

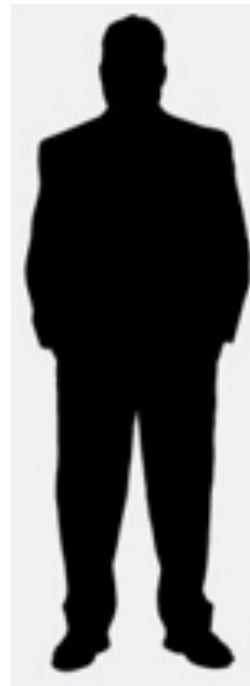
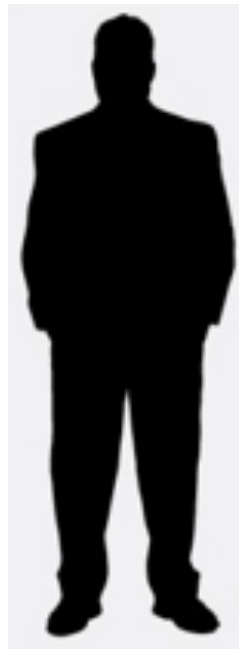
***¿Am I a sex
worker?***



***¿O sexually
exploited in
prostitution?***

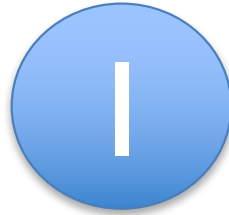
There are two ways of understanding prostitution:

It is my individual decision



It is a system in which I am a victim





I am a sex worker

- I choose my clients and are self determined.
- I have a boss who protects me.
- I decide what and how I want sex
- I usually enjoy what I do
- I make money and progress
- I studied and I'm not obliged by need
- I could work in any other thing if I wanted

I am sexually exploited in prostitution

- I suffered from ill-treatment and was sexually abused in my childhood and adolescence.
- I am homeless, are from the foster care system or escaped from violence at home
- I did not have an opportunity to educate myself and work
- I was raped by armed actors, gangs, criminals, traffickers, exploiters or are forcefully displaced.
- I am black, indigenous, trans, gay, lesbian and have always been discriminated
- I am poor
- I am an immigrant/refugee from a country in socio-economic and political crisis
- Prostitution is the only way I can survive and feed my children



The Client	The sex buyer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My clients treat me well• They respect my feelings and whatever mood I'm in• Rarely do they abuse me• Although I use a different name, I am proud of what I do• I understand that "they" have needs and that is why they look for me• Sometimes they do strange and difficult things, but its all about their fantasies and I am happy to please them	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All that matters is their pleasure and never what I feel; they keep their privacy, I don't.• They see me different to other women because they can use me and throw me away• They usually take drugs and alcohol and consume pornography to remove all inhibitions• Their excuses to pay for me are that "they feel lonely" (low self esteem), "they fear/hate women" (misogynists), "they wives don't satisfy them" (they don't respect them either), or are sex addicts (mentally sick).• They torture, rape and abuse me• When they get me out of prostitution, they have me in domestic and sexual slavery, then threaten me and kill me.



The Boss

- My boss does not employ me, but exchanges the room, food, childcare, drugs, clothes for sex
- I take drugs and alcohol because its my bosses' best business: that clients pay for that
- He prefers me over other sexworkers and gives me the best clients
- Sometimes girls die, but I think it is because they are very crazy or drugged
- Children who end up in sexwork are there because they like it

The Pimp

- The pimp makes me fall in love with him, infatuates me and then simply keeps me tied paying for debts on things he bought me
- He calls me an “intern” and controls my movements day and night
- He makes me take drugs and alcohol to make money on me and so I can take this terrible life
- He makes us compete among women and hate each other and has us pimp other girls
- When we are killed by sex workers or by them, they disappear us
- Lots benefit from my exploitation: Casinos, hotels, massage parlors, clubs, restaurants, discos, etc
- They drive my children into prostitution, drugs and delinquency
- As soon as I'm no longer useful to him, he will find a younger, naive, and ready girl



Society	The system that prostitutes us
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I am what many women can't be, because religion, morality, family, and traditions don't let them.• I am a sexworker, hore-feminist and this is my right• Other women are not capable of doing what I do• They are inhibited and don't enjoy life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The government blames me of my own sexual exploitation• They consider me a public health issue and don't want to see me invading public space, setting areas just for us• They say I am the one "exercising prostitution" when those who are free and benefit from prostitution are the sexbuyer and the pimp• They only give us condoms so we can continue in prostitution. They don't offer us opportunities• They think its about changing a job for another, and don't recognize the impacts it has in our lives• The government considers it as a crime before I'm 18, then its magically consented• The media help in making women "merchandise", products that can be bought and discarded• They only value us for how we look, not for our intelligence or our capacities• They don't want to recognize the organized crime that is inherent to prostitution



My rights

- I have been stigmatized and that is why Police and some people in society abuse us (Right to free personality and equality)
- They don't let us move wherever we want to go (freedom of movement)
- I have not been able to have a pension, healthcare system and other benefits of a formal job (Right to social security)

My human rights that have been violated

- For me, that they call me a hore is what least matters. The worst is my constant fear of being killed (Right to life)
- We are abused physically, sexually and emotionally as if we were garbage (right to a dignified life, life without violence, torture, degrading treatment, right to justice, reparation and non-repetition)
- We have no options in prostitution, no experience, no work references, and they are afraid of hiring us (right to a standard of living, education, work, social security)



Discrimination

Really, the only impact of sexwork is that we are discriminated and the Police hate us

Impacts of prostitution in my life

- Due the violence I have lived, I suffer of depression, I have wanted to commit suicide, I dissociate myself (separate my body from what I think and feel), I feel helplessness, guilty, desperate and extremely anxious.
- I also feel terror, I cant protect myself, have no family who can help me, and mistrust everyone, and obviously hate myself.
- I have bad stomach aches, heart problems, suffer cancer, organ ripping, injuries, cuts, eating disorders, addictions, forced abortions and pregnancies, exhaustion because of nightlife, STDs, and many other sicknesses.
- I am afraid because I have seen how other women have been killed with drug overdoses, hung, shot or stabbed to death
- My children have mental health problems



Work accidents

- For there to be trafficking in persons, there must be kidnapping and it has to be against our will
- I don't think I'm induced to prostitution when I consent
- Anything that happens to us at work, is really a work accident or bad luck

Crimes in prostitution

- I know crimes related to sexual exploitation (when someone benefits or makes money on me) and trafficking in persons (when I'm invited, captured, taken somewhere to be exploited) are related to my experience. However, it is so normal that no one investigates or offers us real alternatives.
- I know I don't have to prove my consent, but the intention of those who abuse of my vulnerability to make money on it.
- If sexwork is legalized, then I would have to demonstrate these crimes and I know I will never win. If they don't research now, much less when it is declared work.



Legalize sexwork	What would happen if prostitution was considered work
<p>Our solution is that sexwork is legalized. This way we will have work rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I don't want to be registered in any public system as a prostitute, because I will never find opportunities and I don't want my family to know• If they want to offer protection at work, we would have to use glasses, gloves, mouthcovers, security clothing because we are in contact with blood, saliva, semen, and more• I don't know who will pay for all the work risks, extra hours and night shift, maternity leave, menstrual time, drug and alcohol treatment, mental and physical sickness, among others• I know that no pension fund will pay me when I'm 30 and I'm no use to the sex industry, if they don't even cover for those who have worked their whole lives• I know that in countries where they have legalized sexwork, pimps are free to exploit and abuse us, and women are under graver risks



The other solution

There is no way prostitution will end, it is the oldest profession of the world. I think this is impossible and will never happen.

There is a solution: the gender equality model

- The government must recognize us as victims of gender and discrimination based violence, and must return our human rights!
- Offer us specialized mental and physical health services and treatments for us and our families. Support us on domestic violence, live far from pimps, and support to raise our children.
- Offer us education, money management, and entrepreneurship. Prepare us for formal work environments and challenges or help us find real jobs
- Prevent among children and other traditionally discriminated populations, educating society and men to respect women.
- The government must punish pimp and sexbuyers, take their properties and repair us. Also, guarantee that this will not happen again to us, or our children.

In the gender equality model

