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LEGALIZATION OF PROSTITUTION

YES or NO



Topics :

Legalization of Prostitution

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Legalization of Prostitution?

Prostitution is a well-debated issue all over the world, and there are different strategies and legislations that are promoted in order to solve the problems connected to prostitution. Some argue that the best way of dealing with these problems are to criminalize all prostitution, while others argue that legalization would be more efficient as a solution.



In Article 3 in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights it is stated that all human beings have the right to integrity and that it's prohibited to let the human body and its parts be a source of economic prosperity.

Despite this, there are people who are in favour of legalizing prostitution, and they mainly focus on the fact that prostitution should be seen as 'sex work'. This means that prostitution should be legalized in combination with a labour regulation to make prostitution a profession and to make sure that the prostitutes are protected and have the same rights as all other workers. Still, it is important to notice that all prostitutes are potential victims for trafficking, and a large percent are not prostitutes by their free will. According to a report made by the Scottish government in 2004, were the politics on prostitution in Sweden, the Netherlands, Australia and Ireland was compared, following problems increases with a legalization of prostitution; smuggling of women and children from other countries into the country, sexual abuse against children, violence against women and organized criminality. Some people also argue that a legalization of prostitution would prohibit the sex industry from expanding. This argument can easily be criticised by the fact that since prostitution was legalized in the Netherlands the sex industry has increased with 25% and in 2001 the prostitution generated 5% of the Dutch economy.

A legalization of prostitution would be a disaster for the development of a more gender equal society. Gender equality and prostitution are not compatible elements. Prostitution is mainly about men having the right to buy women's bodies, and their sexual services, since a large majority of all prostitutes in the world are female. One of the main arguments for criminalizing prostitution is that the laws are supposed to draw a line between what is accepted and what is not. In order to have an equal society, between women and men, prostitution has to become illegal. By making prostitution legal, the government are creating an image were its acceptable for women to sell their bodies, and for one person to buy another human being. A government that is legalizing prostitution also encourages women to work as prostitutes, since they are making a social security system and trade unions for them. Do we want to live in a society were the labour market is offering us prostitution as a legal way to make a living?

Prostitution is undermining gender equality since it can be seen as the direct opposite of the empowerment of women in all areas of life. Furthermore, men are the ones that benefit the most when prostitution is legalized; since they are not doing anything criminal when they

are buying sexual services. Women, on the other hand, are the ones that suffer from this legalization in several ways. Firstly, the women who are prostitutes are still having costumers, and therefore there is a market for prostitution, which makes it's harder for the women to get out of their situation. Secondly, men's attitudes towards women in general are damaged of the fact that it's stated in the nation laws that you can buy the bodies of some women in the country. Thirdly, women are not on the same level as men, since their bodies can be bought for money. They do not have the same human rights.

In the criminalization process it's also important to consider who the criminals are in the case of prostitution. In Sweden they have a law that criminalizes the buyer of sexual services and not the prostitute, and the reason behind this is that the ones who want to get out of the prostitution will not hesitate to get help, since they aren't to be seen as criminals but as victims in a horrible situation. By criminalizing the client the demand will decrease, and thereby also the prostitution. The prostitute is a victim and should not be punished for that. As an opposite, the client is not a victim and should be prosecuted.

An awareness about prostitution as a violation of the human rights has to be created. Prostitution has to be recognized by the governments as a threat and an undermining element of women's human rights, and as a large obstacle in the fight for gender equality.

Making illegal business legal might improve the statistics, but the prostitutes and pimps are still there, hiding behind the cover of the titles 'sex workers' and 'brothel managers'.