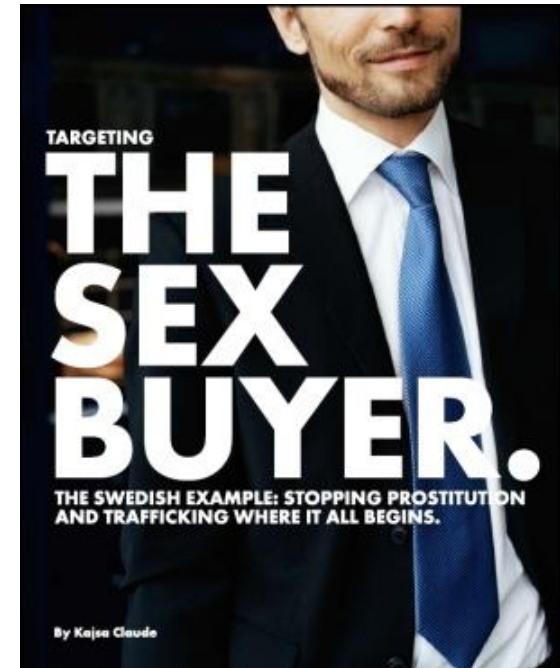
- ✓ Reduction of street prostitution (halved)
- ✓ No evidence of more 'hidden' prostitution
- ✓ No evidence of Swedish sex tourism abroad
- ✓ Police support + less violence

Impact on trafficking

- ✓ Decrease of trafficking and organised crime

Impact on society

- ✓ Increased support to the law: from 30% to 70% in 10 years!
- ✓ Great support of youth
- ✓ Decrease of the number of prostitute-users (less than 8%)



**EWL abolitionist demands:
campaign and Brussels' Call
'Together for a Europe free
from prostitution'**



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BRUSSELS' CALL

Victor Hugo

HE WOULD HAVE SIGNED...

WHAT ABOUT YOU ?

"THEY SAY THAT SLAVERY HAS DISAPPEARED FROM EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION. THAT IS INCORRECT. IT STILL EXISTS, BUT NOW IT WEIGHS ONLY ON WOMEN, AND IT IS CALLED **PROSTITUTION.**"

Victor Hugo, 1862.

BRUSSELS' CALL

'TOGETHER FOR A EUROPE FREE FROM PROSTITUTION'

200 NGOs agree on:

Four principles:

- ✓ Prostitution is a form of violence
- ✓ Prostitution is a form of exploitation of inequalities
- ✓ Prostitution is a violation of human dignity
- ✓ Prostitution is a violation of human rights

BRUSSELS' CALL

'TOGETHER FOR A EUROPE FREE FROM PROSTITUTION'

Six recommendations:

- ✓ The suppression of repressive measures against prostituted persons ;
- ✓ The criminalisation of all forms of procuring;
- ✓ The development of real alternatives and exit programmes for those in prostitution;
- ✓ The prohibition of the purchase of a sexual act;
- ✓ The implementation of policies of prevention and education, to promote equality and positive sexuality;
- ✓ The development of prevention policies in the countries of origin of prostituted persons.

Actions at EU level

Launch of the campaign
17 June 2011

EWL visual action
'Be a sport. Keep it fair...
Say NO to prostitution'
30 May 2012

EWL European conference
4 December 2012



10 years of policies on prostitution: Outcomes of the Swedish and Dutch options, and ways forward

European conference organised by the European Women's Lobby and co-hosted by MEPs Mariya Gabriel (EPP) & Mikael Gustafsson (GUE/NGL)

Tuesday 4 December 2012, 14h30-18h
European Parliament, P4B001

Followed by a reception

Please register by 19 November: bjorklund@womenlobby.org



Raising awareness

Film and clip **'Not for sale'**
(EWL-CATW, 2006)



Clip **'For a change of perspective'**
(EWL, 2011)

Clip **'Sport, Sex & Fun'**
(EWL, 2012)



Actions at national level

Conferences on prostitution and trafficking in women, with European speakers:

Portugal, France, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Hungary, Cyprus, Spain...



'Best Campaign of the Year' 2012 European Public Affairs Awards



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ENSEMBLE POUR UNE EUROPE
LIBEREE DE LA PROSTITUTION



European
Public Affairs Awards
2012



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Thank you!

www.womenlobby.org



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