

A Case for the Legalization of Prostitution By Elizabeth A. Chaykowski

Prostitution has been in existence for thousands of years.

It dates back to the Byzantine, Greek, and Egyptian Empires.

Ironically, it was the ancient religions of these eras, who recognized and understood the needs of the collective, that developed regulated protocols to deal with the realities of the human sexual condition.

Because the profession of prostitution has its roots in ancient legitimate protocol and because this protocol has been propagated throughout time to the modern era, it is highly unlikely that prostitution is about to disappear anytime soon.

It is shifts in morality based on religious thinking that have transformed a once regulated and respected profession based on the acceptance of the human condition, into a hidden and debased activity, that empowers unscrupulous criminal men, who not only gain by exploiting women, but also gain by exploiting the men who seek the services of these women.

There are three strata of professional sex providers.

- the high class call girls who service affluent men in our society
- the middle class prostitutes who function in controlled environments such as bordello's, massage parlours and strip clubs.
- low class streetwalkers, hookers, harlots who generally work street corners

Prohibition and criminalization puts all three groups at risk for violence and abuse.

But the greatest risk and vulnerability is experienced by the low class prostitute who's working conditions make them even more prone to violence due to lack of supervision and greater healthcare risks.

In a modern society that rests itself on principles of claiming to assist those who cannot help themselves, prohibition and criminalization conveniently sweeps the women of this lower strata under the carpet and abandons them to the dark world of a criminal element. These women are exploited both by the men of the underworld that pimp them and the men of the upper-world that buy them.

Decriminalization would take the power of the professional sex industry out of the hands of criminals and would most importantly put it back in the hands of women and secondarily in the hands of the government.

Licensing would screen out criminals, thus reducing violence, the black market human slave trade and the vulnerability of young women, teenagers and children who are not of an appropriate age to make a decision as to whether they wish to enter the professional sex industry with informed consent and free will.

Pimps and organized crime leaders who treat their workers at subhuman levels would no longer control women.

Licensing would free up police and courtroom personnel who at this time accrue a high cost in both time and money by having to manage the revolving door, catch and release mechanism regarding both prostitutes and johns, that continues to clog the justice system but evidently resolves nothing.

Licensing would screen out the diseased, the addicted and the under aged, creating greater safety for both women and the men who seek out their services.

Licensing could require continuous medical exams, health education and drug screening, once again supporting the health and safety of all involved.

Licensing would ensure that encounters would occur within controlled and clean environments that are comfortable and safe for both client and professional.

Licensing coupled with zoning laws would designate certain areas for the industry thus ensuring that residential areas remain free of the industry much like any other type of commercial zoning.

Licensing of the professional sex provider would also ensure the filing of an income tax return. Considering that statistics prove that the professional sex provider is the highest paid professional woman on earth, revenues collected by taxation could contribute a great deal to the funding of drug rehab programmes, homeless shelters, drug and health education, battered womens shelters, education in womens studies and other regulatory agencies.

It is worthy to note that in countries where prostitution has been decriminalized and regulation has been implemented, the rates of violent crime such as murder, suicide, the spread of disease such as aids and divorce are all much lower. In countries where prohibition still maintains the status-quo, these rates are disproportionately higher. It may be difficult to determine the extent of direct relationship between decriminalization and these statistics, but they do indicate that in countries where prohibition has been abolished things generally seem to be functioning better.

Finally let us look once again at the origins of the professional sex provider. This profession was born in a time when both religion and state were married together and when both of these bodies, out of recognition of the human sexual condition, agreed to establish protocols to sufficiently meet the needs of the collective.

Now, at a time when apparently religion and state are divorced, these protocols have been skewed and both bodies, seem to have gone into complete denial of the human sexual condition.

As a consequence those who live outside the current laws of both religion and government have picked up the ball where it has been dropped and have created a depraved and dangerous version of the original esteemed profession.

So the real question is, as a democratic society comprised by numerous and differentiated races and belief systems, fuelled by a market economy and inspired by a vision of equality and of civil rights and freedoms, is it really to our benefit to allow those who live outside our laws, to regulate and control this industry?

Does prohibition and criminalization truly reflect the beliefs that we claim to be the foundations of our society?

And perhaps even more poignantly, if it is within our power to reduce, crime, violence, disease, drug abuse, paedophilia, slavery, exploitation and suffering, by decriminalizing and regulating this industry, can we with good conscience refer to ourselves as a civilized society if we do not?

The answers: no, no and no.

A woman asks: Why is it illegal for a woman to sell sex, but it is okay for a woman to give it away?

A man raises his eyebrow and smirks.

A woman smirks and declares: Ah honey, a smart woman never gives it away.

A man is forced to look in the mirror.