

NORDIC MODEL NOW!

23 June 2023

Richard Horton, Editor in Chief,
The Lancet,
125 London Wall,
London,
EC2Y 5AS

Via email: editorial@lancet.com

Dear Mr Horton

My name is Esther and I have lived experience of prostitution. I write in response to the [editorial](#) in *The Lancet*, ‘Protecting the health of sex workers in the EU’ published on 10 June 2023.

Legalising or decriminalising prostitution leads to its [rapid expansion](#) due to increased demand.¹ The corresponding need to increase the supply of women draws more marginalised women and girls into prostitution and human trafficking also increases. The market for prostitution becomes concentrated in the hands of those who can successfully over-recruit, whether through coercion, misrepresentation of likely earnings and what prostitution really involves. It is not sex that is being sold but the right to control the sexual activity.

Lower cost to buyers, which means lower remuneration for women involved in prostitution, then adds to the demand and the cycle continues. Prostituted women will need, or be forced, to override boundaries they may have had at the outset to remain competitive. [Health risks](#) and risks to life and limb of women involved in prostitution do not decrease.²

Studies have confirmed that liberalisation (whether through legalisation or full decriminalisation) [lowers the price](#) of purchasing sexual activity by as much as 33%.³ However, brothel owners do not lower the rates they charge to the women – meaning that

¹ <https://nordicmodelnow.org/facts-about-prostitution/fact-decriminalising-prostitution-increases-human-trafficking/>

² <https://ellyarrow.wordpress.com/2021/11/06/disproportionate-and-unique-health-risks-for-women-in-prostitution/>

³ Lee, Samuel, and Petra Persson. 2018. Human Trafficking and Regulating Prostitution. Working paper. New York University, Stern School of Business, New York.

Cunningham, Scott, and Manisha Shah. 2018. Decriminalizing Indoor Prostitution: Implications for Sexual Violence and Public Health. *Review of Economic Studies* 85:1683–1715.

women have to endure more prostitution encounters, which will inevitably increase the risks of exposure to STIs and other physical and emotional harms.

Laws against sex trafficking are retained in states which have fully decriminalised or legalised the sex trade but in practice they are hard to enforce. Most sex trafficking goes undetected and there is less enthusiasm for investigating it.

Coercion into prostitution, and into performing dangerous acts to keep up with the competition remains high after decriminalisation, much of it coming from [pimps and brothel-keepers](#) themselves.⁴ They have power over whether the women can continue to receive buyers in brothels. This power deters women from complaining to the police about violence inflicted on them by buyers. Systematic data collection on the number of women involved in prostitution or the exploitation of children remains poor.

New Zealand is a small and uniquely isolated country with a population of less than 5 million. Germany's geographical location, its population of almost 84 million and its legalisation of the sex trade have turned it into the brothel of Europe. The sex industry is the only German industry for which there are no reliable statistics about the numbers involved. Time Magazine called Germany the "Cut-rate prostitution capital of the world" and quoted a sex tourist from Florida describing it as "like Aldi for prostitutes".

The problems in Germany are now widely recognised to be less to do with the legislation and more to do with the [huge scale](#) of the industry, the ease with which marginalised women are exploited within it, and how it is impossible for the police and other authorities to hold exploiters to account when they are operating under the cover of a legal system.⁵ All these factors apply as much to full decriminalisation as to legalisation.

This is why the economic interests and concerns for safety of people involved in prostitution and those of pimps, brothel-keepers and others facilitating the industry at higher levels and making the largest profits, including traffickers and companies which own commercial sex websites, are not aligned.

The Nordic Model understands prostitution to be harmful, both to the individual and to society as whole, and that it is both a cause and a consequence of the inequality between men and women. It seeks to reduce demand by changing social norms and behaviour.

A much smaller proportion of the population is involved in prostitution under the Nordic Model in Sweden, Norway, and France than under legalisation and full decriminalisation in Germany, the Netherlands, and New Zealand. This suggests that the Nordic Model is

⁴ Johnson, Helen, and Tony Pitt.2020. Review of the Decriminalisation Model in New Zealand: http://1425f57e-5a05-4bdc-8183-747efed61d9f.filesusr.com/ugd/7f14e6_e427c650927141b9b9a2cfed936e1ca1.pdf

⁵ <https://nordicmodelnow.org/2021/03/09/german-ex-police-officer-demolishes-common-arguments-against-the-nordic-model/>

effective in containing the sex industry – if not reducing its size, at least in preventing its growth.

The Nordic Model doesn't make prostitution safe, any more than full decriminalisation does, because nothing can make it safe for women. However, when it is well implemented, the Nordic Model can reduce the amount of prostitution that takes place and the number of new women being drawn into it by reducing the demand. It also provides routes out for those embedded in it.

The acting Anti-trafficking Coordinator for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), [Andrea Salvoni](#), considers the current OSCE strategy for defeating human trafficking to be a failure and has recommended a focus instead on addressing the demand that fosters trafficking for sexual exploitation.⁶ This demand is the same as that which fosters sexual exploitation within a state.

It is about time that the demand issue was addressed.

Signed by Esther

Supported by the following organisations and individuals.

British organisations:

1. **Nordic Model Now!**
2. **A Model for Scotland**
3. **Analytica Social and Economic Research**
4. **Aurora New Dawn**
5. **Build a girl UK**
6. **Campaign Against Porn Robots**
7. **CEASE – The Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation**
8. **FiLiA Hague Mothers**
9. **For Women Scotland**
10. **Isle of Man Freethinkers**
11. **Male Allies Challenging Sexism (MACS)**
12. **Manchester Feminist Network**
13. **nia**
14. **Not Buying It**
15. **Not for sale in Scotland**
16. **Rooms of our Own**
17. **Scary Little Girls**
18. **Scottish Women Against Pornography**

⁶ https://www.linkedin.com/posts/andrea-salvoni-40104b270_demand-exploitation-trafficking-activity-7070373707499642881-YYyn

19. **Sheffield Feminist Network.** I worked with women exiting prostitution in the criminal justice system and have campaigned locally on this issue for years through women's networks. A local woman in my personal network was murdered recently in a "survival" sex encounter and I'm planning her funeral.
20. **Sole Sisters.** Sole Sisters is a group of women activists in Scotland. We stand with Elaine in her fight for the introduction for the Nordic Model and for states everywhere to address male sexual exploitation of women. End the demand for prostitution and provide routes out for women exploited within the sex trade.
21. **The Judith Trust**
22. **The Reward Foundation**
23. **The Scottish Women's Convention.** We see prostitution as a form of violence against women and girls. We believe that the Nordic Model is the only way to decriminalise the women involved and to tackle the root cause of the issue which is the demand (men buying sex). If we criminalise the men, we reduce the demand and therefore the harm on the women and girls involved.
24. **TRAC (Trafficking, Raising Awareness and Campaigning**
25. **WDI England**
26. **WDI Wales**
27. **Woman's Place UK**
28. **Women's Declaration International NI**
29. **Women's Declaration International, Scotland chapter**
30. **Women's Voices Matter**
31. **WWAFE – Women Worldwide Advancing Freedom & Equality**
32. **You my sister**

International organisations:

1. **1000 Möjligheter (1000 Opportunities)**
2. **ADIEF**
3. **Alberta Radical Feminists**
4. **Anti Pornography and Prostitution Research Group**
5. **Associazione DORAD.** My organisation supports migrant women from the Global South who were trafficked into the sex industry in the West. This happened because they had no alternatives and needed to survive and were thus vulnerable to promises of fantastic live in Europe. They believe legalising it would make it much more dangerous for women and girls and would in no way protect them. All of them without exception want to exit prostitution immediately and want it abolished. They believe that the legalisation will only make exploiters, pimps and brothel owners richer and more powerful and will put prostituted women in a deeper situation of sex slavery without any chance of rescue. They call for the adoption of the Nordic Model, also because it calls for states to make resources available to enable them exit

prostitution. The Nordic Model is the only way to go now while the complete abolition of prostitution is made possible.

6. **Bulgarian platform European Women's Lobby**
7. **CAP International**
8. **CAPP**
9. **Centre for Women War Victims – ROSA**
10. **Comisión para la Investigación de Malos Tratos a Mujeres.** We work for the abolition of prostitution in Spain and work directly with women in prostitution and victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. You can find all the information about our courses on the web www.malostratos.org
11. **Coordination of Greek Women NGOs for the EWL**
12. **Dance Awareness: No Child Exploited (DA:NCE)**
13. **Defend Dignity**
14. **End Demand Switzerland**
15. **End The War on Women Collective.** Prostitution, the longest known oppression of women in human history needs to stop by a Universal application of the Nordic Model NOW.
16. **ESCLAVITUD XXI.** We lead several street teams supporting women in prostitution in Spain. It is a shame as society to expose any girl, boy, man or woman to be used, bought and sold with the high risk of being raped, or harmed, daily. No one wants this for any of his family. Let's act as brothers and sisters. Each woman I've met in prostitution has suffered child sex abuse or extreme poverty or vulnerability.
17. **EURHED**
18. **European Center of the International Council of women**
19. **European Network of Migrant Women**
20. **Femmes solidaires**
21. **Fondation Jean et Jeanne Scelles**
22. **FONDATION SCELLES**
23. **Gemeinsam gegen Menschenhandel e.V.**
24. **Green Light Awareness Society**
25. **Hungarian Women's Lobby**
26. **ICASM International Coalition for the Abolition of Surrogate Motherhood**
27. **Initiative Stopp Sexkauf**
28. **Iroko Charity Nigeria.** Our country is a major country of origin for victims and survivors of sex trafficking. Legalisation would make that a much easier way to export women from our country to the West into sexual exploitation. That would amount to a new form of slavery and colonialisation. Our women and girls need opportunities, education and work. They do not need to become sex slaves to men in the West. The Nordic Model is the only reasonable way to go, not the legalisation you recommend.
29. **Italian Coordination of the European Women's Lobby**
30. **KAVOD, Holistic help for victims of sexual exploitation**

31. **LIBRES MARIANNES**
32. **Lobby Europeo de Mujeres en España**
33. **Malta Women's Lobby**
34. **MARTA Centre, Latvia**
35. **Matters of Injustice**
36. **Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies**
37. **Network of East-West Women, NEWW – Poland**
38. **Osez le féminisme!**
39. **Perla**
40. **Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights** (Plataforma Portuguesa para os Direitos das Mulheres)
41. **Prostitution Research & Education**
42. **Radicailín**
43. **Radical Feminism Taiwan**
44. **RealStars**
45. **REGARDS DE FEMMES**
46. **RENATE** (Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation)
47. **Resist Exploitation Embrace Dignity (REED)**. REED has developed relationships with women in the sex industry since 2005.
48. **Resistenza Femminista**
49. **Ruhama**
50. **Sexual Violence Centre Cork**
51. **SHAREIreland**
52. **Swedish Women's Lobby**
53. **The Elizabeth NJ CATHOLIC WORKER**
54. **VCASE** (Vancouver Collective Against Sexual Exploitation). Our collective has members with lived experience of prostitution and relevant professional experience
55. **Verein Feministischer Diskurs**
56. **Women on the Frontline Ministries**. We are a local charity providing support to women involved in prostitution and agree with having the Nordic Model.
57. **Women's Front of Norway**
58. **Women's Network Croatia**

Individuals:

1. Adam G
2. Adrian Walker
3. Adriana S. Thiago
4. Adrienne Montani. The average age of girls being sex trafficked into prostitution in my country (Canada) is 13 years old. This industry is the ultimate violence against women and girls. The Nordic model is better at reducing demand and therefore the exploitation of women and girls. Legalization and decriminalization merely help

increase sex trafficking and exploitation. Who will you prioritize -- sex buyers and pimps or the safety of women and girls?

5. Agnes Tolmie
6. Agnese Fiducia
7. Agnete Strøm
8. Agnieszka Wiciak
9. Aleksandra Maliszewska
10. Alexandria Adesso
11. Alexandria Sherman
12. Alexine Solis. Survivor of prostitution (France)
13. Ali Ceesay. Consent cannot be purchased.
14. Alice
15. Alice Bondi
16. Alice Ghillani
17. Alice Louise Westbrook
18. Alicia Castillo
19. Alicia Garcia
20. Alicia Ryan
21. Alison Bowry
22. Alison Griffiths. Men are not entitled to pay to use women's bodies in this way. It's barbaric. The users and enablers must be criminalised.
23. Alison Jenner
24. Alison Powell
25. Alison Wilson
26. Alison Wren
27. Almudena García Gil
28. Amanda Bell
29. Amanda Sebestyen
30. Amanda Wesley
31. Ana Bogdanovska
32. Ana López
33. Ana Paula Pezzolo
34. Andrea Heinz. Exited from 7 years in prostitution
35. Andrea Jackson
36. Andrea Milne-Epp. MD, CCFP – have had long term experience with sex trade workers, I have seen the impact first hand.
37. Angela Smith
38. Angela Wells
39. Ángeles Lázaro Martínez
40. Anita Gera
41. Ann Gray
42. Ann Hall

43. Ann Keeling
44. Ann Kolodziejcki
45. Ann Mendez
46. Ann Stevens
47. Anna Betlen
48. Anna Childs
49. Anna Fisher
50. Anna Maidens
51. Anna Santomasi
52. Anna Scantlebury
53. Anna Sigalou
54. Anne Martin
55. Anne Wilkinson
56. Annette Lawson
57. Annie Wood
58. Annika Elsässer. I'm signing because the Nordic Model will save plenty of women from ending up in prostitution, being trafficked and abused. It will also change societies' perception of women overall, no longer being regarded objects of male pleasure. Whoever can legally buy a prostitute will generalize and project that view onto every woman.
59. Annika Ljung-Baruth
60. Anthea Economides
61. April Haywood
62. Ariane Anger. I was raised in a red light district – and witnessing the sex purchases has completely influenced my life in a way I wish it had not.
63. Ariane Stoltenberg
64. Arpita Jain. I really hope that women's rights and health are protected by law and prostitution is considered a crime in all countries all over the world.
65. Ashley Rivers
66. Audrey Gillies.
67. Avril Moussalli
68. Barbara Guest
69. Barbara Mary Edmonds
70. Barbara Scott. If you consider women and children to be human beings then you will be against condoning and increasing prostitution. The Nordic Model is the only option which puts women's and children's safety and dignity above the demands of men who seek to dehumanise them.
71. Belen Wilson
72. Belinda Barton Gibbs. It is abusive to normalize sexual commodification of women and girls. A woman's body and sex is not a commodity. Legalization and normalization of prostitution leads to increase in violence towards women and increase in human trafficking. It is usually marginalized and poor women who end up

in this industry. Also, popular culture normalises commodification of women's bodies, encouraging young women to enter this industry. Prostitution makes women's and girls' lives more dangerous.

73. Benedicte Bertrand
74. Bethany Frankish. The consequences of my own victimization and exploitation have been, and will be, life long. I consider myself to be fortunate that I am not among the anonymous dead, but have survived to dutifully give testimony in honor of those who have not. Prostitution is organized crime, no one needs to be in support of it – to do so is to support femicide and unleash perpetrators and the buyers who support, and demand torture and cruelty at every turn, and in every venue.
75. Bill Sanderson
76. Blair Wang
77. Boisard Frédéric
78. Bonnie Smith
79. Borbála Juhász. I am an expert on human trafficking. Hungary, where I come from, is a sending country. I work in state children's care. I see the terrible effects of prostitution on girls as young as 12. When they turn 18, they will be transported to one of the countries where brothel keeping is legal, for example Germany. It disproportionately affects Roma girls only (99%), and it is not their choice: neither legally, nor sociologically.
80. Brenda Whisker
81. Brigitte Hofmann-Muzik
82. C. Lopez
83. Cally Archibald. I work with women in homelessness so my client group tend to be involved in prostitution.
84. Caneen, Jenny
85. Carin Bradley
86. Carol A Fraser
87. Carol Bailey
88. Carol Beckett. I have no lived experience. I'm lucky.
89. Caroline Hamilton
90. Caroline Sander. 15+ years of experience with women in prostitution
91. Caroline Sory
92. Carolyn Cameron
93. Carolyn Nilan
94. Carrie Jarvis
95. Caterina Ghiozzi
96. Cath Allen
97. Cath Jackson
98. Cath Sarsfield
99. catherine aubrey
100. Catherine Clowrey

101. Catherine Curtis
102. Catherine Goldmann
103. Catherine Griffith
104. Catherine Lever
105. Catherine Walker
106. Catherine Wilman
107. Cathy Devine. Independent Researcher
108. Cathy Groves
109. Cathy Stanford
110. Célia Laplagne
111. Chandy Charlton
112. Charlie Dacke
113. Charlotte Major
114. Charlotte delaney. There is no shortage of cruelty, to decriminalise it in response to what men believe they are entitled to regardless of suffering it causes women, is another expression of cruelty.
115. Cheryl Inwood
116. Chiara Berlato
117. Chiara De Carlo
118. Cho Wen Hsiu
119. Chris Green OBE. As Founder of White Ribbon UK and Co-founder MACS, I am committed to working to reduce men's violence against women and girls. The adoption of the Nordic Model would help achieve this. The best way to improve the health of sex workers is to challenge demand. Any impediment to the achieving of Nordic Model now is a disservice to women and to all those who work towards equality and fairness.
120. Christine Dellen
121. Christine Liang
122. Christopher Gooch
123. Cindy Douglas
124. Claire Brierley
125. Claire Jones. Lived experience of working in the sex trade.
126. Clare McElhatton
127. Clare Moorman
128. Clare Wischhusen
129. Claudine Roberts
130. Cynthia Nuozzi
131. D Banks
132. D. Moulton
133. David Bastian
134. David Tiseo
135. Dawn Titmus

136. Deanne de Haard. I am a woman. I have never had experience of prostitution. But I am sick of people tiptoeing around the issue of the extreme harm prostitution causes to women, both individually and as a sex class. Everyone knows it. Everyone can see it. But everyone is powerless clearly in the face of the forces that keep it going. Where are the men with any backbone who stand up and say this is wrong. This hurts women and girls. Prostitution is the only “job” in the world where women and girls have to be kidnapped to provide enough supply. Does that not scream how harmful and inhumane it is. Every man knows it. Every man keeps silent. Sickening.
137. Debbie Seburn
138. Debbie Waldon
139. Deborah Jenkins. In Canada, poor women, especially indigenous women, are over represented among prostituted women. Exploited women need other economic options, not to have governments sanction their exploitation.
140. Deborah Taylor
141. Dee Sheehan
142. DEIRDRE BETSON
143. delia Hazrati. The Nordic model is well thought out by people who really care. Please listen to these often unheard experts.
144. Denise Marshall
145. Diane Martin CBE. As a survivor of prostitution and as a professional supporting women to exit prostitution and the sex trade I urge you to listen to survivors over the sex trade lobby. Supporting the full decriminalisation of the sex trade puts you in alliance with pimps and those profiting from the abuse and exploitation of women, most of whom are the most vulnerable of our society having experienced multiple disadvantage.
146. Donella Campbell. The horror, the absolute nightmare of the sex industry and prostitution, must be fought against. No women or girls should be forced into selling their bodies for money!
147. Dorothea Annison
148. Dorothy Pearlman
149. Dr Catherine Lawless
150. Dr Darryl Mead. I run a charity which trains sexual health advisors and other professionals who assist prostituted people.
151. Dr Jacci Stoye. I am the Secretary of the Cross-Party Group for Commercial Sexual Exploitation in the Scottish Parliament and have campaigned for the Nordic Model to become law in Scotland for 20 years. Prostitution is the most inhumane, violent, abusive and exploitative market in the world. Unlike the buyers and profiteers, no-one selling sex is there by choice. It shocks me to the core that doctors could think decriminalising this treatment of human beings could in any way protect their health and well being.
152. Dr Jane Martin. I have professional experience of helping women and girls who have been prostituted, and neither legalisation nor decriminalisation will make their lives

safer or better in any way. The Nordic Model makes sense and is based on evidence of its utility where it has been implemented. The buying, selling and trafficking of human bodies for the purposes of sexual abuse is state-sanctioned pimping, and should be abhorrent in any civilized society.

153. Dr Jocelyne A. Scutt. In addition to the matters raised in this letter, climate change is generating more trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation and abuse through prostitution. This will increase the danger to women and girls and exacerbate demand – growth in trafficking through climate change impacts on the most vulnerable.
154. Dr Judith Dodds
155. Dr Kate Souper
156. Dr Lesley Semmens
157. Dr Nick Mann
158. Dr Norma C Carter
159. Dr Ruth Livingstone
160. Dr Ruth Stunell
161. Dr Shonagh Dillon
162. Dr. J. N. Ho
163. E C S Brealy
164. E Schau
165. Elaine Baxter
166. Eleanor Downey
167. Eleanor Hill
168. Eleanor Hunt
169. Eleri Wilson-Davies
170. Elisabeth Rupp
171. Elizabeth Purslow
172. Elke Kramer
173. Ellena Ward. What a concise letter. You must not be ignored.
174. Elsie Cooke
175. Emma Black. Why do we even have to say why this is wrong. What is wrong with people and when did this current attack on women’s rights become so imbedded in the medical profession? Who profits?
176. Emma Burnell
177. Emma Louise Talbot
178. Emmanuela
179. Emmeline Heffernan. As a doctor, I believe decriminalisation minimizes the significant harm that prostitution does to women & would destigmatise men who feel entitled to buy a woman’s body.
180. Engelberg Mila
181. Erika Snow O’Connor
182. Esohe Aghatise

183. Evanthea Isabelle
184. Eve Tidswell. I live near Holbeck, Leeds which was a legalised area for prostitutes for several years. Still seeing the effects even now since LCC changed their policy. Very difficult for local people and their families.
185. Evelyn Strasburger
186. Fernanda Rodriguez
187. Fiona Broadfoot
188. Florence Glass. This push to turn women into commodities by the left is incredibly tiresome. You can't buy us. Purchasing labour is not the same as purchasing the use of a woman's vagina to park your dick in. We women--adult human females--are sick of your constant dehumanizing bullcrap.
189. Florence-Lina Humbert
190. Francesca Beatrice Muresan
191. Frankie Green
192. Franziska Ringel
193. Gail Ennis
194. Georgina sheepy
195. Gill Rimmer
196. Gina McCaughan
197. Giulia Poletti. I met several prostitution survivors and all of them were affected by trauma (rape, physical and psychological violence). They all support Nordic Model, we should listen to them.
198. Glendyne Gerrard
199. H Lindsay
200. Hannah Salome
201. Harmony Devillard. Volunteer in the French abolitionist organisation Le Mouvement du Nid.
202. Harper Hunter
203. Harshvardhan Kapri
204. Hayley Robinson. I am a woman, we are humans not commodities. Do I need to say more?
205. Heather Child
206. Heather Hayes
207. Heather Warwick
208. Helen Bailey
209. Helen Catt
210. Helen Davies
211. Helen Donaldson
212. Helen Edwards
213. Helen Gough
214. Helen Hills
215. Helen Ridsdale

216. Helen Silvis
217. Helen St Luce. I was brought up in the sex industry and so I know it's normalisation is extremely damaging to the mental, emotional, social and political development of young people.
218. Helen Webster
219. Helena Ashcroft. Pimps & punters are the ones murdering, raping & assaulting women in prostitution. How on earth will decriminalising the men killing women going to stop them from murdering women?

Decriminalise punter James Martin who murdered Stella Frew because he didn't want to pay? He'll be out very soon. He only got 5 years.

Decriminalise Lewis Pierre who murdered Daria Pionko?

Decriminalise the 1 in 9 men who admit to sexual assault? (University of Kent, 2021)

Decriminalise the 99% of rapists who are walking the streets as rape is essentially decriminalised?

Decriminalise Wayne Couzens, who boasted about the women he'd buy to rape?

Imagine if we decriminalised murderers to make victims safer? Should we decriminalise terrorism?

This is the most ridiculous argument I've ever heard, if we took this approach for all laws, we wouldn't have any laws. If we decriminalise the people committing the crimes & decriminalise the sale of women & vulnerable men through bribery then what is the point of having any laws, if we're decriminalising the sale & rape of people.

Pimps often boast they don't give women any money, this is sex trafficking isn't it? The decriminalisation of pimps therefore could inadvertently decriminalise sex trafficking & make it difficult to combat & prosecute. It's common knowledge pimps are very controlling.

You'd think it'd be fairly obvious that if you have to pay someone to have sex with you, they clearly didn't want to have sex with you. Money is a bribe. It's sexual coercion. It's rape. Men who sit on their behinds making millions selling vulnerable women to be raped.

It's of no surprise that The Lancet lobby for the decriminalisation of men selling & buying women's bodies, they do after all view women as 'bodies with vaginas'.

I think the person who wrote this article should have some 'work' experience in prostitution, if it's a normal job & really empowering, I'm sure they'll do this right away. The PTSD in women who have survived prostitution have PTSD higher than veterans on the front line.

The main focus of this article seems to be protecting men who rape women from contracting HIV & other STDs. I thought Josephine Butler already sorted this issue in the 1800s, have we regressed so far back?

The Lancet is pro-decriminalising men who pay to sexually violate women & girls. What does this teach young men & boys? That women are property that you can buy a woman's consent? Payment is a form of coercion.

Now pimping will be a legitimate career & boys & men will think that they can just make a living sat on their butt just by finding a vulnerable woman to sexually exploit, legally.

220. Henrietta Freeman
221. Hironobu Nesha Baba. As an academician-investor of the seventh art, I clearly claim prostitution harms the spirit of every human being.
222. Holly Hart
223. Ijose Aghatise
224. Iliana Balabanova
225. Imogen Makepeace
226. Ioana Platts-Mills
227. Irene Williams
228. Irina Nasteva
229. Isa von Mensenkampff
230. Isabel Teare
231. J Gourley
232. Jacqueline Dávila
233. Jake Walsh
234. James Casserly
235. Jan Alford
236. Jan Needham
237. Jane Ayres
238. Jane Collins. I have worked with women vulnerable to or who have been sexually exploited.
239. Jane Osmond
240. Jane Power. Professional experience as a therapist: working therapeutically with sexually exploited / trafficked women and girls, I understand the severe physical and psychological damage done to vulnerable females by this so called industry.

241. JANE ROFFE
242. Jane Roper
243. Jane Wragg
244. Janet Sasaki
245. Jaye Nolan
246. Jayne Carre
247. Jean A A Peacock. I find it unbelievable that The Lancet should adopt such an editorial. Shame on them.
248. Jean Hatchet
249. Jean Molloy. No rich functional woman ever enters prostitution. It's a luxury belief to think it's an acceptable career path.
250. Jeanette Westbrook. Survivor of sex trafficking and torture.
251. Jeannie Mackenzie
252. Jeet chahal
253. Jenna Daniels. Criminalize pimps and buyers. Decriminalize sellers. This is the only humane and ethical approach. Full decriminalization denies women and girls basic human dignity.
254. Jennifer Burke
255. Jennifer Clarke
256. Jennifer Drew. Prostitution is systemic male sexual violence against women. Prostitution is not a job it is one wherein men primarily are the ones buying women for the purpose of inflicting sadistic male sexual violence on them. Criminalise the male pimps and male buyers and cease telling women you don't count because male sex right to inflict male sexual violence on you is the only important issue.
257. Jennifer Eglington
258. Jennifer Jessup Smart
259. Jennifer Milligan
260. Jennifer Petrillo, M.D.
261. Jennifer Trethyn
262. Jenny gamer. As a medical journal how can The Lancet ignore the harms of prostitution?
263. Jenny Kendrick
264. Jessica Bayliss
265. Jessica Harber
266. Jessica Johnson
267. Jessica Smith
268. Jessica Snape
269. Jessica Winkler
270. Jessie Jones. Counsellor to prostituted women and women who have survived prostitution.
271. Jill Anderson
272. Jill Leigh

273. Jill Raymond
274. Julia Hippely
275. Joanna P Campbell
276. Joanna Young. Working with abused women, some of whom were forced into prostitution by abusive partners has helped to shape my thinking about this issue. Prostitution is not “work” in the way that other, even dangerous jobs are. No other work requires the “worker” to be so vulnerable to abuse. Women in prostitution have been found to have issues consistent with acquired brain injuries (Farley et al 2018). Prostitution also sends a message to society that women are less important than men and are, in fact, there to be used and abused by males. We need the Nordic Model which decriminalises women and offers ways out of prostitution, whilst punishing the males who abuse them.
277. Joanne Fretwell
278. John Caulfield. Available literature has long supported the claim that on average, countries where prostitution is legal experience larger reported human trafficking inflows <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2012.05.023>
Equality Now Fact Sheet – Does Legalizing Prostitution Protect Women And Girls? <https://www.equalitynow.org/resource/does-legalizing-prostitution-protect-women-and-girls/>
279. Jonah Mann
280. Jonatan Serrano Perales
281. Jonathan Machler
282. Joy Henderson
283. Joy Wood
284. Judith Katz
285. Judith MacDonald
286. Judith Wieser
287. Julia Mathias
288. Julia Robinson
289. Julian Whitley
290. Julie
291. Julie Green
292. Julie Smith
293. Julie Spencer
294. Julie Stacey
295. Juliette Hughes Norwood. I want governments to listen to the voices of survivors of the sex industry. I am a journalist and have researched this topic, and in my interviews with women survivors, there was no support for the wholesale deregulation of the sex industry. The Nordic Model is the only model that offers genuine support to survivors of the sex industry. Also, a journal such as *The Lancet* should surely be investigating the physical and psychological injuries incurred by sex workers; these are significant.

Please look at this side of the argument before pressing for a solution that will help only the traffickers and exploiters of women and children.

296. Justine Alexander
297. Kajsa Eriksson
298. Kali Melinda Gertrud Lönnberg-Syrèn. When the whole culture is coercing women into prostitution it is no free choice. It is not only trafficking that forces and coerces women and girls into prostitution, having men “buy” you is also a form of self-harm for so many, and no self harm should be state-sanctioned activity for pay. I would have been one of those girls safe-harming through this, if I would not have had one secure person in my life when younger. Don’t let men buy human beings, women, girls, it is not sex “work”, real sex does not cost. Real sex is consensual and not depending on some man paying so you can pay rent and eat. Real sex is communication and connection. And so much research already show the harm of what is falsely called sex “work”.
299. Karen Baxter. I fully support this letter, having worked with women involved in prostitution, I believe neither legalising or decriminalised prostitution helps those who are abused through commercial sexual exploitation.
300. Karen Davies
301. Karen Smith
302. Karen Teresa Bresner
303. Kat Busby Hicks
304. Kate Alexander
305. Kate Buchanan
306. Kate Morrissey
307. Kate Tym
308. Kate Williamson
309. Katherine Adewumi. Prostitution is violence against women, paid rape.
310. Katherine Browne
311. Kathleen Croft
312. Kathleen Murphy. It should not take a petition of millions of signatures to get you to do the right thing.
313. Kathleen Richardson
314. Kathryn Pope
315. Kathy Daniel
316. Kathy Fletcher
317. Kathy Galloway
318. Katie Dickson
319. Katie Flanagan
320. Katie Toal. I have lived experience of prostitution and have a good understanding of the danger involved.
321. Katrina Glennie
322. Katy Denniff

323. Kay Watson
324. KEITH ROBERT PRINGLE. Professor Emeritus in Sociology with a specialism in social work, Uppsala University, Sweden.
325. Kelly Angelica
326. Kelsie DeNaze Massey
327. Kerry Ann Sanderson
328. Kerry Kirkwood
329. Kerryann Lund
330. Kerstin Rodgers. I completely agree with the Nordic model. The sex trade is dangerous and degrading. It is not empowering.
331. Kirsty Redmond
332. Kristy Michalke
333. Laboni Huq
334. Laetitia Pichevin
335. laice
336. Laura Brophy-Savage
337. Laura Gabetta
338. Laura Potter
339. Laure CAILLE
340. Leanna
341. Lesley Farrington
342. Lesley Sharpe
343. Lisa De-Vall
344. Lisa Ross. The customers and pimps should be charged, not the prostitutes. They need help, not criminal records.
345. Liz Lowther. I work for a modern slavery charity and focus on the sexual exploitation of UK university students – we need to protect them.
346. Louise Llewellyn. As someone who was involved in (forced) prostitution for many years in my youth, I fully support this letter and the implementation of the Nordic Model. Decriminalisation or full legality of prostitution is a green light for sexual exploitation of mostly women, but also men and children too. The industry is deeply sexist by its very nature, and cannot ever be safe or “empowering” as what is being bought and sold is the right to remove all human rights from the person involved in prostitution. This is not an industry based on choice, it is an industry based on no choice. Those who hire prostitutes are paying for someone to not say no to them, whatever is asked. When so many of those involved in prostitution need to supply a pimp or brothel keeper with money, and often have substance addictions, the pressure to perform dangerous sexual practices is much higher – sex buyers are very aware of this fact, and are more than willing to pressure prostituted women. Decriminalised or legalised prostitution has no support for those who wish to exit the work, and who often need a large amount of support to do so. Legalisation or decriminalisation is a disaster for women, and places power in the hands of pimps, traffickers and sex

buyers. Please support the Nordic Model, which at least tries to support those selling sex – unlike decriminalisation or legalisation.

347. Louise McDermott
348. Louise Somerville
349. Luba Fein
350. Luciana Grosu
351. Lucinda Newcomb. My mother molested, sexually harassed and intensely groomed me to sell my virginity before child protective services was finally forced to get involved when she gave me gonorrhoea when I was 7 years old.
352. Lucy Gee
353. Lucy Hawker
354. Lucy Wainwright. The legislation you currently support is on the side of the johns, not the prostituted women. You are facilitating paid rape on a truly catastrophic scale.
355. Lucy Watson
356. Lynn Alderson. All women are affected. In the trial legal red-light districts such as that in Leeds it was found all women in the area were more subject to harassment and assault. Growing the industry does not protect the health and well-being of any women.
357. Lynn O'Donnell
358. Lynne Harne. I have previously undertaken research into the exploitation of women involved in prostitution and how important it is to support them to exit, and to get medical help to prevent STDs. Buyers and pimps and those engaged in this exploitation of women's bodies through brothels should be criminalised not allowed to make more profits from women's bodies.
359. M Osner
360. M Parker
361. M. Jordan
362. Madeleine Morey
363. Magda Devas
364. Magda Zenon
365. Maggie Cole
366. Malin Roux Johansson. A law that focus on demand and men who "buy sex" is key to combat prostitution and trafficking. The demand should not only be discouraged, it should be completely and swiftly eradicated by means of criminalising the act of buying "sex".
367. Margaret Egrot
368. Margaret Green
369. Margarita Kronhard
370. Marguerite Harber
371. Maria Helena Dias Loureiro
372. Maria Rossi

373. Maria S. For several years, I lived in a country where prostitution is legalized and in a city which is a major hub. The parts of the city where the most brothels are located felt very isolated to me (like a different city) and very unsafe. There were other sketchy businesses around, drugs, pickpocketing, women getting catcalled or harassed on the street. I think that the Nordic Model will not only help the prostituted women but also make cities safer.
374. Marie Amundsen
375. Marie Josèphe Devillers. How can *The Lancet* agree to the sexual exploitation of women within prostitution? Women are not second-class human beings that can be used for sexual and reproductive exploitation.
376. Marieanne Cavaciuti
377. Marie-Anne Fisher
378. Mariette Labelle
379. Marilin Lõugas
380. Marlyn Glen
381. Martin Maurer
382. Marvy Wheale
383. Mary Buttolph
384. Mary Crilly
385. Mary Dyer. Prostitution isn't empowering; it harms vulnerable women and girls.
386. Mary Patricia Mulhall. I volunteer at a 'safe house' where women are cared for who have been victims of forced prostitution. By legalising the practice, it's a licence to rape and abuse more and more women. We should be prosecuting the pundits so as to strop the demand for 'for sale sex' as it's merely giving men (mainly) the license to abuse women.
387. Mary Shannon
388. Mary-Lee Bouma
389. Maura Wilson
390. Maureen Bennison
391. Maureen Kehler
392. Maureen O'Hara. Treating prostitution as work and de-criminalising those who profit from the prostitution of others gives impunity to traffickers and pimps who coerce and manipulate women – and sometimes young men – into prostitution. Coercion is inherent to the sex trade because so few women become involved in prostitution when they have a choice about doing so. Prostitution encourages men to see all women as objects who are less than human. I grew up in an area which was the centre of prostitution in a large city. The sex buyers who came there treated all women with contempt. They also particularly targeted girls and young women – who are also targeted by pimps and traffickers because there is a lot of demand for them among sex buyers. Exploiting young women and girls is very profitable. The Nordic model criminalises sex buyers and third-party profiteers, but not those who are prostituted.

Evidence from Sweden and other countries where it has been implemented shows that it is the safest model for women.

393. Maureen Rhys
394. Maureen Wild
395. Megan King. Lived experience of prostitution, ex “escort”
396. Melanie 3
397. Melanie Jones
398. MELANIE WHYTE. I am a Sexual Violence Support Worker and Counsellor.
399. Melissa Farley, Ph.D. Please see what sex buyers say about the organized crime and extreme violence in legal and illegal prostitution. <https://prostitutionresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Sex-buyersEnglish-11-8-2022pdf.pdf>. Decriminalization is a form (zoned) of legal prostitution. There is no evidence for the allegation that “legalization makes prostitution safer.” On the other hand, if we listen to the testimony of 764 sex buyers from 6 countries – their descriptions of prostitution, and the violence of legal prostitution in Germany mirror the testimony of exited survivors.
400. Mhairi Gowans
401. Mhairi McCabe
402. Mia Doring
403. Michelle Kelly. Sexual exploitation and domestic sex trafficking survivor.
404. Michelle Louise Tant
405. Mika Ioannidou
406. Mika Kiriyaama
407. Milda Jensen
408. Miranda Livermore
409. Miranda Imperial
410. MM Russo
411. Molly Peach. I’ve had a short experience working as an escort for a few months – those few months were enough to cause mental trauma I have yet to recover from 6 years later.
412. Monica Mazzitelli
413. Monika Jerič
414. Monika Neall
415. Morven Magari
416. Nana Mallet
417. nancy brown
418. Natalie Robertson
419. Nathalia Guaje
420. Nathalie Kopatsch
421. Nela Pamukovic
422. Nicola Kerry
423. Nicole Chartier
424. Nigel Banks

425. Nikolina Zec
426. Nina Bakke
427. Nishita Jain
428. Nora Pollendine
429. Nora Pope. Who wants their daughter to be a sex worker?
430. Orlane Sebaï
431. Pamela Rubin. I am a sexual violence, trauma therapist, and all survivors of prostitution are heavily traumatized. Men, paying in order to rape should never be legalized.
432. Patricia Cooney
433. Paul Milnes
434. Paula Brink
435. Paula Stanley
436. Pauline Le Breton
437. Penny Jean Adrian
438. Phoebe McIntosh
439. Pippa Bray
440. Pippa Forsyth
441. PK Murphy
442. R McLaren
443. R.H. Foerger
444. Raemonde Evans
445. Rahni Binjie
446. Raine McLeod
447. Ralph Allison
448. RE Higgins
449. Réaltán Ní Leannáin
450. Rebecca Drummond
451. Rebecca Mordan
452. Rebecca Mott
453. Rebecca Roberts
454. Ro Nowak
455. Robbie Spence. I agree with Esther and write in support of her letter. Please do not be misled by what is said about New Zealand: it is a small and uniquely isolated country with a population of less than 5 million. What *The Lancet* proposes is more likely to take us in Germany's direction. The UK's geographical location and large population mean that the UK too is at risk of becoming another brothel of Europe.
456. Robert Jensen
457. Robert White
458. Rod Hough
459. Rona Stewart
460. Rosaline Pena

461. Rose cross
462. Rose Frain
463. Rose Hunter. Lived experience of the sex industry/prostitution (10 years' worth). I'm also the author of a memoir about this topic.
464. Rose Maynard
465. Rose Seabury
466. Roseline Iroghama Osagie
467. Rosemary Curtis
468. Rosie Galezia
469. Roxane Wilson
470. Roxie Roots. I am a survivor of the sex trade.
471. Roy Cogo
472. Roz Mellor-Brook
473. Rukshana Afia
474. Ruth Dineen
475. Ruth Maguire MSP
476. Ruth Thornett
477. Ruth Woodhall
478. S England
479. S Jacobs
480. S Lenihan
481. Sally Frances
482. Sally McDonagh
483. Sam Johnson
484. Sam Marton
485. Samantha Williams
486. Sandie Smith
487. Sandra Barron
488. Sandra McNeill. You are supporting to do harm. This expansion of the sex trade will cause mental and physical harm to thousands. From trauma to STDs and drugs.
489. Sarah Crofts
490. Sarah Cummings. I used to live in a red light district and was harassed by punters every time I stepped out of the door, even when I had bags of shopping and a pushchair.
491. Sarah Enne. Experience of being trafficked and forced into prostitution.
492. Sarah Hetherington
493. Sarah Jackaman
494. Sarah Jenkin
495. Sarah Milne. I am a survivor of the sex trade. I have PTSD. I have mental and physical disabilities due to my time in the sex trade. Under decriminalisation I have no recourse. The Nordic model gives women in prostitution more power and autonomy. Women matter.

496. Sarah Moran
497. Sarah Panzetta
498. Sarah Unwin
499. Sean Watkins
500. Shabanah Fazal
501. Shannon Dennehy
502. Sharon Marriott. Support equality for women, condemn exploitation.
503. Shernaz Dinshaw. A society that acts in law and language as if men who pay to sexually access women are simply consumers, legitimately availing workers of their services, is a society in deep denial about sexual abuse – and the inequality underpinning it.
504. Sherree Robichaud. It is not sex that is being sold but the right to control the sexual activity. Marginalized women are coerced into this demeaning “occupation” resulting in trauma and abuse.
505. Shirley Briggs
506. Shirley MacWilliam
507. Shruta namdev
508. Sian Griffiths. I support women and I support all that Esther has written.
509. Silvia Fausto
510. Simone Watson
511. Siobhan Wall
512. Sogrun Heinrich
513. Sonja Lokar
514. Sophia Burley
515. Soukaina Elhamdou
516. stéphanie charles
517. Steven Rawbone
518. Sue Kay
519. Sue Peters
520. Sue Riley
521. Susan E Gittins
522. Susan Holtby
523. Susan Moffat. Retired health promotion specialist, specialising in violence against women.
524. Susan Siens
525. Susana Lara
526. Susana Pavlou
527. Suzette Cullen. I have worked with women in the trade and have not met one woman who wants to be doing prostitution.
528. Suzette Moore
529. Taissa Padua
530. Tara Jane Easton

531. Temperance David
532. Teresa Stuart
533. Terry Patterson. Worked in HIV/AIDS prevention for many years and now as a therapist.
534. Thomas Hall
535. Tiggy Hayes
536. Ting-Jui Chen. 80% of female as prostitution have undergone traumatic brain injury at least once in their experience of being in prostitution.
537. Tom Finnemore
538. Tori Curbelo
539. Tracey Saunderson. Prostitution is abuse and it should not be legalised.
540. Tracy Dempsey
541. Tracy Oldfield
542. Ursula Huws
543. Uxue Oregi Ugarte
544. val carpenter
545. Vicki Vass
546. Victoria Keilthy
547. Victoria Owen
548. Virginia Bazley
549. Virginia Grinevitch. Prostitution is violence against women and girls, and the very foundation of the subjugation of women. But maybe that's your goal?
550. Viviane Teitelbaum. As Member of Parliament I'm advocating for the Nordic Model.
551. VJ Webb.
552. Walter Quiroz Adaos
553. Wendy Bernardelle
554. Wendy Davis
555. William Joseph Robertson. It seems that the solutions offered by male politicians – and the Doctors of *The Lancet* are no exception – is to decriminalize so-called sex work. Work it most certainly is but, Cui Bono? The johns, the wankers, the pimps, the misogynists. Not only is it unethical, and harmful to those who have to attempt to please these sociopaths: the hypocrites who cannot even enjoy or attempt to have civilized discourse with women or children without the threat of violation.
556. Yagmur Uygarkizi
557. Yasmin Bukhari
558. Yoshiaki Tomaru. Sexual exploitation of women and girls is unacceptable.
559. Yuka Miyake. Prostitution and pornography normalises the types of sexual behaviour women are expected to perform for men and which men then expect in their day-to-day relationships. This is becoming increasingly violent and expects women to do things which are abusive and controlling and only act in the interests of men.
560. Yulia Gostraya
561. Yvonne Roberts

562. Zoe Richards