

10 Differences between Sexual Exploitation and Sex Work

	Sexual exploitation in prostitution	Sex Work
	<i>Perspective of governments that protect and support victims, prevent sexual exploitation, and criminalize pimps and sex buyers.</i>	<i>Perspective of governments that decriminalize pimping and consider prostitution as work.</i>
1	<i>They evidence and prosecute crimes related to sexual exploitation: rape, sexual harassment, induced and forced prostitution, trafficking in persons with the purpose of sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation of children, kidnapping, forced displacement, among others.</i>	<i>They consider these crimes are "misinterpretations" of what happens in this job. Many are justified by pimps and sex buyers because "they help initiate workers" or "they paid for it". The weight of providing evidence is on the victim who is made responsible of her/his own exploitation.</i>
2	<i>They know that crimes are based on the conduct of the exploiter: Both in human trafficking as in sexual exploitation in prostitution, the exploiter takes advantage of the vulnerability and imbalance of power to sexually use another person, with or without their consent.</i>	<i>They consider that there must be deception or coercion in trafficking and that there's always consent in "sex work". Pimping and all the sexual exploitation chain are legally and socially accepted, thus increasing human trafficking for this purpose.</i>
3	<i>They investigate and prosecute grave human rights violations prevalent in prostitution: Torture, cruel or degrading treatment, slavery, femicide, induced suicide, forced disappearance, under the premise that no human right allows for the sexual exploitation of others.</i>	<i>They classify these violations as "work accidents" common to "any job". Sex workers pay the fine in the best of cases and rarely prosecuted. "Sex workers" do not want to be stigmatized by registering as such in the social security systems and have enormous difficulties in getting insurance to cover/pay for these "accidents".</i>
4	<i>They recognize basic human rights that are violated to prostituted persons: social security, education, housing and food, health, asylum, culture, play, decent job and they offer real alternatives for them to recover these rights.</i>	<i>They believe in the glamorous lies the sex industry sells (next to publicity, the media, tourism, modeling/fashion industries) unacknowledging the debt system, slavery and impossibility of a life free of humiliations.</i>
5	<i>They recognize the impacts of prostitution in the lives of victims: post-traumatic stress, depression, induced addictions, eating disorders, forced abortions, battering, mutilation, burns, cancers, sexually transmitted diseases, among other grave impacts to their own and their children's health. They design comprehensive services including mental, emotional and physical health support.</i>	<i>They classify these impacts as not so bad "occupational diseases". Many consider that distributing condoms among "sex workers" is enough. For them, it is impossible to demonstrate how alcoholism and drug addiction were induced for the job, and the health system based on stereotypes and high costs, imposes access barriers impeding physical and mental health support.</i>
6	<i>They recognize prostitution as a gender based violence, among other forms of discrimination: Prostitution is really "practiced" by sex buyers (99% men) mostly misogynist and abusing, over girls, boys and women (90%), transgender and gay men (10%) who have been sexually abused in their childhood (95%) are displaced, poor, migrant, belonging to ethnic minorities and other traditionally discriminated groups.</i>	<i>They believe it is "normal" that children, women, transgender and gays "satisfy the needs" of sex buyers. Although statistics evidence the contrary, they insist that "most sex workers consent" their prostitution, and few are exploited. Gender, poverty, ethnic background and age, are not relevant to "sex work".</i>
7	<i>They recognize that prostitution violates all minimum international standards for work: It discriminates everything considered "feminine", sexual harassment is part of the activity description, it initiates in childhood, and enslaves, it has no protection from occupational risks and diseases. Unions are pimps speaking in the name of "sex workers", where no difference is made between "the user" and "the used".</i>	<i>They think "pimp managers" will hire "sex workers". However, this never happens, because they need "fresh meat" (younger, prettier, more willing), "new products" (children, virgins, pregnant women), "at a cheaper price" (illegal migrants, refugees, traditionally discriminated and displaced population).</i>
8	<i>They recognize that the pornography industry is also prostitution: fighting against the impact of pornography on naturalizing violence and "objectification" of women. They prosecute cases of victims of trafficking for pornography and ban the industry.</i>	<i>They consider the pornography industry to be "freedom of expression", and unacknowledge its mass distribution on internet and its connection to grave human rights violations.</i>
9	<i>They recognize the connection of pimping with drug trafficking, armed conflict and hidden criminality: designing public policies that forbid and prevent the action of these multibillionaire industries that are so harmful to societies and world peace.</i>	<i>They consider that lack of public safety, criminality and grave human rights violations against mostly women and transgender that increase with legal pimping and post conflicts, are a secondary effect they do not have to respond for.</i>
10	<i>They recognize the challenge related to protecting the rights of citizens and gender equality: by working on long term education - new masculinities and cultural change strategies.</i>	<i>They consider that governments can allow the sexual exploitation of their citizens and immigrants as commodities and receive taxes for it. Gender equality does not concern them.</i>



Presume sexual exploitation in all prostitution, unless you can prove that none of the above reasons applies to the "autonomous sexworker"