



Iniciativa Ciudadana, Colombia



First anniversary of the French Act on prostitution and human trafficking: a progressive law becoming reality !

In April 2016, after a three year cross-party parliamentary process, France fully remodeled its public policies in relation to prostitution and trafficking in human beings.

The Law of the 13th of April 2016, Aiming to Strengthen the Fight Against the Prostitution System and to Assist Prostituted Persons has :

- Decriminalised prostituted persons
- Reinforced the State's protection for victims of pimping and trafficking in human beings
- Offered access to protection's residency permits for foreign victims of trafficking
- Set up a national « exit policy » and developed new victims rights
- Recognised as a form of violence, and criminalised, the purchase of sex
- Established national standards for harm reduction, prevention and education, and training of professionals

Only one year after the adoption of the law, France has immediately implemented:

- Effective end to the arrests of prostituted persons for solicitation
- 937 sex buyers arrested and fined
- Recognition of physical and sexual violence against a prostituted person as an aggravating circumstance, which has been used in several trials

The implementation of the social chapters of the law first required the publication of ministerial decrees. To date, **4 implementation decrees** (out of 5) have already been published :

- On the implementation of the national « exit policy »
- On harm reduction in relation to physical and psychological health
- On access to residency permits for foreign victims
- On the implementation of the mandatory awareness courses for sex buyers

French members of CAP international, Mouvement du Nid and Fondation Scelles, together with the 60 member organisations of the collective Abolition 2012, are now prioritising the effective implementation of newly recognised rights for victims of prostitution and trafficking:

- Legal, psychological and medical support,
- Access to exit programmes,
- Emergency and social housing,
- Financial assistance,
- Temporary residency permits,
- Access to training and to decent work



Notes:

1- To learn more about the principles, goals, measures and adoption of the law in France, download CAP International's publication, released today on the eve of the 1 year anniversary of the passing of the law :

French - bit.ly/FrenchProstPubFR

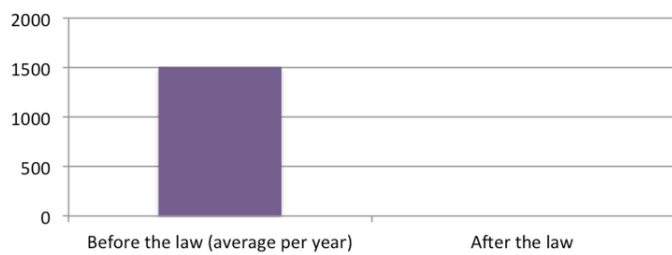
English - bit.ly/FrenchProstPubEN

2- Six States in the world have adopted abolitionist legislations to date (Sweden, Iceland, Norway, Canada, France, and most recently Ireland).

3- Infographic illustrating the rate of arrests of prostituted persons and sex buyers before and after the French law (data thanks to Mouvement du Nid):

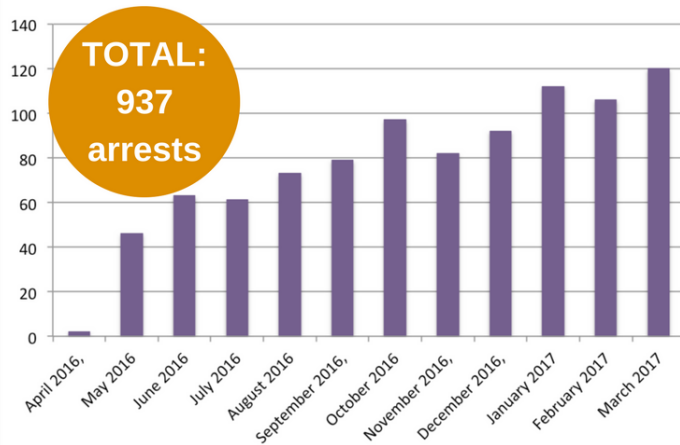
1 year on: state of new French law and its implementation

**Number of prostituted persons
arrested before vs after the
enactment of the new French law**



VS

**Number of sex buyers arrested in France
since the enactment of the new law**



Data from Fondation Scelles & Mouvement du Nid

Next steps: effective implementation of newly recognised rights for victims of prostitution and trafficking:

Financial assistance

Residency permits

Emergency & social housing

Exit programmes...