

March 13, 2017

AT THE **CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE**  
934 Fifth Avenue - New York, NY 10021



# Strategies

## To Address

## Prostitution

## & Sex Trafficking



**Scelles Foundation**

*Knowing, Understanding, Fighting  
Sexual Exploitation*

**Coalition**  
AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN

 **SPACE**  
INTERNATIONAL



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Ministère des Familles, de l'Enfance  
et des Droits des femmes



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## **French Officials, Sex Trade Survivor and Anti-Trafficking Experts Discuss Strategies to Address Prostitution and Sex Trafficking**

**Event Hosted by the Consulate General of France, New York, NY  
March 13, 2017**

**Thought leaders and representatives from key organizations discuss France's groundbreaking 2016 prostitution law and global strategies to combat prostitution and human trafficking with a focus on dissuading buyers of sexual acts, or the "demand", which is widely recognized as the driving force that sustains prostitution and fuels sex trafficking.**

"Strategies to Address Prostitution and Sex Trafficking" brings together **Laurence Rossignol**, the French Minister of Families, Childhood and Women's Rights, **Yves Charpenel**, Deputy State Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of France and President of the Scelles Foundation, **Rachel Moran**, founder and Executive Director of SPACE International and author of the bestseller "Paid For: My Journey Through Prostitution" and **Taina Bien-Aimé**, Executive Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), to accelerate efforts and strengthen the global movement of countries adopting the human rights-based legal framework known as the Swedish or Nordic Model, which is the cutting-edge legislative response to the system of sexual exploitation.

France passed April 2016 a comprehensive legal framework to combat the system of prostitution, which holds sex buyers accountable while fully exempting prostituted individuals, who are overwhelmingly women and girls, from criminal sanctions. Also vital, this law mandates funding of holistic services for prostituted people and offers exit strategies for those who seek to leave the sex trade. By enacting a demand-focused legislation on February 14, 2017, the Republic of Ireland followed in the footsteps of seven nations, including Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Canada (with restrictions) and Northern Ireland.

Criminalizing the demand for paid sexual access to human beings is key to drying up the multi-billion dollar sex market, making countries hostile territories to pimps and traffickers. "Today, sexual exploitation is essentially a marketplace where the human body is regarded as a commodity and this market is subject to the normal laws of supply and demand. Therefore, we must take action against those who sell and those who buy human beings in order to achieve positive lasting results," said **Yves Charpenel**, President of the Scelles Foundation.

This legal framework is a powerful testament to survivors of the sex trade who courageously tell us about their experience and the harm and damage of prostitution. "I can say quite a staggering amount of delusion and denial present in the thoughts and attitudes of the average 'john' and it is matched only by the casual misogyny that allows them to use the bodies of women and girls like commodities in the first place," said **Rachel Moran**, also an Irish abolitionist activist who played a key role in the historic adoption of the Republic of Ireland's Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill.

Countries recognize prostitution as a cause and consequence of gender-based violence, discrimination and inequality, and showcase a promising approach to human rights and justice for all by increasingly adopting the Nordic Model. "Without sex buyers, governments would be forced to focus on investing on the educational and economic development of girls and women and engage its citizens, in accordance with human rights principles and international law, and most times, their own constitutions, to ensure equality between women and men," said **Taina Bien-Aimé**, Executive Director of CATW.

These comprehensive laws are also critical tools to tackle extensive systems of transnational organized crime and address the links between corruption and the sex trade, which are a threat to democracy, transparent economies and peace. "Criminal trafficking is a threat to democracy through the dangerous links between corruption and prostitution, and between exploitation and profits. The infiltration of large sums of money into the lawful economy gives criminal organizations the ability to corrupt the government, and transfer the decision-making power that belongs to the people and their representatives to criminal organizations," said **Yves Charpenel**.



**Mary Snow** is a broadcast journalist who served as a correspondent for CNN's «The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer» reporting on a wide range of stories from presidential politics to natural disasters. She first started at CNN as a business reporter covering the economy and markets. Mary was also a New York based business correspondent for Al Jazeera America and Yahoo Finance. Other roles have included producing for Bloomberg Television and WPIX-TV in New York where she won two Emmy awards. She is a graduate of Fordham University and is currently teaching broadcast journalism at LIU Post.



**Laurence Rossignol** has been Minister of Families, Childhood and Women's Rights since February 2016. She was the Secretary of State for Families, Children, Senior Citizens and Autonomy to the Minister of Health, Social Affairs and Women's Rights from April 2015 to February 2016. Prior to her roles in government, she was Senator of Oise from 2011 to 2014. In 2008, she worked for the Socialist Party and was its spokesperson from 2013 to 2014. She was the National Secretary for the Environment and Sustainable Development from 2008 to 2012. Laurence Rossignol was Technical Advisor to Frédéric Bredin, then Minister of Youth and Sports, from 1991 to 1993, and Head of Cabinet to Laurent Fabius when he was President of the National Assembly in 1989. Laurence Rossignol earned a degree in Social Law from the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne.

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**Rachel Moran** is a women's rights activist, international speaker, journalist and author of the bestselling 'Paid For - My Journey Through Prostitution.' She is the founding member of SPACE International (Survivors of Prostitution Abuse Calling for Enlightenment.) She has spoken many times at locations such as Harvard, Columbia University, the Irish Parliament, the British Parliament, the European Parliament and the United Nations in New York. Her journalism has featured in the New York Times, New Statesman, Irish Times, Truthdig and numerous other publications. Her memoir - a work of feminist analysis of the sex trade - is endorsed by human rights activists President Jimmy Carter and Jane Fonda and by feminist activists Gloria Steinem, Catharine MacKinnon and Robin Morgan; also by organisations Historians Against Slavery, Equality Now, Breaking Free, the National Organisation for Women and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women. She works in collaboration with organisations across the world towards the goal of confronting and collapsing the global sex trade. Her most recent cause for celebration was the Sexual Offences Bill in the Republic of Ireland, which criminalises the demand for paid sex, and was passed into Irish law on the 14th of February, 2017.

[@SPACEintl](https://twitter.com/SPACEintl) . [@RachelRMoran](https://twitter.com/RachelRMoran) . [spaceintl.org](https://spaceintl.org)





**Taina Bien-Aimé** has over two decades of experience defending the rights of women and girls at the national and global level. She is currently the Executive Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), one of the oldest international organizations dedicated to ending trafficking in women and girls and commercial sexual exploitation as practices of gender-based violence. Prior to this position, Taina was the Executive Director of Women's City Club of New York, an advocacy organization that helps shape policy in New York. She is also a founding Board member of and later served as the Executive Director of Equality Now (2000-2011), an international human rights organization that works to promote the human rights of women and girls. She was Director of Business Affairs/Film Acquisitions at Home Box Office (1996-2000) and practiced international corporate law at the Wall St. law firm, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton (1992-1996). Taina holds a Juris Doctor from NYU School of Law and a Licence in Political Science from the University of Geneva/Graduate School of International Studies (Hautes Etudes Internationales) in Switzerland. Taina has received a number of awards for her work, including the NYU Law Alumni Association Award for Distinguished Service in the Public Interest. Taina has extensive media experience, including with the New York Times, Associated Press, Agence France Presse, Reuters, CNN, the Amanpour Show and many other print and television outlets. She is a contributor to the Huffington Post and sits on the Boards of the New York Women's Foundation and the New York City's Mayoral Commission on Gender Equity.

@CATWIntl . @tainabienaimé . catwinternational.org



**Yves Charpenel** is Deputy State Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of France (since 2005) and President of the Scelles Foundation (since 2010), which is an NGO that fights against the system of sexual exploitation and is the largest global research center on sex trafficking and prostitution. Yves Charpenel is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, French National Consultative Ethics Committee, Law and Democracy Organization and French Institute for Restorative Justice. In addition, he is the President of the Ethics Commission for the City of Paris and an expert to the European Union and United Nations on organized crime, human trafficking and money laundering. He has authored several books on criminal law and human trafficking, and is regularly called upon to panel for the International Congress. He also provides training to magistrates and journalists on issues related to ethics, organized crime, serial crimes and miscarriages of justice. Yves Charpenel served as a Prosecutor at the High Court of the Republic from 2009 to 2012. Before then, he was Head of the strategic Criminal Affairs and Pardon Department of the Ministry of Justice (1998-2001). He has over two decades of experience as a judge and prosecutor in different courts of justice in France and as a magistrate to the French Ministry of Justice (1976-1991, 1993-1998, 2001-2005). He was appointed to the cabinet of two Ministers of Justice between 1991-1993.

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**WORLDWIDE**  
NO COUNTRY  
IS IMMUNE

over **20**  
**MILLION**  
people  
trafficked




Source: ILO

More than  
**500** trafficking  
flows identified  
between 2012 - 2014  
Source: UNODC

**A BOOMING**  
INDUSTRY

**\$ 300**  
billion



world's prostitution revenue  
Source: Havocscope

IN INDUSTRIALIZED ECONOMIES  
A pimp earns\*  
**ALMOST**  
**\$ 100,000**  
per year per victim of  
commercial sexual exploitation  
\*Turnover - Source: ILO



 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
The world's  
**fastest growing**  
criminal enterprise  
Source: US Department of Justice State of California

Trafficking in persons is  
one of the **3** most profitable  
**crimes** with drug and arms trafficking  
Source: UNODC

**SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**  
**66%** of the profits  
of human trafficking  
Source: ILO

**Impunity prevails**  
**VERY FEW CONVICTIONS**  
**FOR TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**  
Source: UNODC



 **ACCELERATED** by Economic Crisis,  
Globalization, Conflicts, Profits,  
Development of Vulnerabilities

 **WEB**  
Pimps & Traffickers  
**PARADISE**

**VICTIMS**  
**NO**  
**CHOICE**

**97%** of detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation  
**ARE WOMEN AND GIRLS**  
Source: UNODC

**90%** of **FOREIGN WOMEN**  
in street prostitution  
**IN FRANCE**  
Source: OCRTEH, France

**MOST vulnerable & marginalized people**  
**ARE OVERREPRESENTED**  
Source: Melissa Farley

**PROSTITUTED PERSONS**

**60 to 80%**  
victims of regular physical and sexual  
**ABUSES**  
Source: Melissa Farley

**89%** want to **EXIT**   
**PROSTITUTION**  
Source: Melissa Farley

**68%** of prostituted persons develop  
**POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDERS**  
Source: Melissa Farley

**PROSTITUTED PERSONS MORTALITY RATE**  
**10 to 40 times**  
above the average  
Source: EWL

**CHILDREN**  
**IN GREAT DANGER**

**CHILD PROSTITUTION**  
**India** around **1,2 million**  
**Mexico** **16,000**  
**South Africa** **28,000 to 38,000**  
**Lithuania** **20 to 50%**  
of prostituted people are minors  
Source: ECPAT

**SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS**

The Median Age is

**15 YRS OLD IN US**  
Source: US Department of Justice

**2 MILLION victims**  **PER YEAR**  
of sexual exploitation  
Source: UNICEF

**NEARLY 2/3 OF CHILDREN SOLD FOR SEX IN THE US are trafficked online**  
Source: Thorn

**SEX BUYERS**  
**ACCOUNTABLE**

**overwhelmingly MEN**  
while victims are  
overwhelmingly  
**WOMEN & CHILDREN**  
Source: stopdemand.org

**25%** of buyers had met a woman who they felt was being **TRAFFICKED**  
Source: Immigrant Council of Ireland

**None of them**  
would choose  
**PROSTITUTION**  
for his wife, sister,  
daughter, friend

**54%** recognise having had  
**AGRESSIVE SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR**  
towards their partner(s)  
Source: EWL



## An international organized crime

- All countries suffer from systemic sexual exploitation. Prostitution and sex trafficking are **CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES**, that affect every continent and economic structure and impact governments and citizens.
- Based on an illegal trade of human beings, prostitution and sex trafficking are under the control of an **EXTENSIVE SYSTEM OF TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME**, driven by ever-greater profits at the expense of dignity and security of exploited people.
- This organized crime **UNDERMINES THE RULE OF LAW AND THREATENS TRANSPARENT ECONOMIES, PEACE AND DEMOCRACY** through the dangerous links between exploitation and profits, and between corruption and the sex trade, so that the decision-making power belongs, to a great extent, to criminal organizations.
- Trafficking and prostitution are driven by conflicts and **TERRORIST GROUPS** engage in both in territories in which they operate to develop economically and ideologically.

## A violence

- The **REPETITION OF SEXUAL ACTS WITHOUT PHYSICAL DESIRE**, but instead experienced as the consequence of financial need, inequality or as an exploitation of vulnerability, constitutes **SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN AND OF ITSELF**.
- Sex trade is **THE MOST VIOLENT** forms of gender-based violence and discrimination. The vast majority of prostituted persons are **VICTIMS OF MANY FORMS OF VIOLENCE WHILE IN PROSTITUTION** - physical, verbal, sexual, psychological.
- A large majority of prostituted persons have suffered from **VIOLENCE**, often sexual, **BEFORE ENTERING PROSTITUTION**.

## A violation of human dignity

- Prostitution is a **DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE PHYSICAL AND MORAL INTEGRITY** of prostituted persons.
- By placing the human body and sex into the realm of the marketplace, the system of prostitution reinforces the **OBJECTIFICATION OF ALL WOMEN AND THEIR BODIES**.
- Prostitution strengthens the **UNEQUAL POWER DYNAMIC** present in other forms of violence against women such as rape, sexual harassment and intimate-partner violence.
- The system of prostitution **FUELS AND PERPETUATES TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**.
- Prostitution is a **SOCIETAL OBSTACLE TO ESTABLISHING** truly free, respectful and **EGALITARIAN SEXUALITY**.

## An exploitation of inequality

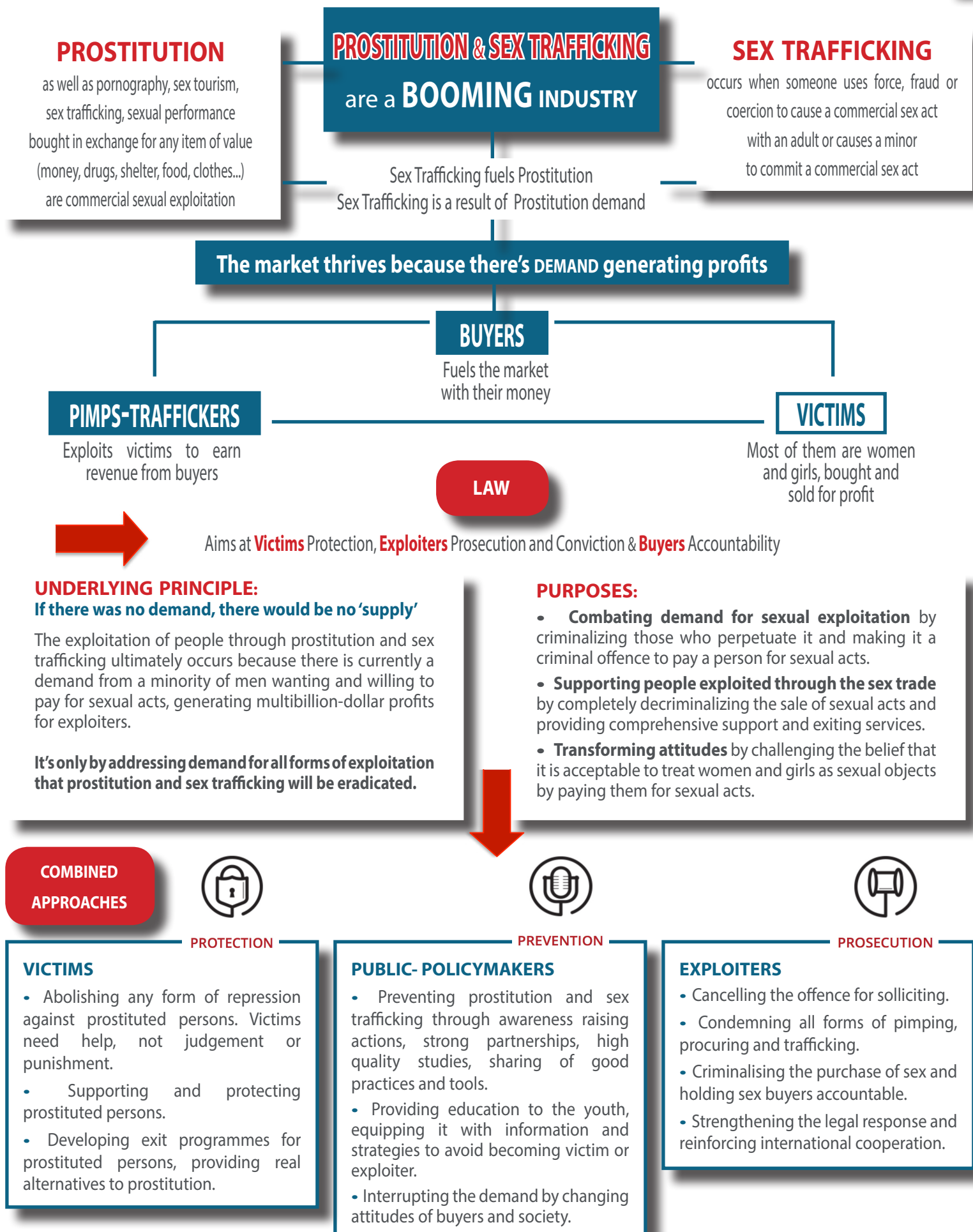
- Prostitution is a **PART OF A LONG PATRIARCHAL TRADITION** of making women's bodies available for men's benefit (rape, sexual harassment, 'conjugal duties', etc.). Victims of prostitution are overwhelmingly women and girls enduring one of the most brutal forms of male perpetrated sexual abuse and violence.
- Prostitution **EXPLOITS MULTIPLE FORMS OF INEQUALITY**: men's domination over women, adults over children, rich over poor, North over South, majority groups over minorities.
- Minorities, migrants and other **MARGINALIZED AND DISCRIMINATED GROUPS ARE OVERREPRESENTED** in prostitution all over the world.

## A market in human beings

- The commercial sexual exploitation is a **BOOMING INDUSTRY** which brings billions of dollars.
- This worst outcome of liberalism organize the commodification of the most vulnerable people whom bodies are just another commodity to sale. Millions of **PEOPLE ARE BEING TREATED AS COMMON GOODS**.
- This multi-billion illegal market is naturally **SUBJECT TO THE BASIC RULES OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND**. Those who sell victims and those who purchase them play equal role in creating a marketplace that survives on people exploitation.
- **TO FIGHT THE BUSINESS MODEL OF PROSTITUTION**, exploitation networks should be deterred from investing in territories whose legislation is unfavourable towards the profits of crime and condemns both traffickers and buyers.

## A violation of human rights

- The United Nations Convention of 2 December 1949 adopted by the General Assembly states in its preamble that *"Prostitution and the accompanying evil of the traffic in persons for the purpose of prostitution are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person"*.
- The 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) asks States Parties to *"take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women"*.
- Prostitution is incompatible with articles 3 and 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which state that *"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person"* and that *"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"*.



**A GROWING MOVEMENT** On 6 April 2016 **FRANCE** became the 6th country to choose the Nordic model, by adopting a law aiming to reinforce the fight against the system of prostitution and to support persons in prostitution. By this act, deemed the strongest demand-focused legislation in the world to date, France has joined **SWEDEN** (1999), **NORWAY** (2009), **ICELAND** (2009), **CANADA** (2014) (with restrictions) and **NORTHERN IRELAND** (2014) in criminalizing paying for sex, decriminalizing selling sex, and providing support and exiting services for people exploited through prostitution. **THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND** recently joined this strong momentum according to the United Nations Convention of 2 december 1949.

*In early 2014, the parliaments of the European Union and the Council of Europe both adopted nonbinding resolutions recommending member states to consider the Nordic Model.*



### SOCIETY PROJECT

Human Rights, Equality, Dignity, Liberty,  
Solidarity, Non-Violence, Rule of Law, Democracy

### COMPREHENSIVE ET COHERENT LAW

- Takes into account victims, traffickers, sex-buyers and the public opinion to end this form of violence
- Combines preventive, social and judicial approaches

### LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

6 YEARS 

### STRONG MOBILIZATION & PARTNERSHIP

POLICYMAKERS  
NGOs



STRATEGIC CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS  
survivors, medical community, mayors,  
magistrates, youth groups, labor unions

### HOLISTIC SERIES OF MEASURES

ACT No .2016-444 - April 13, 2016 - TO FIGHT THE SYSTEM OF PROSTITUTION

- Recognises prostitution as a **form of violence** and an **obstacle to gender equality**
- **Repeals all forms of criminalization of prostituted persons**
- Offers **new protections** and better access to **financial compensation** for victims of prostitution, pimping, procuring and trafficking
- Establishes a **national exiting policy** and **local coordination mechanisms** to improve the protection of victims and their access to social support and exit options
- Permits the granting of **temporary residency permits** to victims of trafficking in human beings
- Reinforces the **fight against pimping, procuring and trafficking on the internet**
- **Prohibits the purchase of sex acts**
- Creates an **education policy on the non-commodification of human bodies** to be delivered in schools.

## TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT VICTIMS



#1

**DECRIMINALIZATION**  
of the Act of  
**SOLICITATION**

**ARTICLES 15 - 16**



#2

**DEPARTMENTAL  
COMMITTEE**  
of Prevention & Fight against Prostitution,  
Pimping and Sex Trafficking

**COORDINATES ACTIONS**  
on behalf of Victims

**ARTICLES 5 - 6 - 10**



#3

**OPTIONS TO  
EXIT PROSTITUTION  
& REINTEGRATE**  
socially and professionally

**Special Fund**

**ARTICLES 5 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 17**

## TO PROSECUTE AND PUNISH EXPLOITERS



#4

**BUYERS  
ACCOUNTABILITY**

**New offence:**  
**Purchase of sexual acts**

Buyers will be fined up to  
**€1,500** and up to  
**€3,750** for repeat offenders

**ARTICLES 20 - 21**



#5

**STRENGTHENING OF THE  
PREVENTION AND FIGHT**

against **PIMPING &  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
for the purpose of sexual exploitation

**ARTICLES 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 8 - 12 - 13 - 14**



#6

**HEAVIER PENALTIES**

in cases of  
**VIOLENCE**  
against **VICTIMS**

**ARTICLE 11**

## TO EDUCATE AND RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS



#7

**INFORMATION &  
EDUCATION** of the **Youth**

**ARTICLES 18 - 19**



#8

**FUNDING\*** for  
**PREVENTION** of PROSTITUTION

**ARTICLE 7**

\* Special Fund for the prevention of prostitution and for the provision of social and professional support to the victims of prostitution



## Efficiency of the Nordic Model

EXAMPLES<sup>1</sup>: SWEDEN (1999); NORWAY (2009)

### ---- Findings from Reports and Studies ---- SOURCES IN ANNEX 4

The proven Nordic Model is efficient in curbing the demand for prostitution and drying up the sex trade, by making abolitionist countries hostile territories to pimps and traffickers. The decrease of prostitution and sex trafficking comes with an improvement of the situation of persons in prostitution and a change of attitudes regarding the demand and the sex trade reality.

#### THE DEMAND FOR PROSTITUTION HAS DECREASED

• **Efficiency in influencing buyers attitude:** deterrent effect of the prohibition on buyers decision to purchase sexual acts • **Decrease of the demand:** lower number of sex buyers in Sweden from 13.6% in 1996 to 7.8% in 2008 (a 42% decrease perhaps overestimated due to the reluctance to admit a crime in a poll); decrease of the demand for paid sexual acts in Norway, contributing to reduce the extent of prostitution.

#### INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS OF PROCURERS HAVE BEEN DISCOURAGED TO INVEST

• **Lower profits:** reduced possibilities to gain from the exploitation of prostitution by tackling the demand • **Lower trafficking rates:** prohibition to purchase sexual acts acting as a barrier against the establishment of organized crime, traffickers and pimps; countries as Sweden and Norway made less desirable destinations for traffickers.

#### THE PROSTITUTION MARKET HAS REDUCED

• **Lower prevalence of street prostitution:** halving of Swedish street prostitution from 1999-2010, while it tripled on the same period in Denmark and Norway where purchasing sexual acts was legal at the time; no evidence women were simply displaced to indoor prostitution or prostitution advertised online; decrease of the street prostitution market in Oslo (by 35%-60% from 2009-2014) • **Stabilized prevalence of overall prostitution:** number of prostituted persons stabilized in Sweden; no evidence of more Swedish men going abroad to buy sexual acts; lower increase of prostitution through the Internet in Sweden than in neighbouring countries; no increase in the proportion of prostituted persons from third-countries in the same way it exploded in neighbouring countries; no increase in 'hidden' prostitution

#### THE SITUATION OF PERSONS IN PROSTITUTION HAS IMPROVED

Decrease of violence and rapes in Sweden, as well as the cases of severe violence in Norway; reporting of violence cases to police made easier (Sweden).

#### MENTALITIES HAVE COMPLETELY CHANGED IN 10 YEARS

• **Recognized effectiveness of the law:** an over 70% public support to the prohibition of purchasing sexual acts, while the majority of the Swedish population was opposed to it before the adoption of the law, a decade earlier • **Role in conveying norms and values:** the support to the law is stronger amongst youth (Sweden).

## Failure of the legalization/decriminalization of prostitution

EXAMPLES<sup>2</sup>: THE NETHERLANDS (2000); GERMANY (2002); NEW ZEALAND (2003); VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA (1994); NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA (1995); QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA (1999)

### ---- Findings from Reports and Studies ---- SOURCES IN ANNEX 4

Countries that have legalized or decriminalized prostitution experience a surge in human trafficking and pimping. Organized crime strengthens its control on legal sector while illegal sex trade highly thrives. The regulation/decriminalization are neither the answer to reducing the harms inherent to prostitution nor the way to protect prostituted persons.

#### THE SITUATION OF PROSTITUTED PERSONS HAS WORSENE

- **Declining health:** lower emotional well-being on all measured aspects, increased use of sedatives, requests for leaving the industry in high demand (Netherlands)
- **Discrimination and stigma:** reports of continuing stigma and harassment (Australia, New Zealand); little difference in disclosure of occupation to healthcare professionals (New Zealand)
- **No greater access to services:** no measurable improvement of the low rate of social protection (Germany); no change in the access to health services and information and in the use of safer sex practices (New Zealand); no more unionized prostituted persons or declared as employee (Germany)
- **Similar prevalence of violence:** same level of violence experienced by the majority of prostituted persons (New Zealand); no safer situation and no viable indication of crime decrease (Germany); few reports of acts of violence to the police (New Zealand)
- **No more exit options:** reduced efforts to help prostituted people exit prostitution (New Zealand, Netherlands).

#### SEX TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION HAVE INCREASED, INCLUDING IN LEGAL INDUSTRY

- **Important growth of sex trafficking** directly linked to the legalization of prostitution (Netherlands, Germany); brothels functioning as legalized outlets for sex trafficking victims (Netherlands); pimps and brothel operators empowered and enriched (New South Wales, Australia)
- **Legal sector still under the control of organized crime:** brothel and massage parlor industry infiltrated by organized crime (Australia); half of the legal business of prostitution and coffee shops in the hands of managers with a criminal record (Netherlands); 50% to 90% of women under coercion in licensed prostitution (Netherlands); extreme violence in the legal, licensed, taxpaying and State sanctioned brothels (Netherlands)
- **No efficient response to child prostitution:** still girls as young as 13-14 on the streets and light sentences when men arrested for buying sexual acts from minors (New Zealand).

#### THE 'REGULATION' OF THE SEX TRADE HAS FAILED

- **Police cut out of the equation:** limited access and patchy policing of organized crime in legal brothels (Australia); low rate of regulatory inspections in licensed brothels (Netherlands); less police contacts with the sex industry and no systematic intelligence gathering and collation, making it more difficult to discover abuses and exploitation (New Zealand); prosecuting human trafficking and pimping made more difficult (according to over 1/3 of prosecutors in Germany)
- **Low adherence to the rules:** no improvement of conditions for prostituted persons by abusive brothels (New Zealand); criminal market rules operate - anonymity, secrecy, cash transfers (the Netherlands)
- **Increase of the 'illegal' prostitution in parallel with 'legal' sector:** high prevalence of illegal sector because of higher profits for pimps and traffickers (90% of prostitution in Australia); low proportion of prostitution advertisements published (newspapers, internet) by licensed brothels (only 17% in the Netherlands); illegal forms of prostitution as a response to a demand that is not met by the legal industry (Australia).



The Scelles Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization based in Paris, France, dedicated to fight the system of prostitution and the exploitation of prostituted persons, through information, analysis, advocacy, awareness initiatives and legal actions.

The Scelles Foundation is a member and founder of the Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (CAP International launched in 2013) of 18 abolitionist frontline NGOs in 14 countries.



## OUR MISSION

- **Knowing** commercial sexual exploitation: We are committed to raising public and policymakers awareness about prostitution and trafficking harms and the high level threat to democracy, transparent economies and peace.
- **Understanding** commercial sexual exploitation: We collect and analyze information on all aspects of sexual exploitation to provide high quality expertise, through international partnerships.
- **Fighting** commercial sexual exploitation: We encourage actions to reduce prostitution and trafficking by promoting best practices, providing trainings and engaging in legal proceedings.

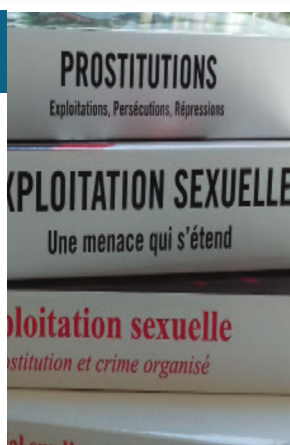
## OUR OBJECTIVES

The fundamental objective of the Scelles Foundation is to drastically reduce the number of victims of the system of prostitution by better preventing, convincing major actors to act and insuring the implementation of exit options for all prostituted persons.

- **To fight the global system of prostitution** because it's a violation of human dignity and rights, a form of violence, an exploitation of the most vulnerable people, a major organized crime and an unacceptable trafficking of human beings.
- **To increase prevention & victims protection and support:** decriminalization, exit options, reintegration, judicial actions.
- **To reinforce prosecution and conviction of exploiters:** to hold buyers accountable by sanctioning the purchase of sexual acts, to strengthen the prevention and fight against pimping and trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- **To inform, advise, educate and raise awareness** of the public especially the youth and policymakers in order to promote the Nordic Model and to tackle the system of prostitution.

## INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER CRIDES

- **Documentation:** More than 10,000 international and national legal texts, policy analyses, strategies, action plans, innovative practices, advocacy guides; 3,000 global studies and reports; 500 books; 200 documentaries;
- **Research, Analyses, Proposals:** Reports, overview papers, indepth studies, fact sheets, best practice guidelines;
- **Sharing of experience & Partnership:** Online platform dedicated to interaction, collaboration, training and innovation.



## LEGAL & JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

- **Monitoring of the 2016 French Prostitution Law;**
- **Judicial actions** in relation to the institutions in charge in France and abroad;
- **Trainings** for main actors involved in the fight against the system of prostitution ; **trainings and materials** for awareness raising to prevent the purchase of sexual acts.



## SCELLES FOUNDATION YOUTH AWARDS Youth engaged with us

- **Youth commitment:** teenagers, journalists, lawyers, medical experts, magistrates, photographers ;
- **Strong partnerships** with National High Schools;
- **6 disciplines:** Pleading, Indictment, Medical speech, News Report, Visual, Slam;
- **2 prestigious awards:** the **Public Award** and the **Jury Award** from legal, political and media personalities.



## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS







advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns designed to address the cultural, political, social and legal conditions that allow human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation to occur.

### A GENDER LENS TO END DEMAND

Since it was founded, CATW has advocated for what is known as the **Swedish or Nordic Model**, a legislative framework that penalizes the purchase of sex while providing comprehensive services and exit strategies for victims of sex trafficking and prostitution. This set of laws recognize prostitution as a cause and consequence of gender-based violence and that the demand for commercial sex fuels sex trafficking. To be free from violence and sexual exploitation and to have the chance to live up to one's full potential as a human being are fundamental human rights.

Therefore, CATW works to include analyses of women's rights and equality, as well as highlight the impact of racial, ethnic and socio-economic inequalities that foster violence against women and girls, in key discussions about human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

### CATW REGIONAL PARTNERS

At the regional level, CATW provides multi-level services, financial aid, psychological support, housing and legal advocacy for victims of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. CATW-Latin American and the Caribbean (CATW-LAC) supports victims through the "Red Alert System" in Mexico. Since the program began in 2006, CATW-LAC has rescued and provided services to 1,540 victims of trafficking. In the Philippines, CATW-Asia Pacific (CATW-AP) acts as a first responder to areas hit hardest by natural disasters. It helps fulfill basic needs, ensures protection for women and girls who are extremely vulnerable to trafficking and monitors gender-based violence. CATW's regional offices also work with men and boys to address harmful masculinity and develop activities to strengthen regional abolitionist networks.

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) is one of the oldest international non-governmental organizations dedicated to ending human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls worldwide. It is a leading abolitionist organization focused on



### CHANGING THE LAW, SHIFTING THE CULTURE

As a well-known thought leader, CATW promotes **policy and educational measures to raise awareness** about the root causes of human trafficking at local, national, regional and international levels. It holds Special Consultative Status with the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and was a key consultant at the U.N. Transnational Organized Crime Meeting (1999-2000), which led to the passage of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol) - the world's most recognized and extensive legal instrument on human trafficking.

CATW offers its **expertise to legislators and policymakers** around the world to advance abolitionist analysis. CATW played a leading role in the passage of key legislation at the state and federal level in the U.S. that provide further protections for trafficking victims. Victories include the enactment of the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000) and the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (2015); the New York State Human Trafficking Act (2007); the Safe Harbor Act (2008); and the New York State Trafficking for Victims Protection and Justice Act (2015).

Other notable **global campaigns** include calling on the Associated Press not to use the term "sex work" to describe prostitution; urging Amnesty International to abide by human rights principles and cease calling for laws that decriminalize the sex trade, including pimps and sex buyers; exhorting the Japanese government to recognize its official role in the trafficking and sexual slavery of "comfort women" prior to and during WWII; and demanding that the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission cease advertising strip clubs on its yellow taxis.





**SPACE International - Survivors of Prostitution Abuse Calling for Enlightenment - is an international group formed to give voice to women with experience of the global sex trade.**

**SPACE**, first formed in Dublin, Ireland, now represents **women from 7 nations:**

Germany, Denmark, France, Canada, Ireland, the US and UK.



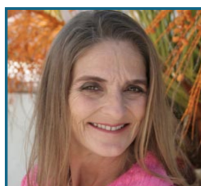
**Cherie Jimenez**  
Massachusetts, USA



**Rachel Moran**  
Dublin, Ireland



**Vednita Carter**  
Minnesota, USA



**Autumn Burris**  
Colorado, USA



**Fiona Broadfoot**  
Leeds, United Kingdom



**Bridget Perrier**  
Toronto, Canada



**Tanja Rahm**  
Copenhagen, Denmark



**Rosen Hicher**  
Saintes, France



**Ne'cole Daniels**  
California, USA



**Jeanette Westbrook**  
Kentucky, USA



**Marie Merklinger**  
Stuttgart, Germany



**Marian Hatcher**  
Chicago, USA

We recognize, through the lived experience of our own lives, **the damaging and harmful nature of all systems of prostitution**, and we work to raise awareness of that harm, and to clarify for human rights activists, policy makers and the general public why prostitution must be brought to an end.

**Many SPACE members** have current and past experience also of front-line service provision, and are uniquely placed to speak to the challenges faced by women and girls in prostitution right now.

## OUR MISSION

**SPACE** is committed both to raising the public's consciousness of the harm of prostitution and to highlighting the need for governments to do something about it.

**SPACE** members acknowledge prostitution as a highly gendered human rights violation and advocate for the **Swedish or 'Nordic' Model** of legislation, which decriminalizes prostituted persons, criminalizes those who exploit them financially or sexually, and offers viable and accessible support services so that those caught up in prostitution systems can exit and rebuild their lives.

We strongly feel that prostitution can only be tackled by a strategy that recognises equally the need to suppress the demand for paid sex while offering women viable alternatives to providing it. These two issues are equally important in the fight against commercial sexual exploitation.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

- **Political recognition of all forms of prostitution as sexually-exploitative human rights violations.**
- **Criminalisation of the demand for paid sexual access to human bodies.**
- **Implementation of Exit Programs:** a continuum of services in order to fully address the needs of those vulnerable to and currently involved in the sex trade, including prevention, education and comprehensive exit programs.
- **Public education programmes** to inform society about the global exploitation of the most vulnerable populations which results from the structural inequality between women and men on a world scale. In particular, attention must be drawn to the way women who are racially marginalised are grossly overrepresented in prostitution, and the majority of men buying them are white.
- **The implementation of 'john schools'** and the legal requirement that all people found engaging in the purchase of sex attend them.

## SPACE International

[info@spaceintl.org](mailto:info@spaceintl.org) | [WWW.SPACEINTL.ORG](http://WWW.SPACEINTL.ORG)





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**LAURENCE ROSSIGNOL, FRENCH MINISTER OF FAMILIES, CHILDHOOD AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS**


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Madame Consul of France [Anne-Claire Legendre],  
Excellencies,  
Dear Representatives of non-governmental organizations,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

First, I would like to thank the Consul-General, Mrs. Anne-Claire Legendre, as well as the Consulate General of France in New York, for organizing this event during the week dedicated to the status of women throughout the world.

I would like to also thank the Scelles Foundation, its president, Yves Charpenel, and its American partners, CATW (the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women) and SPACE International, two NGOs represented here today by their respective executive director, Mrs. Tania Bien-Aimé and Mrs. Rachel Moran.

We know that fighting against sexual exploitation, and more specifically against the exploitation of prostitution, constitutes a priority for the international community. Indeed, as early as 1949, the world adopted the Convention of the United Nations for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. This convention, ratified by France in 1960, reminds us in its introduction that [and I quote] "prostitution, and the accompanying evil of human-trafficking for the purpose of prostitution, are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and endanger the welfare of the individual, the family and the community". [end of quote]

Yet, today, it seems a lot more difficult for the international community to reach a consensus regarding a measure aiming at discouraging the purchase of sexual acts by way of criminalizing the client. This is why an information-sharing event like this one is so important.

Sexual exploitation is the most widespread form of human trafficking in the world, in Europe and in France. Due to globalization, sexual commerce has reached an industrial scale at a planetary level that is alarming. Humans, most often women and children, are treated as merchandise.

Millions of people are being displaced from one country to another through networks of traffickers who exploit their extreme vulnerability due to their age or gender, or because they belong to a minority or are in a precarious economy situation.

It is well known that prostituted women and girls, who are already economically, socially, psychologically and physically vulnerable, become even more vulnerable once they become merchandise because prostitution multiplies their vulnerabilities.

It exposes the victims to many different forms of violence, in the streets, in clubs or on the Internet, whether they are prostituted women and girls on an occasional or regular basis, and whether they are French or foreign nationals. From humiliation to social stigmatization, poor treatment, torture and psychological violence, whether by pimps or by clients: the truth is that violence is everywhere in the world of prostitution. It is also inherent to the act of prostitution itself. To be repeatedly subjected to unwanted sexual acts is a physical burglary akin to rape. Whenever we use the word violence, it needs to be understood as covering many different forms of violence so as to properly reflect the scope and seriousness of the physical and psychological damage done to the victims.

Allow me to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the work done in the last 20+ years by the Scelles Foundation, an organization which has contributed to identifying all of the major issues related to prostitution throughout the world and has shown the world the true face of prostitution.

Indeed, we must start deconstructing the fictional narratives that some people are using as they try to make us accept the unacceptable by presenting prostitution as a "job", a business relation between freely consenting adults, or liberated sexuality, sometimes even as a form of empowerment in a patriarchal world.

No! In the world of prostitution, freedom is not on the side of prostituted women and girls, and the commercialization of their body must be treated as the ultimate stage of development of a free-market logic that knows no limits.

Freedom is on the side of prostitution networks and pimps, for whom such business is highly profitable. Human trafficking is one of the most developed criminal activities in the world, and the profits it helps generate are constantly on the rise. According to the ILO, they currently reach an estimated \$150 billion a year.

By using human beings as sources of profits and

merchandise, traffickers violate the fundamental rights of those human beings in the most blatant and brutal way. Such is the reality of prostitution: It is a dehumanizing process reducing a person to a sexual object, and therefore it represents a serious assault on such person's dignity.

Therefore, prohibiting any purchase of sexual acts makes explicit and real our rejection of the idea that a human being can be treated as an object and as a subject of domination.

As is often the case, women and girls are the first victims. Let's not forget that prostitution is a gender issue: 85% of prostituted women and girls in France are women, and 99% of clients are men.

France is a destination country for prostitution networks, but also a transit country due to its central location within Europe.

The OCRTEH [Office central pour la répression de la traite des êtres humains], the French national office in charge of the fight against human trafficking, estimates that in 2015, there were 30,000 prostituted women and girls in France. Most of them were foreign nationals and under the control of a pimp or an exploitative network.

Since 2012, France has been fully mobilized to prevent and fight against human trafficking and prostitution. Such political will has been implemented through the following measures:

- The creation, in 2013, of the MIPROF [Mission interministérielle pour la protection des femmes contre les violences et la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains], the French inter-ministerial office for the protection of women against violence and for the fight against human trafficking, which is a national coordination body reporting directly to me;
- The implementation of our the first national action plan against human trafficking (2014-2016), based on an integrated approach to prevention, victim protection and prosecution of traffickers, including a number of measures targeting specifically victims of sexual exploitation and exploited minors;
- And finally, the enactment of the Law of April 13, 2016 "aiming at strengthening the fight against prostitution systems and at supporting prostituted women and girls", a legislation which represents for us a key lever for action.

Indeed, the enactment of such an abolitionist law represents a historical moment and, within the French society, it has truly changed the way prostitution is perceived because this law treats the issue of prostitution in a comprehensive way: harsher repressive measures against pimps, added support for victims of prostitution, pimping and human trafficking for any sexual exploitation purposes, prevention campaigns specifically targeting the youth and public opinion, and finally, prohibition of any sexual act purchasing.

The French Republic, which holds the legacy of the Enlightenment philosophers and is always eager to defend human dignity anywhere and everywhere it can, has expressed unequivocally its absolute commitment to recognize prostituted women and girls as victims in need of protection, and not as delinquents who should be criminally prosecuted.

This is precisely why this law has eliminated soliciting as a crime and has, instead, put in place a number of social policy measures aiming at helping prostituted women and girls exit the prostitution business by providing support to victims and insuring their protection. These measures are based on a comprehensive support system set up and coordinated between the regions that combines State-provided services (accessible through each local Prefecture and managed by regional committees reporting to the Prefects) with a number of services provided by local organizations.

This support system, which is gradually deployed in France, allows prostituted women and girls of any national origin to have access to a different life by entering a program helping them to exit the prostitution business and to enjoy a complete social and professional reintegration, with the support of a number of duly authorized civil society organizations. This program covers all their needs: financial assistance, access to healthcare, and easier access to housing and social housing. For some foreign nationals, the program can help them get a residence permit.

The political will of the French government has been demonstrated by a significant increase of the program budget, which has nearly tripled in the last 4 years, reaching 6.6 million euros in 2017, to which will be added the anticipated income from sales of goods and products seized from pimps and traffickers. This will allow us to provide both financial help to the program participants and grants to organizations that support prostituted

women and girls.

In order to fight efficiently against prostitution and its networks, a number of accountability mechanisms must be set up all along the prostitution chain. This is why, in addition to the above-mentioned social program, our law also provides for criminal prosecution. From now on, only the people in charge, in other words only networks, pimps and clients, can be prosecuted in France.

Buying any sexual act is prohibited and subject to criminal prosecution.

The fine for any client is 1,500 euros, and he receives a jail sentence if he paid for sex with a minor or a vulnerable person. Over a period of 10 months, 804 clients have been fined, a figure constantly on the rise and which shows the level of mobilization of our law enforcement units on the ground.

The justice system has been mobilized as well, thanks to our Ministry of Justice's criminal policy guidance provided to all judges, with a view to put to work our entire repressive legal arsenal.

That prostituted women and girls are particularly vulnerable has finally been recognized, and aggravating circumstances are now automatically added to the charges in case of violence, torture or acts of barbarism committed against a prostituted woman or girl.

Also, judges can now sentence clients to attend an awareness class on the fight against the commerce of sexual acts.

In addition to criminalizing clients and in order to reduce the demand level, a number of prevention and awareness communication campaigns targeting public opinion were launched in France, for instance during the 2016 European soccer championship and on the occasion of the European Day Against Human Trafficking.

An education policy on gender equality and sexuality is also being developed: It will include an information campaign targeting secondary schools and presenting the truth about prostitution and the commoditization of bodies.

Cyberspace has allowed for new forms of prostitution to emerge, but it also amplifies all existing forms by facilitating communication between traffickers, pimps, clients and prostituted women and girls. That is why

our law tightens the fight against pimps on the Internet. It renders accountable any access providers and any website hosting service providers by requiring them to contribute to the fight against the distribution of any sexual service offers related to prostitution networks, as well as to alert the authorities in case they notice any illegal content on their systems.

Transnational criminal organizations specializing in human trafficking are watching very closely what we are doing, we know that, and they are looking for loopholes. Those mafias hire their victims in their country of origin before taking them to a place where they don't know anyone, don't speak the local language, and are kept in indecent living conditions and subjected to unspeakable violence. These victims are forced to refund to the traffickers the very high cost of their migration, around 50,000 euros on average. The OCRTEH has strengthened its fight against those networks, including by working closely with other European countries, and in 2015 alone we have managed to dismantle 38 networks, arresting a total of 611 pimps in the process.

These networks only understand one thing: strength. Our message to them is this: France is not a host country for prostitution.

In its fight against prostitution and thanks to its ambitious social policy, France has now laid the foundation for a strengthened policy that both guarantees dignity for the victims and helps us fight vigorously against pimps and clients with a complete array of repressive legal tools.

Yet, it is critical that all countries participate in this effort, both at the European and international level, and join the fight against prostitution and sexual exploitation so that we can give back to the victims, who are viewed as servile objects, both their freedom and their dignity.

Thank you.

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**YVES CHARPENEL, PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO ADDRESS PROSTITUTION AND SEX TRAFFICKING**

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Dear friends, first of all, I would like to thank Ms Anne Claire Legendre, Consul General of France in New York, for hosting us this evening in this symbolic place of relations between our two countries.

The Scelles Foundation and two of its American partners, CATW and SPACE International, have this great opportunity to conduct a joint conference on the best strategies to fight prostitution and sexual exploitation.

We all agree on the importance to address and fight sexual violence that intrinsic to this particular phenomenon.

It is not a coincidence that this evening takes place during the week dedicated to the UN's Commission on the Status of Women.

We all agree that current responses provided by States and civil societies worldwide have not been adequate enough to reduce the threat against the rights of those most vulnerable.

Today, we will share with you three of our collective observations, despite the diversity within our societies and legal systems:

The first observation: there is an emergence of a vast system of transnational organized crime that takes many forms but is driven by the same force: to make greater profits at the expense of the dignity and safety of those being exploited - predominantly women and children.

Good sentiments and intentions alone cannot end sexual exploitation. We must also mobilize our resources that are adapted to the fight against organized crime, specifically those related to prevention, law enforcement and international cooperation.

The second observation: today, sexual exploitation is essentially a marketplace where the human body is regarded as a commodity and this market is subject to the normal laws of supply and demand.

Therefore, we must take action against those who sell and those who buy human beings in order to achieve positive lasting results.

The third observation: Based on our shared experience, we are certain that it will take a globally concerted effort to produce a meaningful and enduring outcome.

In order to achieve tangible and long-term results, it is essential that NGOs, who defend women subjected to prostitution, and institutions that are responsible for combatting this crime collaborate more openly and mobilize their efforts concertedly.

That said, we also need more in-depth research on this phenomenon so we can better understand its evolving dimensions and reality. This data can then be used in awareness campaigns to educate the general public and our local authorities. It is essential to raise awareness on the challenges that prostitution and sexual exploitation pose against our societies.

For over 20 years, the Scelles Foundation has conducted extensive global research and provided documentation on all aspects of sexual exploitation. Our findings have been consistent with those of our American partners.

Therefore, I call on all of those who do goodwill to allow us to initiate and execute these various actions, aligning the expertise acquired France and around the world.

We will achieve success in our fight against sexual exploitation when the best identified practices, which we want to develop here, are universally agreed upon and adopted.

Thank you!

## TAINA BIEN-AIME, HUMAN RIGHTS DIMENSIONS IN THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Good evening. I would first like to thank the Consule générale Anne-Claire Legendre and the French Consulate for graciously hosting us and the Scelles Foundation for inviting CATW to join them this evening. My congratulations go to Mme Rossignol, the Minister of Families, Childhood and Women's Rights for her decades-long tireless work and leadership on behalf of women and girls. It is an honor to sit with you at this table.

Under the leadership of the great Eleanor Roosevelt whose home was a few blocks from here, governments gathered in post-World War II to pen to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which lays out the basic principles of our inalienable and indivisible rights, among which that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that "[e]veryone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." Specific to human trafficking, the Declaration establishes that "[n]o one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms."

One of the major global challenges of human trafficking is that it is not only a pervasive crime and one that is "hidden in plain sight," but it is also an extraordinarily lucrative one, perpetrated with very low risk of punishment. The International Labor Organization estimated in 2014 that illegal profits from human trafficking had reached \$150 billion, \$90 billion of which in sex trafficking profits. These estimates are modest.

As an organization that focuses on the trafficking in women and girls as gender-based violence and discrimination, we at the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women ask ourselves every day how we can accelerate efforts of governments, the international community and civil society to tackle this human rights violation.

From a legal perspective, the laws in place are sterling tools. Article 6 of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) calls on member states to address trafficking in women, including the exploitation of prostitution. The 1949

Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of The Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others offers governments effective means to combating human trafficking, and like the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), these documents recognize that among the means of trafficking are the abuse of power over persons with acute vulnerabilities. These laws also call on governments to punish the 'demand' side of trafficking. We understand that the equations of supply and demand are applicable to this multi-billion dollar illegal market. Labor trafficking thrives on the demand for cheap goods and free labor and as it relates to sex trafficking, the demand for prostitution fuels it.

Within national legal frameworks, since 1999, starting with the Government of Sweden, a number of governments have also recognized that the key to address sex trafficking, and its end goal, the sex trade, including prostitution, is focusing on the demand or sex buyers. Indeed, in this multibillion-dollar market of misery, the fuel to the engine of sex trafficking is the demand for prostitution. Governments must prosecute the broad swath of exploiters of the sex trade, including the pimps and sex buyers, rather than punishing the exploited, who are mostly women and girls. We know that without sex buyers, the market would dry. Without sex buyers, governments would be forced to focus on investing on the educational and economic development of girls and women and engage its citizens, in accordance with human rights principles and international law, and most times, their own constitutions, to ensure equality between women and men.

So where are we today in this particular struggle for justice and equality? In 2016, we celebrated with France its victory in passing their law on prostitution, described by Minister Rossignol and M. Charpenel, deemed the strongest demand-focused legislation in the world to date. On February 14, a few weeks ago, the Republic of Ireland also followed Sweden, Iceland, Norway, Canada (with some exceptions), Northern Ireland and of course, France, in enacting what is known as the Swedish or



Nordic Model. We should now think of calling this legal framework the Global Model. These governments have recognized that sex buyers are the bedrock of the highly profitable sex trade; without them the sordid multi-billion dollar business would collapse and sex traffickers would have no place to park its prey.

While celebrating these successes, we must continue asking ourselves why is it taking so long for other governments, including the United States, to recognize the sex trade as global factory of the most violent forms of gender-based violence and discrimination? Yes, we understand that myriad challenges exist, including addressing organized crime and, in each city or neighborhood, the difficulties in identifying victims and gathering data on such crimes. We recognize the challenges, budgetary and otherwise, to providing housing, medical and other services to victims, once found. However, those who seek shall find and if the political will to combat all forms of violence against women were in place, we, as a society of nations, would be well on our way to implementing programs and policies to address the sex trade. What is holding us back?

Prostitution is one of the most brutal forms of male-perpetrated sexual abuse and violence, but it is still not perceived as such in our society. In most societies, it is defined as a crime, or moral failing on the part of the “weak” man who finds no sexual satisfaction with his wife or that of a so-called fallen woman. In countries that have legalized prostitution, prostitution is considered a job like any other. Perhaps the indifference to or the criminality of prostitution also stems because the majority of its victims are overwhelmingly poor, from disenfranchised communities, and dysfunctional childhoods that include sexual abuse and homelessness or other origins of acute vulnerabilities. But the pointed truth is that its victims are overwhelmingly women and girls, whose low status in society often dictates whether or not governments and society deem them worthy of attention or whose human rights should be respected. Prostitution is not more of a choice for women and girls than is female genital mutilation, child marriage, polygamy, widow-burning, or any human rights violation that happens to women because they were born female. These are all forms of

violence hidden under the guise of religion, tradition or culture. Likewise, prostitution is a harmful cultural practice that can only end if we unveil its origins as the exercise of power, control, and sexual access to women by men. If we pledge to fight for the abolition of all forms of human rights violations, then we must also invest in the abolition of prostitution.

Combatting sex trafficking and prostitution requires an intensive collaborative network of law enforcement, governments, civil society, and NGOs, but also the medical and mental health community, labor unions, men and boys, and youth groups. And of course, first and foremost, meaningful support to the formidable growing network of survivors, like Rachel, the leaders at SPACE Intl, and others around the world, who are helping us understand the true horrors of a life in prostitution and at the hands of sex buyers, pimps, brothel owners and other exploiters, for the profit of others.

What gives us hope to reach our goals is the progress we have made these past decades on combatting domestic violence, which is no longer seen as a private conjugal matter but a crime. What gives us hope is the global recognition that a 5,000-year-old practice called FGM that is no longer relegated to culture or religion, but deemed a human rights violation against women and girls worthy of eradicating. What gives us hope is the abolitionist movement that examines the impact of colonialism, racism and patriarchy on our lives and what is needed for true social and political change for women and girls. What gives us hope is that an increasing number of governments, including France, are finally recognizing that the exchange of money for unwanted sexual acts, sexual violence, degradation and dehumanization is not and never will be consent, and that women deserve better than being bought and sold for profit and male pleasure. We must transform that hope into action, without which equality and a just society will never be realized.

Thank you.

**ACT No. 2016-444 OF THE 13TH APRIL 2016****AIMING TO STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE PROSTITUTION SYSTEM AND TO ASSIST PROSTITUTED PEOPLE**

**ARTICLE 1** Creation of an obligation upon internet service providers to promptly inform the competent public authorities of any content that violates the Act in respect of pimping, and to make public the means and measures they devote to combatting such illegal activities.

AMENDS ARTICLE 6 OF ACT NUMBER 2004-575 OF THE 21ST JUNE 2004 FOR CONFIDENCE IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

**ARTICLE 3** Provides an option, where appropriate, for victims of pimping and human trafficking, and members of their families, to benefit from an enhanced protection mechanism when acting as witnesses or pressing charges. Victims of pimping and human trafficking may use the address of their lawyer or an approved organization for court and trial purposes.

ADDS ARTICLE 706-40-1 TO TITLE XVII OF BOOK IV OF THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

**ARTICLE 6** Inclusion of victims of prostitution, pimping and human trafficking on the list of groups that have priority access to social housing.

AMENDS ARTICLE L441-1 OF THE BUILDING AND DWELLINGS CODE

**ARTICLE 7** Creates, within the government budget, a fund for the prevention of prostitution and for the provision of social and professional support to prostituted persons. This fund will be made available to initiatives intended to: create public awareness about the negative health effects of prostitution; reduce the associated health risks; prevent entry into prostitution; reintegrate prostituted persons. The fund will be financed and maintained by the State budget and through the seizure of assets/proceeds derived from pimping and human trafficking.

COMPLETES ARTICLE L121-9 OF THE FAMILY AND SOCIAL ACTION CODE

**ARTICLE 9** Inclusion of organisations approved to monitor the exit route out of prostitution on the list of organisations that can obtain State financial assistance to house prostituted persons and victims of pimping and human trafficking.

AMENDS ARTICLE L851-1 OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY CODE

**ARTICLE 2** Formal integration into social workers' training programs of a module on the prevention of prostitution, and how to identify situations that may involve prostitution, pimping and human trafficking.

AMENDS ARTICLE L.451-1 OF THE FAMILY AND SOCIAL ACTION CODE

**ARTICLE 4** The offence of human trafficking is included within the findings that can be set forth by labour inspectors.

COMPLETES ARTICLE L.8112-2 OF THE LABOUR CODE

**ARTICLE 5** Creates, a county agency in every departement (county), which shall be responsible for organising and coordinating the response to victims of prostitution, pimping and human trafficking.

Creates an exit route from prostitution, together with social and professional reintegration:

- Provision of accommodation for victims of prostitution, pimping and human trafficking in social reintegration housing;
- Access to tax debt forgiveness;
- Access for foreign victims to a protective temporary residency permit;
- Creation of a financial aid payment to assist with social and professional reintegration, for prostituted persons who are not eligible to receive either basic social welfare payments or the financial assistance provided to asylum seekers.

AMENDS ARTICLE L121-9 OF THE FAMILY AND SOCIAL ACTION CODE

**ARTICLE 8** Enables the automatic issue of a protective temporary residency permit to victims of pimping and human trafficking who have brought proceedings against the perpetrators.

Opens up the possibility of the grant of a protective temporary residency permit to victims of pimping and human trafficking who have not brought proceedings against the perpetrators, but who have left prostitution and who are on the exit route out of prostitution.

AMENDS ARTICLES L316-1 AND L316-1-1 OF THE CODE GOVERNING THE ENTRY AND STAY OF FOREIGNERS AND THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM

**ACT No. 2016-444 OF THE 13TH APRIL 2016****AIMING TO STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE PROSTITUTION SYSTEM AND TO ASSIST PROSTITUTED PEOPLE**

**ARTICLE 10** Extends the option of accommodation in social reintegration housing to persons who are victims of pimping, formerly available only to victims of human trafficking.

AMENDS ARTICLE L.345-1 OF THE FAMILY AND SOCIAL ACTION CODE

**ARTICLE 12** Gives access to the right to full compensation for damages suffered by victims of pimping, in the event that the pimp is bankrupt/insolvent.

AMENDS ARTICLE 706-3 OF THE PENAL PROCEDURES CODE

**ARTICLE 14** Creates a right for victims of human trafficking or aggravated pimping to request that court proceedings be held in camera.

AMENDS ARTICLE 306 OF THE PENAL PROCEDURES CODE

**ARTICLE 17** Creates a national health, social and psychological risk reduction policy, approved by Government order.

CREATES ARTICLE L.1181-1 OF TITLE VII OF THE 1ST BOOK OF THE FIRST SECTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH CODE

**ARTICLE 19** Incorporates the promotion of gender equality into sex education classes taught in educational establishments.

COMPLETES ARTICLE L312-16 OF THE EDUCATION CODE

**ARTICLE 21** Creation of a supplementary penalty, consisting of the obligation to complete an awareness course on the subject of combatting the purchase of sex acts.

AMENDS ARTICLES 131-16 AND 225-20 OF THE PENAL CODE

**ARTICLE 22** Two years after enactment, the government shall submit an evaluation report on the new law to parliament.

**ARTICLE 23** The Act is applicable throughout French territory.

**ARTICLE 11** Establishes 'aggravating circumstances' for violence, sexual aggression and rape committed against a prostituted person.

AMENDS ARTICLES 222-3, 222-8, 222-10, 222-12 AND 222-13 OF THE PENAL CODE

**ARTICLE 13** The option for organisations, with the agreement of the victim, to join as a private party in criminal proceedings for pimping. Organisations recognised as having a Public Utility may join as private parties without the agreement of the victim (in particular, where the victim has not brought charges).

AMENDS ARTICLE 2-22 OF THE PENAL PROCEDURES CODE

**ARTICLES 15 AND 16** Abolishes the offence of soliciting (which had criminalised the solicitation of clients by prostituted persons since 1939).

AMENDS ARTICLE 225-10-1 OF THE PENAL CODE

**ARTICLE 18** Implements a national information policy setting out the realities of prostitution and the dangers of the commodification of the human body, for use in educational establishments.

AMENDS ARTICLE 312-17-1 OF THE EDUCATION CODE

**ARTICLE 20** Creates a new offence of resorting to the prostitution of another by prohibiting the purchase of a sex act. This new offence is of the 5th class, punishable by a fine of 1,500 euros.

For repeat offences, acts will be considered as criminal offences punishable by a fine of 3,750 euros.

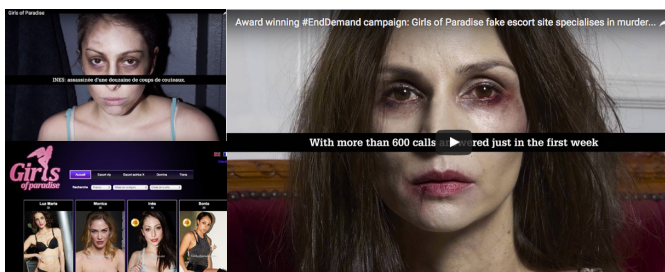
Resorting to the prostitution of a minor or vulnerable individual is retained as a criminal offence punishable by a sentence of 3 years' imprisonment.

CREATES ARTICLE 611-1 OF THE PENAL CODE AND AMENDS ARTICLE 225-12-1 OF THE PENAL CODE

## HOW TO TACKLE THE DEMAND?

A selection of global campaigns to combat prostitution and sex trafficking from a variety of public and private organizations, events, and communication channels:

- to sensitize sex **buyers** to the violent reality of prostitution and to seek a shift in attitudes and beliefs that underpin and sustain sexual exploitation ;
- to raise **public** awareness about the fact that the exploitation of people through prostitution and sex trafficking ultimately occurs because there is currently a demand from a minority of men wanting and willing to pay for sexual acts, generating multibillion-dollar profits for exploiters.



### GIRLS OF PARADISE, BEHIND THE SCENES



Sex buyers are not aware that they are complicit in the violence that prostituted women experience. To help sensitize them to the violent reality of prostitution, sex buyers are directed to use a fake escort site that is performed by McCANN Paris. This educational campaign strengthened **Mouvement du Nid's** lobbying to criminalize clients of prostitution. In September 2016, **Girls of Paradise** was awarded the prestigious Clio Award and its videos have received more than 500,000 views.

[mouvementdunid.org](http://mouvementdunid.org)



### WE DON'T BUY IT



**We Don't Buy It** launched in April 2015, was the first all-Ireland campaign calling on men to take a stand against prostitution and sex trafficking. This campaign aims to raise awareness about how prostitution is a form of violence against women and girls, and is part of the **REACH Project**, which is a project of the Department of Justice, with Ruhama and other statutory and NGO Partners in Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

[wedontbuyit.eu](http://wedontbuyit.eu)

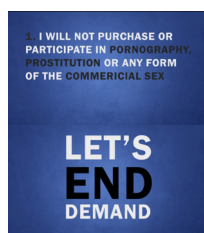


### BUYING SEX IS NOT A SPORT



Sexual exploitation incidences increase significantly during major sporting events. **The Phare des Affranchi(e)s**, in collaboration with the Y des femmes de Montréal (YWCA), the Concertation des luttes contre l'exploitation sexuelle (CLES), the Comité d'action contre la traite humaine interne et internationale (CATHII) and the **Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux** from Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal launched this campaign at the Montreal Grand Prix in 2016.

[lacles.org](http://lacles.org)



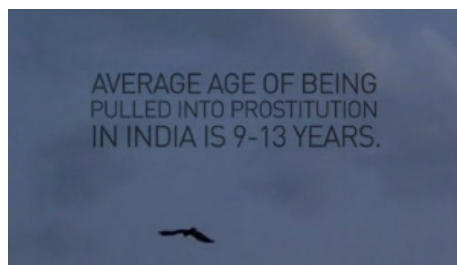
### BECOME A DEFENDER



**The Defenders** are men who have come to understand the marketplace and realities of commercial sexual exploitation. They are committed to doing everything in their power to stop this form of exploitation. Their core tenet is the **Defenders Pledge**, where one commits his life to bringing dignity, honor and respect to women and children. Let's end demand.

[sharedhope.org](http://sharedhope.org)





### DEMAND SIDE: COOL MEN DON'T BUY SEX



Traffickers, pimps and brothel owners would be driven out of business without the demand to purchase sexual acts. Therefore, we are working to reduce demand, while simultaneously reducing the industry's "supply" by giving victims more choice.

[apneap.org](http://apneap.org)



### GIRLS GOING WILD IN RED LIGHT DISTRICT



A campaign to show sometimes things are not what they appear. Men, women and children are trafficked worldwide then tricked, forced, or coerced into the sex industry. Duval Guillaume Modem created this awareness campaign, which was produced by Monodot, in support of [stopthetraffic.org](http://stopthetraffic.org). It has been viewed nearly 13 million times on Youtube.



### THE CODE OF CONDUCT



The Code (short for "The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism") is an **industry-driven responsible tourism initiative** with a mission to provide awareness, tools and support to the tourism industry in order to prevent the sexual exploitation of children. Impact : **160 companies** have signed the Code around the globe and report their progress.

[thecode.org](http://thecode.org) - [ecpat.org](http://ecpat.org)



### CHILD-SEX TOURISTS DESTROY CHILDHOODS



It is everyone's responsibility to protect children from sexual exploitation. Together, we will stop child-sex tourism. If you see anything that makes you uneasy or suspicious, please call the local authorities so they can carefully investigate the situation and enforce the law where a crime is being committed.

[tourism.gov.ph](http://tourism.gov.ph)



### PLEDGE TO END DEMAND IN WISCONSIN



**SlaveFree Madison** is the community action group that promotes awareness about modern-day slavery and advocates cooperative community responses to reduce the incidence of human trafficking in Dane County.

[slavefreemadison.squarespace.com](http://slavefreemadison.squarespace.com)



### END IT MOVEMENT



The Brand Amp was tasked with raising grassroots awareness for The END IT Movement, a campaign dedicated to shining a light on modern day slavery. The call-to-action was amplified to millions via social media thanks to over 100 celebrities. 2013

[enditmovement.com](http://enditmovement.com)





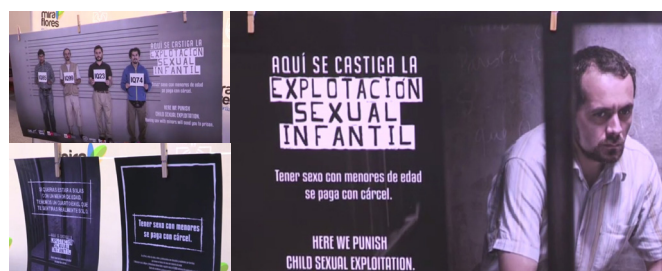
### TRUCKERS AGAINST TRAFFICKING



Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) is a 501(c)3 that exists to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking and travel plaza industry to combat domestic sex trafficking.

Saturate trucking and related industries with TAT materials. Partner with law enforcement and government agencies to facilitate the investigation of human trafficking. Mobilize the resources of our partners to combat this crime.

[truckersagainstrafficking.org](http://truckersagainstrafficking.org)



### «CÁRCEL»



“Cárcel” advertising campaign is an initiative of **Movimiento Vuela Libre**, represented in Peru by CHS Alternativo, that aims to raise awareness in national and international tourists about the risks of penalties for those who sexually exploit children and adolescents in Iquitos, Loreto. The campaign is also addressed to mass media, tourism operators and general public. 2016

[chsalternativo.org](http://chsalternativo.org)



### WALK IN A PUNTER, WALK OUT A RAPIST

Posters appeared in clubs and pubs warning men against paying for sexual acts in brothels with exploited or trafficked women. They are part of a six-month home office review into tackling the demand for prostitution.

The posters were supported by online advertisements and additional advice on the [UK Human Trafficking Centre's Web](http://UK Human Trafficking Centre's Web)



### DO YOU KNOW LACY ?

This film series is designed to teach teens the warning signs and indicators of trafficking through the true stories of teenage girls who were tricked by traffickers. Brianna, Lacy and Maria discuss how modern American pimps and gangs are luring youth into the commercial sex industry and how teens can protect themselves and others from being chosen. The resource packages include additional educational tools to further discussion, learning and action!

[sharedhope.org/what-we-do/prevent/awareness/](http://sharedhope.org/what-we-do/prevent/awareness/)

**<sup>1</sup> SOURCES FOR 'Efficiency of the Nordic Model'**

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**<sup>2</sup> SOURCES FOR 'Failure of the legalization/decriminalization of prostitution'**

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