



# THE NORDIC MODEL VS. FULL DECRIMINALISATION

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# PROSTITUTION

What is it, **really?**



# EMILY

“I was sold a complete lie. It’s not easy money. To the buyer, you are nothing more than an object for their consumption, not an actual human being with emotions. You’re expected to just put up with whatever they want to do and say to you. The exchange of money makes them feel entitled to treat you however they like, with no regard for your feelings or consent...”



# HARRIET

“People think prostitution is about having consensual sex for money. It’s not. Those men don’t want to pay for that. They paid me and then used me however they wanted. I was beaten with objects until I bled; spat at; anally raped; gang raped; passed around at sex parties like a toy, men slipping off their condoms; I was shouted at, threatened, choked, told to look like I enjoyed it or he’d take the money back. I was scared every single second.”



THE PUNTER  
IS KING





# WARNING



RISKS AND HARMS OF PROSTITUTION INCLUDE:

Infections & unwanted pregnancy.

Brain injury through strangulation & other acts of physical violence.

Injuries to the vagina, anus & rectum, & damage to abdominal & pelvic areas.

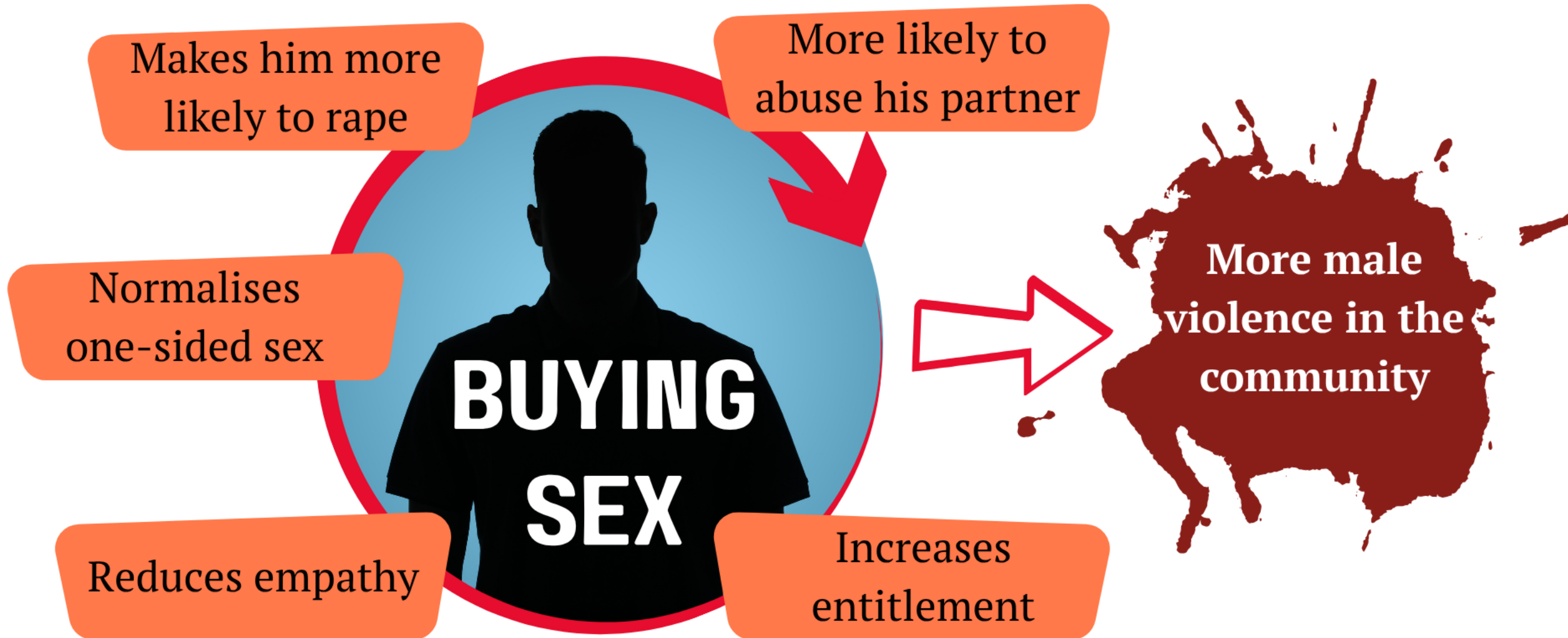
Dissociation, PTSD, & high rates of other mental health disorders.



# HEALTH & SAFETY



# IMPACT OF BUYING SEX







# THE NORDIC MODEL #1

- ✓ Also known as the Equality Model.
- ✓ First introduced in Sweden in 1999, now in several countries.
- ✓ Recognises prostitution as part of the structural oppression of women and both a cause and consequence of the inequality between the sexes.



# THE NORDIC MODEL #2

1. Decriminalises selling sex.
2. Provides services & genuine routes out of the industry.
3. Buying sex becomes a criminal offence.
4. Strong laws against trafficking, pimping & brothel keeping.
5. Holistic measures incl. education, & training for police.

# WHAT HAPPENED IN SWEDEN?

- ✓ Decrease in the size of the industry.
- ✓ No evidence it has gone 'underground'.
- ✓ Hostile destination for international traffickers.
- ✓ A change in the culture and men's behaviour.
- ✓ Widespread public support.





# FULL DECRIMINALISATION (DECRIM)

- ✓ All aspects of the sex trade, including pimping & brothel keeping, are decriminalised.
- ✓ No public funding for services to help women exit.
- ✓ Laws against trafficking are retained but in practice they are hard to enforce – so most sex trafficking goes under the radar.



# WHAT THEY CLAIM HAPPENED IN NEW ZEALAND



Decrease in the size of the industry.



Safer for 'sex workers'.



'Sex workers' can refuse clients/services.



Regular inspections of brothels.



Compulsory condom use.



# WHAT **ACTUALLY** HAPPENED IN NEW ZEALAND



Rapid increase in the size of the industry.



Violence and coercion remain rife.



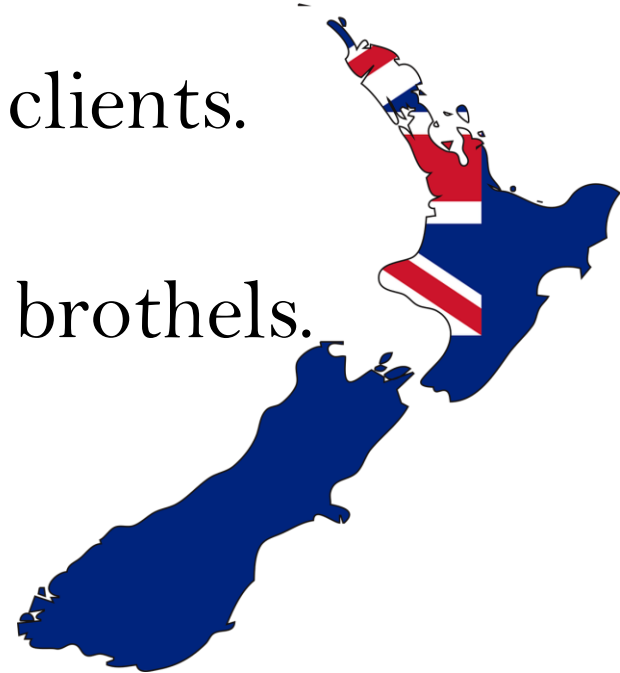
It's not usually possible to refuse clients.

**11**

Inspections in 12 years vs  $>1000$  brothels.



Unprotected sex is common.



## Sex trafficking: The claim

# 0

cases of human trafficking in  
the prostitution industry  
2003-2023

## What the data actually shows

# 133

cases that meet the international  
definition of human trafficking 2003-2011  
(*NZ recorded crime data*)

**Under the legislation, sex crimes against children are minor offences, comparable to liquor & tobacco offences.**

Most people convicted of sex crimes against children under the PRA have faced only community service.



# FEATURE

## DECRIM

## NORDIC MODEL



Selling sex is legal?



Services, incl. routes out?



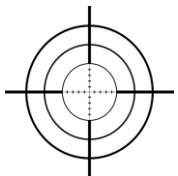
Pimping is legal?



Brothels are legal?



Buying sex is legal?



Trafficking effectively legal?





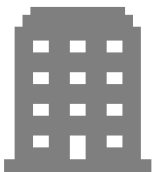
# FULL DECRIM VS. LEGALISATION

- ✓ Germany & the Netherlands both have legalisation.
- ✓ In theory, legalisation is very different from decrim – but in practice there are many similarities.

✓ Both result in:



A massive increase in the size of the industry.

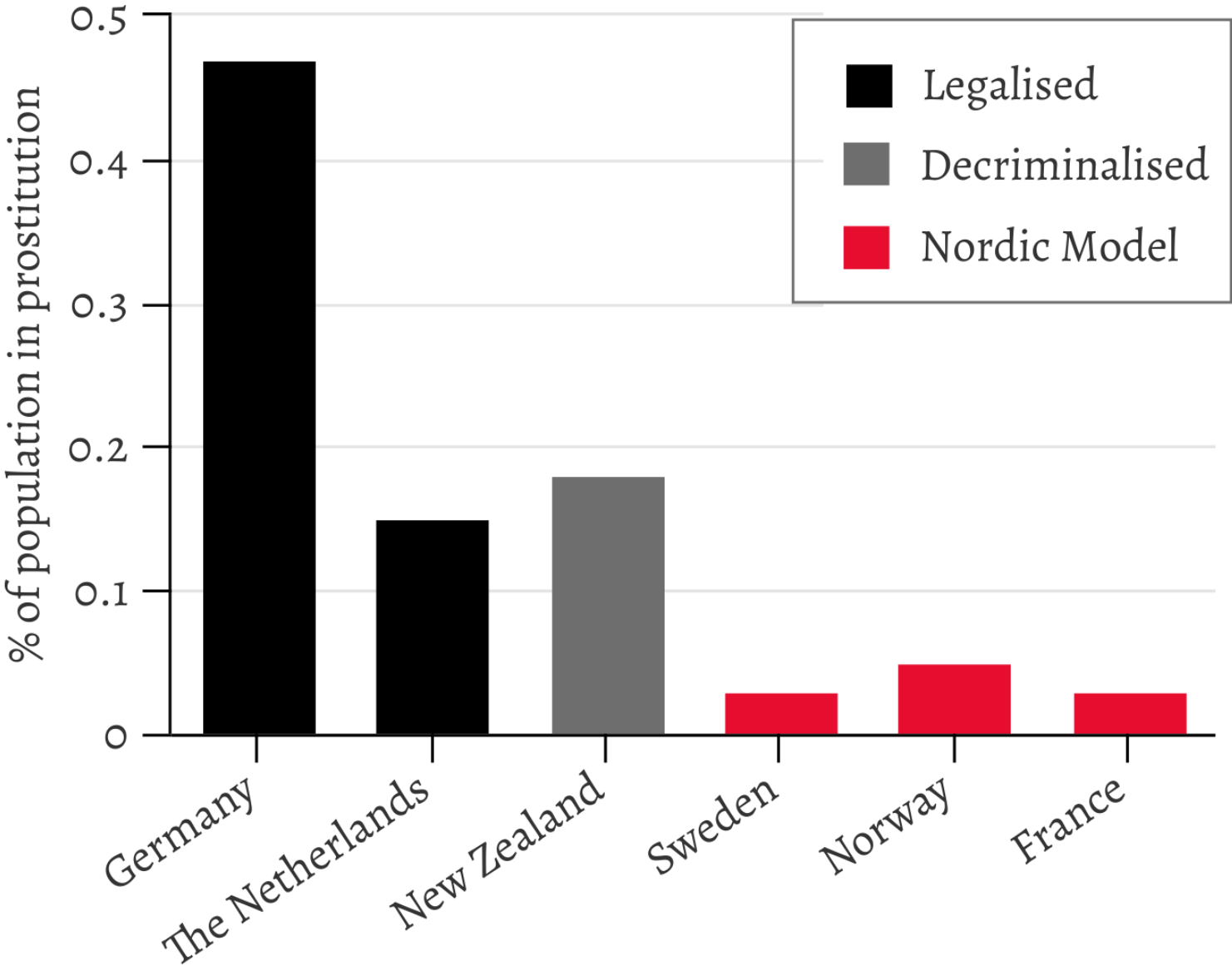


Mega-brothels that cater to large numbers of punters simultaneously.

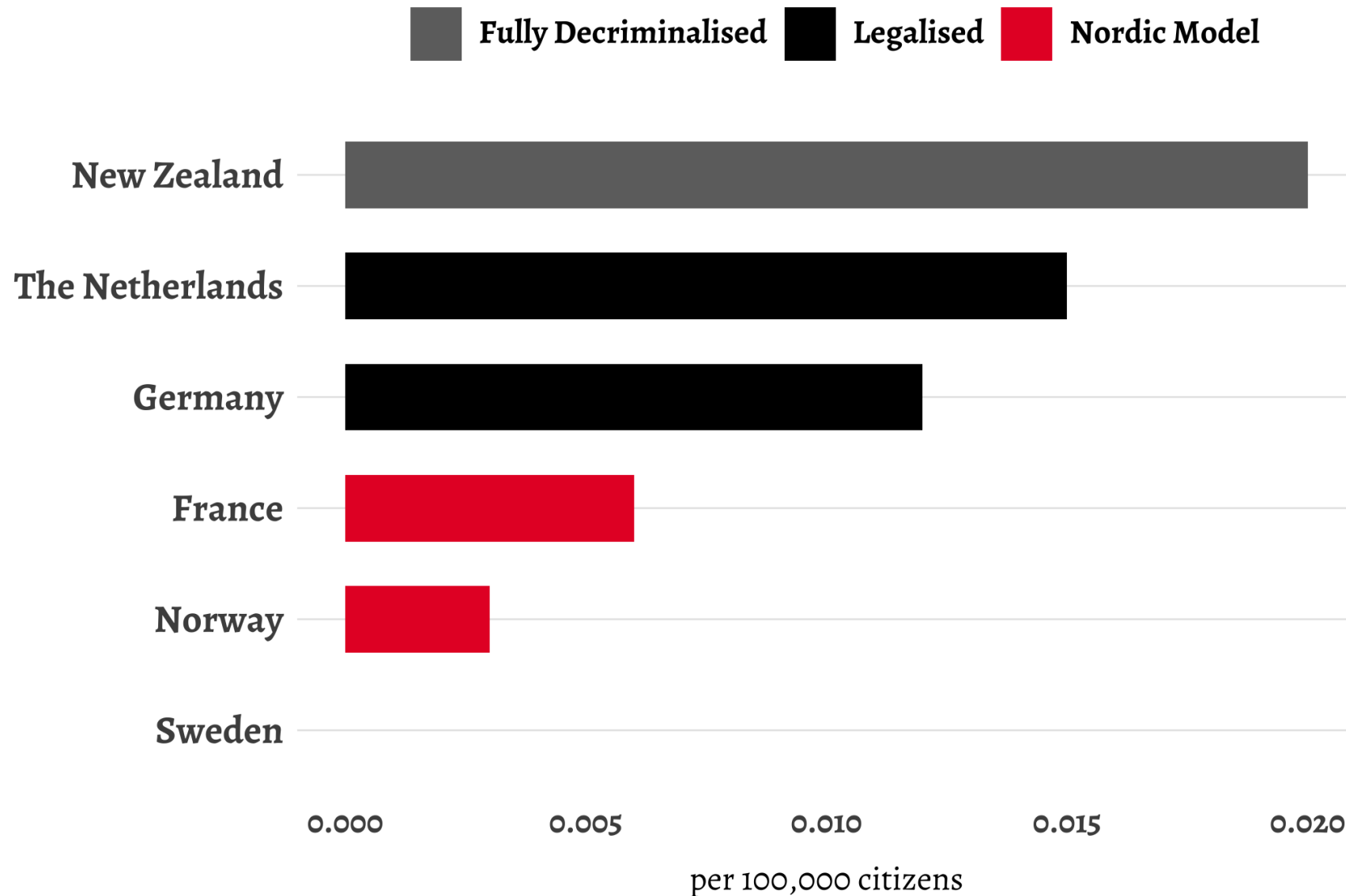


Pimps are considered respectable businessmen.

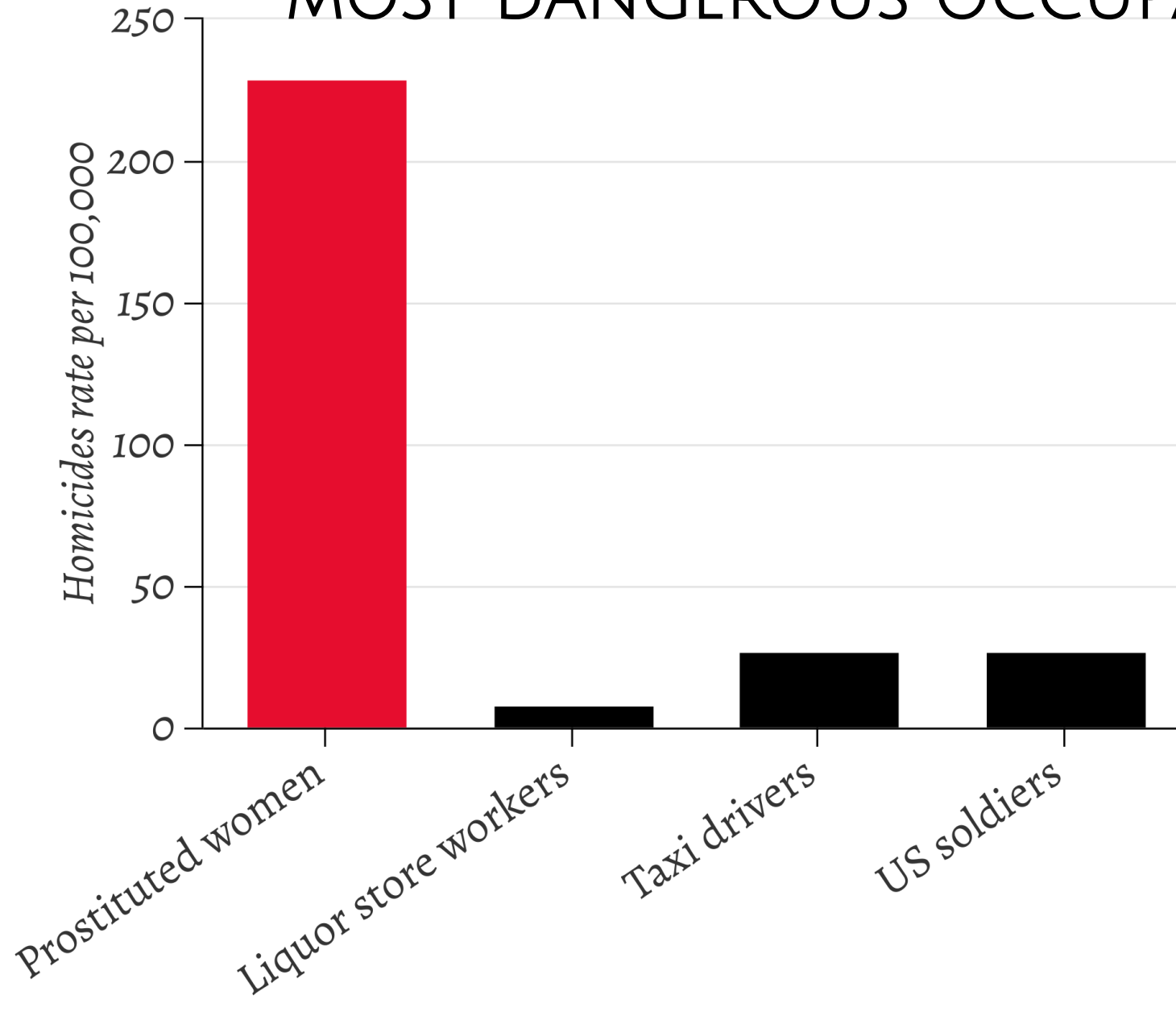
# PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION IN PROSTITUTION



# AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF HOMICIDE OF PROSTITUTED WOMEN PER 100,000 FEMALE POPULATION



# HOMICIDE RATES IN THE MOST DANGEROUS OCCUPATIONS (US DATA)





# REFERENCES

<https://wp.me/p7kKHx-7ek>



# THANK YOU!

<https://nordicmodelnow.org>



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