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Summary: *Challenging Men's Demand for Prostitution in Scotland: A Research Report Based on the Interviews of 110 Men Who Bought Women in Prostitution*
 Published by Women's Support Project¹, 2008

General Background²:

- Research conducted in Edinburgh and Glasgow, Scotland beginning in 2005
- First of a series of papers in conjunction with the U.S. NGO, Prostitution Research and Education, concerning men's attitudes towards prostitution

Relevant Legislation- The Prostitution (Public Spaces) (Scotland) Act of 2007

- Makes it illegal to solicit or loiter in a public place for the purpose of prostitution
- This includes both the purchaser and the prostitute
- This legislation is imperfectly enforced

Methods:

- Used questionnaires that asked about various aspects of the men's sexual behavior and mentalities
- Best way to recruit interviewees was through the newspaper
- Interviews lasted 90 minutes
- Discussion of prostitution use was not limited to Scottish prostitution

Demographic Findings:

- A majority of the men who bought sex were between ages 26-49
- Average age was 37
- 77% of the men were White Scottish
- 89% identified as heterosexual, the remaining 11% as bisexual
- 52% reported a family income of 20,000 pounds or less
- Majority were politically center or left
- 48% said they were in a relationship, girlfriend or wife, at the time

Prostitution Services History:

- 52% bought women in prostitution before age 21, and 74% bought by the time they were 25
- 55% of men were alone when they first bought sex, 41% with friends
- Some feel pressured by friends
- Some want first sexual experience to be emotionally absent

¹ **Women's Support Project-** Scottish NGO dedicated to providing services to sexually abused women. It offers telephone services to victims, provides training to members of the community, and publishes various research reports. Part of its funding comes from the Glasgow City Council.

² Although not mentioned in this summary, the word *punter*, is a commonly used word in Scotland referring to men who purchase sex.

- 50% of men believed that pimps do cause harm, the other 50% believed they do not
- Most men bought sex in indoor locations: massage, sauna, brothel
- 20% had been in the military, and **half bought sex during their time in the military**
- 56% of the men bought sex outside of the UK, main locations Netherlands, Germany, and Spain

The Psychology of Clients:

- Rape myths are culturally supported attitudes that normalize rape that are prevalent among clients of prostitutes
- One-third said rape occurs because men get sexually carried away, 22% said rape does not apply to women in prostitution
- The men most accepting of prostitution were most strongly identified with hostile masculinity (psychological and sexual dominance of women and resentment towards women)
- The more frequently a man purchased prostitution services, the more likely he was to have committed sexually coercive acts against non-prostituting women.
- 10% said they would rape if they could be assured they wouldn't be caught, 12% had sex with a partner after pressuring them verbally, 43% lied to women in order to have sex
- 45% felt that prostitutes had positive feelings during sex
- 41% felt no guilt after sex with a prostitute, 59% felt some guilt of which 25% felt significant guilt

Why Clients Accept Prostitution:

1. Approximately a third of male respondents justified their use of prostitution services as a way to satisfy sexual desires
2. Some believe it is a right to have their sexual needs satisfied whenever they desire
3. Some believe the demand for prostitution is inevitable
4. Some feel it demonstrates an ability to control women
5. 96% of men interviewed believed prostitution was a consenting act between two adults; however, 85% acknowledged that the women did not enjoy the sex of prostitution³
6. Some believe prostitutes are "sexually liberated" or "morally different;" therefore, it is acceptable to have sex with them
7. 50% of men believed they sexually satisfied the prostitute
8. 41% of men believed the availability of prostitution makes rape of other women less likely (**although in the U.S., areas of legalized prostitution have higher rates of rape**)
9. Although 39% of men acknowledged that prostitution is sexual exploitation, and a third state that prostitution is based on the subordination of women, they continue to buy sex

Open Ended Responses from Clients of Ways to Eliminate Prostitution:

1. Eradication of poverty

³ There appears to be contradictions in the respondents' opinions of prostitution. This possibly demonstrates the irrationality of these individuals in their attempt to justify their purchase of sex services.

2. Promotion of sexual equality
3. Programs for women currently in prostitution

What Would Deter Men in Scotland from Buying Sex in their Opinion?

1. Being added to a sex offender registry 89%
2. Having your picture and/or name on a billboard 86%
3. Having your picture and/or name in the local newspaper 84%
4. Having to spend time in jail 79%
5. Having your picture and/or name posted on the internet 78%
6. A letter being sent to your family saying you were arrested for soliciting a woman in prostitution 77%
7. Harsher criminal penalty 72%
8. Having your car impounded 70%
9. Higher monetary fine 69%
10. Being required to attend an educational program for men who buy prostitution services 56%