



# Canada's new prostitution law: Separating fact from fiction

Leah Harwood February 16, 2015 Blog, Prostitution 40 Comments

In 2014, Canada made history by creating prostitution legislation that recognizes prostituted people are not criminals, but that those who exploit them are. Previous laws treated prostitution as a public nuisance instead of an issue of violence against women. This new approach signifies a major victory for women's equality as it will teach generations of men that women's bodies are not for sale.

Of course, whenever there is an advancement towards women's equality, there is a backlash; and this case is no different.

Over the last few months the conversation about Bill C-36 has been widely publicized by the media, though that coverage has been largely one-sided. Therefore the public has heard from those who oppose the law far more than from supporters. As a result, ordinary Canadians whose only knowledge about prostitution comes from the news articles they read with their morning coffee have been led to believe myths and lies about who created this law, how, and why.

Canada's new prostitution law is not a religious conservative attempt to limit women's autonomy, as the bill's opponents would have us believe. The sex industry does not consist of morally-neutral transactions between consenting adults, and sex trafficking is not a separate issue from prostitution. Rather, these



[AdChoices](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Privacy](#)



are myths, *presented as indisputable truth*, perpetuated intentionally by those who want to (continue to) profit from exploitation.

The truth is that the driving force behind Bill C-36 was a combination of the testimonies of women who have direct experience in prostitution, research from Canada and around the world on prostitution laws, and the lobbying efforts of women's groups who seek an end to violence against women. This law stands as proof that what Canadian women want is equality, not exploitation.

It has been implied by opponents that the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, who heard testimonies, studied, and evaluated the bill, was full of **Donate**

Evangelicals and Conservatives who sought to impose Christian morality on Canadians and who refused to listen to women in prostitution. Although there were some Evangelicals who testified in the hearings, they were far outnumbered by secular lawyers, academics, and women with no particular religious affiliation who testified about their own experience in the sex trade. These accusations against the committee were part of a strategy to discredit Bill C-36 in the eyes of Liberals and the left. And it seems to have worked — the Liberals and the NDP unanimously voted against the bill, despite testimony and research supporting it. In a strange turn of events, Conservatives helped pass feminist legislation, while the Liberals and the NDP attempted to stop it. Although this raises interesting questions about what it means to be on the political right or the left in Canada these days, there's no real reason why prostitution should be a partisan issue — ending violence against women should be a no-brainer for any political party.

Considering the level of contradictory information put forth about the issue of prostitution, it's no surprise that so many people have difficulty separating fact from fiction.

The pro-prostitution lobby, with the support of many Canadian media outlets, has successfully reached and convinced much of the public that there is an entire sex industry made up of consenting adults and that exists in isolation from human trafficking and underage prostitution.

This lobby is represented most-notably by Terri-Jean Bedford, who has featured in much of the coverage of prostitution in Canada over the last few years. Media outlets love titillating their readers with images of Bedford, clad in black leather and brandishing her riding crop, delivering snappy banter in her best dominatrix voice. "Prime Minister Harper called me again," she declared in the committee hearing for Bill C-36. "He wanted to appoint me to the Senate... as a government whip!" What is rarely mentioned in the media, however, is that it was not Bedford who sought out a lawyer to help her overturn Canada's previous prostitution law — it was lawyer Alan Young who initiated the case. He stated on camera that he recruited Bedford to act as an applicant, despite the fact that the media frames the case as one "led by sex workers." Another fact rarely mentioned in articles

[AdChoices](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Privacy](#)

 [AdChoices](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Privacy](#)

featured on  Blo

**DISCOVER MORE HERE**

Support feminist media

**Contribute today**

**Follow Feminist Current On Social Media**

[f](#) [t](#) [t](#)

**Subscribe to Feminist Current**

Register now to get the latest updates from Feminist Current.

Your email:

**Subscribe**

**Search**

about Canada's most famous dominatrix is that she was [first prostituted before the age of 18](#). For all her talk about "consenting adults," she was not yet an adult when she first learned that her sexuality was for sale.

But while the pomp and spectacle of the sex trade lobby carries on, the women affected by prostitution do the unglamorous — but necessary — work of healing themselves and helping others.

In Toronto, survivors of prostitution started [SexTrade101](#), an organization that provides counselling and emergency services to women in the sex trade, as well as public presentations and educational workshops. The two founders of the organization, Natasha Falle and Bridget Perrier, did significant work getting Bill C-36 passed. They did it not because of conservative ideology or "morality," as opponents suggest, but because they know what the sex industry is — they've been in it and they've counselled hundreds of women in it, and they know that pimps and johns need to be held accountable for their abuse.

Falle has been working with women in prostitution since 2001, and out of the hundreds of women who have filled out intake surveys, she says 97 per cent of them wanted to get out of the industry. Hundreds of them also reported being controlled by pimps and entering prostitution [between 13 and 16 years of age](#).

The "consenting adults" we keep hearing about make up only a tiny percentage of the industry, but the media focuses on those few people, ignoring the majority. Moreover, there is not such a clear distinction between human trafficking and prostitution. Many survivors were controlled by pimps at some point during their time in the sex industry even if they worked independently at other times. In any case, it is the same men who are buying women — whether they are controlled by pimps or not.

Rachel Moran is a survivor of prostitution who was never trafficked. In her book, [Paid For: My Journey Through Prostitution](#), she writes:

*Women like myself who were forced by nobody need to find our voices and assert that this does not mean we were forced by nothing. It is a very human foolishness to insist on the presence of a knife or a gun or a fist in order to recognize the existence of force, when often the most compelling forces on this earth present intangibly, in coercive situations. My prostitution experience was coerced. For those of us who fall into the 'free' category, it is life that does the coercing. People concentrate so much on the*

*differences between prostituted women and trafficking victims that they forget there are far more similarities than differences. Probably the most fundamental of these is that while the trafficked woman had her sexual autonomy stolen from her, the prostituted woman had hers bought; and so both sets of women have lost their sexual self-governance. While individuals and organisations argue about whether the issues of trafficking and prostitution should be dealt with separately or together, the punters have already made their minds up. They use both sets of women, and they make no distinction (p227).*

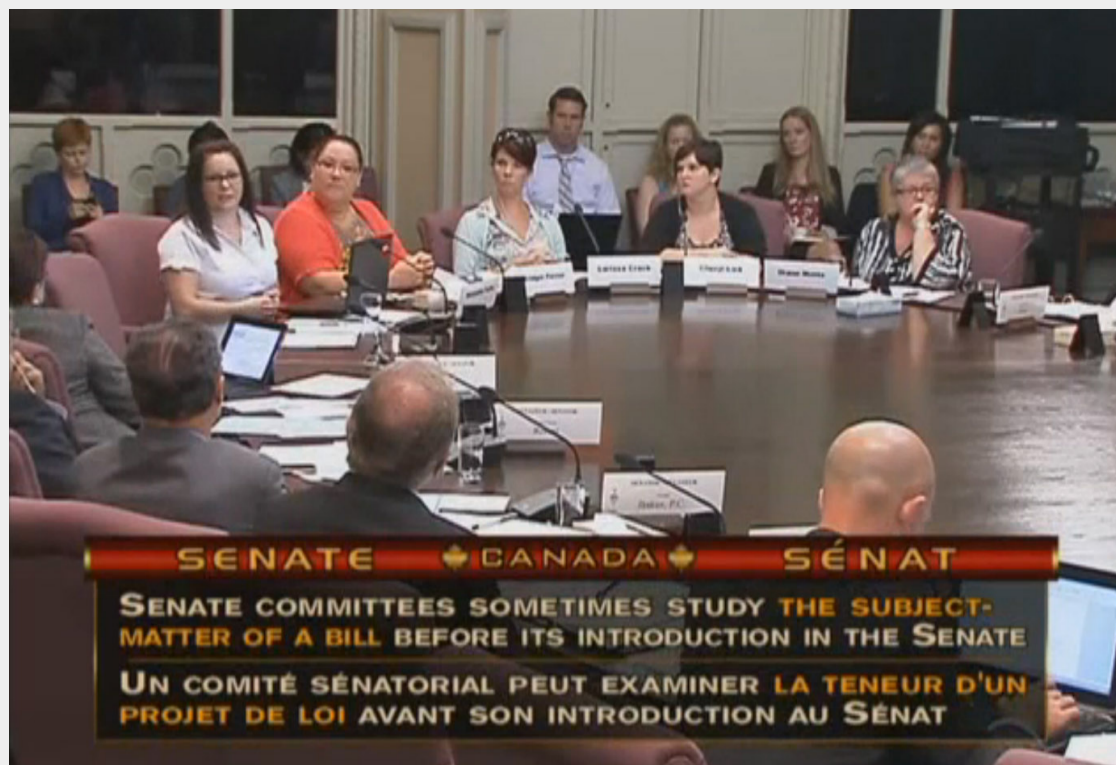
The Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights heard horrific tales of abuse from the survivors who testified. Women who identify as sex workers and who oppose this new law distanced themselves from the survivors who testified, implying that *those* women were victims of sex trafficking who have nothing to do with the conversation about “adult prostitution,” framing their testimonies as merely a tactic intended to tarnish the image of the sex trade. But the committee did not *seek out* survivors with tales of abuse — these activists applied to be witnesses as a part of their ongoing advocacy work. These women cannot be dismissed as simply having a “victim mentality” — they are courageous and determined women who are in the trenches every day fighting to make things better for others who are going through what they did.

Falle survived physical and sexual assault, torture, and a serious cocaine addiction during her time in prostitution. She went on to graduate with honours from George Brown College, create a non-profit organization, teach at Humber College, become an accomplished public speaker, and was an affiant in the lower court leading to the Supreme Court hearing on the Bedford case.

Perrier entered into the sex trade at the age of 12 and was subjected to physical and sexual assault, as well as torture. She managed to exit prostitution, went on to graduate from college, and became a prominent speaker and activist. As the co-founder of SexTrade101 she provides counselling, emergency support, and sometimes her own couch to sleep on, to women in the sex industry. These women may have sad stories to tell, but those stories are eclipsed by impressive accomplishments. “People who know me know that I’m a ballbuster,” Perrier says, “and I’m not gonna go down without a fight.”

If the media had spent more time talking to the women who were lobbying to get Bill C-

36 passed,  
they would  
have  
uncovered  
some  
inspiring  
stories of



- Natasha Falle and Bridget Perrier at the Senate hearings on Bill C-36.

perseverance and some interesting points of discussion about Canadian society.

In a telephone interview, Bridget Perrier explained what it was like working on Bill C-36 and testifying for the committee. When the old prostitution laws were struck down, survivors and their allies got right into action:

*We formed a coalition of survivors. Natasha Falle, Trisha Baptie and me, along with organizations like The Native Women's Association (NWAC), La CLES, and Walk With Me — we made sure our homework was done, because we knew our argument was the one that was going to help women, and we started lobbying. Anyone who would listen, we talked to. An amazing thing happened — people started listening. I've never seen that. It was a real David and Goliath situation. This bill should be called 'The Survivor's Bill.'*

As for the question of whether or not there were too many Conservatives and Christians on the committee, Perrier says she never had a problem with that. She is not interested in organized religion herself, but she found that the Christians who helped her did not preach at her, but simply offered their support.

"Abolitionists come in all types. Some are Christian, some are not. Why is it an

Issue? Some are straight and married to men, and some are gay. It shouldn't matter. We can all work together."

Perrier says she found testifying at the committee intimidating. The hearings were televised and are [archived online](#) for anyone to watch, so her story is more public now than ever before. But Perrier had a strategy that helped her: "When I was testifying, it helped to imagine that it was only me and [Joy Smith](#) in the room."

Of course, MP Joy Smith wasn't the only advocate who supported survivors. Other Canadian women such as Diane Matte of La CLES; UBC law professor, Janine Benedet; Michèle Audette, president of NWAC; Kim Pate of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies; Megan Walker of the London Abused Women's Centre (LAWC); and many more, were all excellent allies to survivors.

The legislation was not written solely based on women's testimonies, of course. The Department of Justice Canada's criminal law policy lead on prostitution, Nathalie Levman, who had a great deal of input into the drafting and preparation of the bill, told me in an email on February 5th:

*As explained in the Department of Justice's Technical Paper, available [here](#), the development of Bill C-36 was informed by the evidence before the courts in Bedford, as well as the decision itself, the public consultations conducted by the Government in February and March of 2014, jurisprudence interpreting existing prostitution-related Criminal Code offences, the available research on prostitution in Canada, including relevant Canadian Parliamentary reports, as well as available international research on prostitution, including relevant government reports from other jurisdictions. The Technical Paper contains a bibliography of the research that informed the development of Bill C-36.*

Levman says she "brings a rights-based approach" to her work and she demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the legislation's effect on women while answering questions in the hearings.

So what's next for Canadian abolitionists? Perrier seems upbeat about the future. In the short term, she says, funding is needed to support organizations

that help women leave the sex industry, so they can do more outreach and help more women. In the long term, Perrier predicted that the attitude toward buying sex will shift. The next generation of men will understand that it's wrong to buy women, and that will contribute to future gender equality.

The women who support Canada's new prostitution law are too numerous to name. Canadian survivors, the families of women and girls who've entered prostitution and never come back, academics, lawyers, MPs, women's organizations, and directors of women's shelters across the country all worked to pass this bill. This large group of people did not act on "conservative morality," but on their knowledge of the issue and their caring for women. Journalists and organizations who spent their time spreading myths and slandering the legislation as being "conservative" and "moralizing," missed out on seeing the impressive show of solidarity among women and the powerful move toward a more just society. Too much emphasis on what Conservative politicians were supposedly doing wrong meant forgetting to ask the Liberal party and the NDP why they *weren't* supporting an evidence-based law, supported by survivors, in an effort to end violence against women.

The result is that ordinary Canadians who have not studied the issue in-depth missed out on this, too, as well as much factual information on which to build their opinions. It's time for the media to report the truth: Canadian women are working toward a better society, one in which we are no longer viewed as commodities to be bought and sold.

*Leah Harwood is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and York University. She lives in Toronto.*

---

**Share this:**



» Bedford v. Canada, Bill C-36, Bridget Perrier, Canada's prostitution laws, Natasha Falle, prostitution, prostitution law, Sex Work, the sex industry

## Related Posts

---



**Northern Ireland will  
be the first part of the  
UK to criminalize**

## 40 Comments Already

 Subscribe to comments feed

**river** - February 16th, 2015 at 3:31 pm

Bridget Perrier's testimony was electrifying. I'm surprised to hear she was nervous. If you haven't seen it and heard her, you should. It's still on C-Span , I believe.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to these women, to Joy Smith, to Melissa Farley whose academic work was pivotal background, to legal scholar Gunilla Ekberg and to the international radical feminist community which theory was the inception of the Nordic Model and the idea that prostitution (and pornography, which is filmed prostitution) is never the woman's fault and she does not deserve any punishment.

Reply

 12 likes

**Leah** - February 16th, 2015 at 6:44 pm

You can still watch Bridget's (or anyone else's) testimony here:  
<http://www.cpac.ca/en/digital-archives/?search=Prostitution>

Reply

 6 likes

**Independent Radical** - February 16th, 2015 at 5:16 pm

I don't like the fact that feminists had to ally with conservatives in order to pass this bill, but there are many situations where liberals openly brag about their ability to get conservatives to like them and

vote for them. They even complain about more radical feminists and leftists “alienating” conservatives and being too critical of them (e.g. “How dare you be so mean to Tony Abbott, oh the poor Prime Minister”.) Then there’s their wimpy approach to abortion (e.g. “How dare you talk about abortion without implying that it is the most horrible thing ever, you shouldn’t even be saying the word, it will scare the conservatives”.) Somehow they get to kiss conservative ass for years and then when “sex-negative” feminists get conservatives to support something (without apologies and ass kissing) they get mad and accuse the former of being conservatives. Maybe they are jealous. They did all that sucking up and they didn’t get the conservatives to like them, LOL.

Furthermore, anti-prostitution feminists would not have had to ally with conservatives, if the liberals had allied with them (like leftists in other countries have.) Instead they treated anti-prostitution feminists like garbage for years and then got accept that they did not side with them. Liberals need to learn that they get what give when dealing with radicals and that conservatives aren’t going to like them no matter what. In high school, they were the ones telling the rest of us not to change ourselves for the popular kids. Now that is exactly what they want radicals to do. “Don’t change, you’re perfect just the way you are” unless of course you’re “sex negative” or you change their relativistic thinking in some other way, then they see you as scum.

Reply

 12 likes

**Hector\_St\_Clare** - February 18th, 2015 at 7:56 am

Abortion is murder, so yes, it’s one of the most horrible things ever. If you stand for abortion rights, you ought to be ashamed of yourself.

For the record, I believe that prostitution should be legal and abortion should not be.


Reply

 0 likes

**Meghan Murphy** - February 18th, 2015 at 12:26 pm

Whoops! You’re banned, Hector\_St\_Clare.

Reply

 11 likes

**marv** - February 18th, 2015 at 1:55 pm

Yes. What a dreadful man.

Reply

 1 likes

**Missfit** - February 16th, 2015 at 8:08 pm

When I come across something in mainstream news having to do with this law, they always make sure to report comments from selected sex workers who claim that this bill is about taking away women's rights. I never hear about survivors' stories or women working within affected communities. Women who do not know much about prostitution (and I think for many of them they prefer not to even think about the reality of it) are influenced/confused by this one-sided reporting and faux-feminism rhetoric, even though they know in their guts (when they give themselves the permission to look there) that prostitution is bad for women. People want to believe in harm reductions because they have been told repeatedly (and conveniently) that prostitution will never go away. Information about the Nordic model and its effects and the effects of legalization should be provided, analyzed. But they prefer to frame the debate around issues of moralism. Most men object the bill. Men's voices are louder, imposing, sometimes threatening. Most women do not want to pass for prudes and close-minded (so not cool!) and it's always easier and safer to go with where male-approval is. And men play on that.

I read an article in mainstream media written by a woman reporting on DSK and how he treated women like objects he could use as he pleased. I've looked at the comments to see man after man accusing society of prudery and the author of being moralist. Is caring about women as human beings deserving of integrity and safety from harm what moralism has become to mean? You can call me a moralist as much as you want then.

Reply

 15 likes

**Robyn Taylor** - February 16th, 2015 at 9:02 pm

As somebody who has worked with prostitutes in a law enforcement capacity and a social work capacity I take issue with some of the statements in this article. I am not going to say I'm against this bill, but I'm not a hardcore supporter of it either. I'm glad the sex workers have relief from prosecution. Now to say that this is not some moral statement is a little disingenuous. There is a debate to be had about how much an environment that tolerates prostitution facilitates "forced" trafficking, but neither side has offered any compelling evidence.

You stated that "Falle has been working with women in prostitution since 2001, and out of the hundreds of women who have filled out

intake surveys, she says 97 per cent of them wanted to get out of the industry." I'm going to ignore that this is a self-reported survey and not a scientific one, and say that just because people don't like their job, does not mean the consumer should be criminalized. The fact that you think working at McDonald's is more virtuous than being a prostitute is a moral position; it is not based on any hard science; it all comes down to your feelings about sex.

You also stated that "The 'consenting adults' we keep hearing about make up only a tiny percentage of the industry." You have no stats to back that up. We do know that 95% of the women arrested for prostitution are adults. Unless underage girls are better at not being caught by the cops, it's safe to assume most prostitutes are adults. Now on the issue of consent in the context of trafficking or being forced against their will: According to the report, the NHTRC has recorded more than 9,000 cases of potential human trafficking between 2007 and 2012. Only nine thousand victims of trafficking, some of whom are domestic workers and the others are sex trafficking. There is an estimated 2 million prostitutes in the U.S. Those stats imply only a small percentage are trafficked.

In law enforcement, every girl we saw with a pimp was not with a pimp by force. In fact, pimps often have high turnover, because most girls leave them to go independent or with other pimps. I only saw one case of a kidnapping of a girl when she left a pimp. Even the term pimp does not apply to a great deal of these situations, because a lot of the girls live alone and only take calls when they want, but they have to give a percentage of all the dates the pimp sets up for them. These guys are basically managers; situations do turn violent over arguments about percentages, but no one is forced to take jobs they don't want.

Dealing with the issue of consent in the context of girls who come from bad situations, turning to sex to survive. Once again, this is a moral argument; we all have to work to survive, because we live in a capitalistic society; if you feel that sex work is less virtuous, again, that's based on your moral feelings about sex. If you want to end all inequality, you can try, but there is a reason why communism failed; it's against human nature. The best thing we have is capitalism with social programs, but there will always be inequality. The question is how much, and I really don't see anybody reducing inequality beyond what Sweden and Norway have done without limiting progress or undermining democracy. Sweden is about as much as a liberal in North America can ask for, and for political reasons and limitations of democracy, that probably will not even happen. They still have prostitution in those countries even with the most generous welfare system a modern-day democracy can probably produce.

I am glad women are free from persecution, but feel this law will still result in stigmatization of prostitutes, because of the illegal purchase

element . Stigmatization makes it hard for sex workers to find quality support in the sex work trade, because how many decent people are going to want to help in a trade where the consumption is illegal. This leads to a cycle of shady individuals and low quality clientele in the trade, which ruins sex workers quality of life.

I think this bill was a decent compromise, but still a slippery slope towards totalitarianism.

Reply

 5 likes

**FrustratedRadFem** - February 17th, 2015 at 5:45 am

HA HA HA no. You are so full of shit i don't know where to begin.

"I think this bill was a decent compromise, but still a slippery slope towards totalitarianism."

What does this even mean? be more specific. We live in a world where men can buy and sell women and girls and still have supporters, where men get shorter jail sentences for killing their wives or girlfriends but if women or girls kill the men who abuse or pimp them for years she gets a much longer sentence. Rapes are uploaded onto the internet and sold to porn sites and it is indistinguishable from the rest of the content. If the police wanted to they could make anti littering laws fascist

You could make anti littering laws fascist but why is the nordic model considered potentially fascist even though the results in Sweden show otherwise. We already live in totalitarian society haven't you seen the way the world treats women, muslims, black people, immigrants and other minorities. As for the slippery slope argument how come when feminists argue this it isn't considered legitimate no matter what our reasoning we are just exaggerating. But if men use this argument often without explaining why, then that something everybody has to consider? Explain how these new laws can be use in a fascist way or get out.

"Im going to ignore that this a self reported survey and not a scientific one, and say that just because people dont like their job" So much for listening to women in the sex industry. Women in the industry often report they hate it but can't escape it and don't want others to join the industry. Basically, you tacitly admit they don't like it and don't want to be there (what's it called when someone doesn't want to have sex but they are made to anyway?) and your response is 'well you got yourself into it you can get yourself out'. You fail to see your own contradiction you blame them for their circumstances but when we try to make sense of what's happening to them and actually try to help them you feel it's your place to tell us we aren't

doing it right. There plenty of studies showing the harm the sex industry does to the women and girls in it, non-prostituted women and girls and society as whole, they aren't hard to find.

In your comment judged them according to your standards and ignore the barriers that are in place and disregard their own personal limitations. Sort of like people telling people with depression to 'snap out of it' and 'it's all in your head'. Right wingers take this position all the time when they blame people for poverty. They ignore that you can't pull yourself into a higher economic class by the boot straps. But we are the ones being judgemental for saying that johns and pimps are wrong.

Whenever I talk to men who defend prostitution/pornography they tell you that you're being judgmental (yet feel it's their right to judge how attractive they find them). When you show them the evidence that the vast majority of women and girls in the sex industry are being harmed and exploited they turn into Frodo very quickly. Men who use pornography/prostitution are stuck in the madonna/whore world view if you question their actions it shows.

Actually most prostituted women start as children the average age is 14 but it is often lower. The majority of women are there because of poverty, coercion and force, whenever they do studies they always show there are high rates of previous sexual abuse (especially as children) and drug addictions. Do not compare being paid to be sexually violated and physically attacked to an actual job EVER, regardless of how shitty that job is. Don't make light of sexual assault and abuse. I mean really, you're comparing being sexually violated to a minimum wage job. If you think we are against prostitution because it's not 'virtuous' then you are a dickhead the women pushing this bill were former prostituted women. Many feminists are against it because they've been prostituted and have been harmed by it. The bill and the nordic model is supported by trafficked and exploited women and girls disproportionately Indigenous women (Cherry Smiley was one notable woman). The correctly identify prostitution as a part of the colonisation process like those schools they were made go to.

Why do you say moral argument like it's a bad thing? It is morally/ethically wrong to take advantage of women and children in desperate situations. A decent man understands this but apparently that is aiming too high. Why does saying this make us kind of Jesus freak? It's true you don't need religion to tell you what's right or wrong that doesn't mean you drop the concept of right and wrong all together and try to play at being some kind of Nietzsche wannabe. What you are doing is called moral relativism, this position frames all actions as neutral and contextless and equates all actions and circumstances with each other. This of course is

bullshit. Moral relativists like the idea that they in charge of what is moral, they just think that nothing should be considered truly moral or not. They are sitting on their own throne of false superiority but if you interfere with something they want to keep than of course you are in the wrong.

Many former prostituted women disdain the term 'sex worker' because it sanitises what is really being done many call it 'paid rape'. Check out Cherry Smiley, Rachael Moran, Jacqueline Homan and many other exited women they have talks on you tube and blogs.

Rachael Moran's blog:

<http://theprostitutionexperience.com>

Cherry Smiley:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boEeRMpE\\_pw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boEeRMpE_pw)

<http://feministcurrent.com/8893/podcast-cherry-smiley-on-indigenous-feminism-colonial-violence-and-the-sex-industry/>

<http://feministcurrent.com/10366/whats-current-cherry-smiley-says-real-change-for-aboriginal-women-begins-with-the-end-of-prostitution/>

Jacqueline Homan:

<https://godlessfeminist.wordpress.com>

And there are plenty of women from the legal porn industry speaking out but women's voices are only heard if they say it's all cool.

Pimps are controlling men they are basically advanced domestic abusers, they not only physically threaten women and girls they have a whole range of tactics to keep her in place.

Financial- they control the money, how much she can keep as if it's his money, he often tells her how she can spend hers, he also makes her pay for expenses that should be covered by him or are just tip off to his buddies, they know she is unlikely to find a decent job and take advantage of that, it's either be with him or take your chances alone and when you are a woman alone onWhy does saying this make me some kind of Jesus freak? It's true you don't need religion to tell you what's right or wrong that doesn't mean you drop the concept of right and wrong all together and try to play at being some kind of Nietzsche wannabe. What you are doing is called is moral relativism, this basically equates all action with each other as if all crimes are equal

Psychological- Pimps like to induce Stockholm syndrome, it's no wonder they women say they are 'fine' if you work in law

enforcement you should know better. If you act they way you do at work like you do in this comment section of course they wouldn't trust you. Pimps threaten, terrorise, condescend and scorn, harass, verbally abuse, play upon vulnerabilities, especially if she has trauma, mental illness or an addiction. They isolate their 'employees' and then threaten to take away what little she has, they often threaten her children, blackmail her (they often have plenty of 'evidence' they would put on the internet if she doesn't behave). They have all sorts of manipulative tactics to keep women silent and compliant.

Addictions- whether it's illicit, prescription or alcoholic, you aren't in the state of mind to make rational decisions if you are under the influence. If you can't drive while you are high or drunk you can't give consent to sex. If you have an addiction and need that next fix the buyer is raping you if they have paid sex with you because the power imbalance is so out balance that the buyers. If someone is in a physiological state where they are desperate for another fix or are out of touch with reality they can't consent.

Where are your statistics from? the 95% arrested being adults sound pure bullshit. Are they correctly identified as adults (she looks older, her id is fake) or are young girls found but not arrested because they are underage and can't legally be charged. Where was that data collection done what where the parameters? The major events like Super Bowl or world cups are often caught trafficking women and children. We know that prostitution is intergenerational and that the customers don't wait for girls to mature (that would give them a chance). Youth is always in demand and johns do not care if they are children or if they being coerced or outright forced or have an addiction.

Workers who live in places where there insufficient workplace health and safety laws, still need to work still have to do what they had to even if back breaking work, the machines could mutilate them, they had no union or labour laws, develop disease, injuries, lose limbs and even things develop things like rotten jaws due to chemical exposure. I guess anyone who tries to stop the exploitation, dangerous working conditions and cruel bosses are just being moralists. Which of course ignores the fact that sex isn't work it's men coercing and forcing women to sexually service them.

P.S. You said you work in law enforcement, if I went to the police for help no matter what it was, I wouldn't trust you.

Reply

 24 likes

**ArgleBargle** - February 17th, 2015 at 5:06 pm

To FrustratedRadFem: Yes, this! Perfectly said.

As for Robyn Taylor, if you truly work in social services, please remove yourself asap. I fear for any prostituted person who may feel, based on your position, that your advice is worth listening to.

Reply

 16 likes

**Laur** - February 17th, 2015 at 9:09 pm

FrustratedRadFem and ArgleBargle:

That people who hold views such as “Robyn’s” are active in police and social work is scary. This was my first thought as I delved into their post. Saying that prostitution is like many shitty jobs and ignoring what survivors say is misogynist. In prostitution, women are turned into three holes and two hands. Remind me again how that is like other jobs?

Argh. Don’t get me started.

Reply

 9 likes

**quixote** - February 17th, 2015 at 12:19 pm

*“it all comes down to your feelings about sex”*

No. It all comes down to our feelings about buying (or renting) human beings.

(Rental properties fare even worse than single-owner ones, so it’s hard to make the argument that it’s a big improvement over classical slavery.)

All your other points are based on a distinction between selling sex and selling the humans providing masturbatory receptacles for the buyer. If there were a distinction, your points are valid. If there isn’t — and to me it’s hard to see how there could be since someone who doesn’t want service can buy a blowup doll — then you need to think a bit about your attitudes.

Reply

 18 likes

**Mar Iguana** - February 18th, 2015 at 5:24 am

“We do know that 95% of the woman arrested for prostitution are

adults. Unless underage girls are better at not being caught by the cops its safe to assume most prostitutes are adults.”

I went to high school with a guy who became a cop in the LAPD vice squad in Hollywood. He told me he was about the only cop on that beat who would arrest underage girls because it took so much more paperwork and time to process minors. He said he had never talked to one of these girls who had not ended up there because they were running away from incest and/or sexual abuse.

It is safe to assume you are an idiot.

Reply

 6 likes

**Hector\_St\_Clare** - February 18th, 2015 at 8:45 am

I'm close to being a communist, but trading money for sex will always exist, even under communism, just like it does in Cuba. This is basic human nature. Men use status to gain sex, women use sex to gain status. Occasionally the other way around. I don't see anything wrong with that.


Reply

 1 likes

**Meghan Murphy** - February 18th, 2015 at 12:23 pm

Sex doesn't give women status. If it did then why would men use sex to punish and degrade women?

Reply

 9 likes

**amongster** - February 18th, 2015 at 1:47 pm

Do you even understand communism? I feel like most men don't cause they can't even imagine a world in which women are not a subclass and always struggling to gain status because men keep them down. You are a good example why I don't trust male leftists. Most of you have not a fucking idea what it's like to be oppressed.

Basic human nature, my ass! Just because you are rotten doesn't mean all humans are.

Reply

 1 likes

**marv** - February 18th, 2015 at 1:48 pm

Cuba is not communist. Workers and the public at large don't run the economy and government. The Cuban model is state capitalism. If you can't see the difference you are not close to being a communist.

Patriarchy (male structures) is the foundation of capitalism in both its private and state forms. To assert women obtain standing by selling sex is analogous to workers acquiring stature working for capital. Human nature has nothing to do with these arrangements.

The fact that you see no problem with prostitution is because your consciousness is asleep from social training. Wakey wakey.

Reply

 1 likes

### **Robyn Taylor** - February 17th, 2015 at 7:13 pm

""Where are your statistics from? the 95% arrested being adults sound pure bullshit. Are they correctly identified as adults (she looks older, her id is fake) or are young girls"" You do realize there are machines that can tell if an ID is fake, bouncers use them all the time. If a girl can't produce an ID when she is arrested than forensics expert is brought in or a medical professional who can narrow her age down to a year. They can also use dental records.

Having a drug addiction or a mental illness Ex (Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder) does not mean you can't give legal consent for sex, this has already been debated in multiple court cases. There are people who are married to people with these disorders. According to mental case law, these people can make decision for themselves which is why they can't be committed to an asylum. The only people who can't give consent are people deemed legally retarded, and those people would be put under the care of a guardian or the state. If your mentally retarded you probably can't function as a prostitute any way.

Abuses happen in every industry. The domestic worker industry is full of abuses. There was a story of five Filipino woman being forced to work as maids in California just over a year ago. Should we ban all maid services. Migrant workers get abused in agriculture are you going to stop buying produce from the store. The smartphone you own was made in a sweat shop in China, from people working to feed their families in harsh condition.

Now if you guys are willing to make all consumers of these services criminals, I will be sympathetic to your position.

""(Rental properties fare even worse than single-owner ones, so it's

hard to make the argument that it's a big improvement over classical slavery.)""

Because absent third party force if they want to quit they can. Millions of people get up and do things they dont want to do to feed themselves and families that is not slavery. Millions of people have limited career opportunities,because of the economic class they were born in that is not slavery. I am not oppose to social programs to help these people,but given reality,there will always be people with more than others.

In the end like I said Im not oppose to the law,but to act like this is not sex moralism is disingenuous. My issue is I don't like moral totalitarianism whether its coming from a feminist or a right winger.

Reply

 2 likes

**Laur** - February 17th, 2015 at 8:59 pm

" Millions of people get up and do things they don't want to do to feed themselves and families that is not slavery. Millions of people have limited career opportunities,because of the economic class they were born in that is not slavery. I am not oppose to social programs to help these people,but given reality,there will always be people with more than others."

I actually would call capitalism as under the current economic system a form of slavery.

This is different, however, than being sexually abused over and over and having money thrown at you. There's a reason some survivors of prostitution call it "paid rape." Not being sexually harassed on the job is a human right. How are women not going to be sexually harassed while in the sex trade? Do you really think strip clubs are going to become free of sexual harassment?

You're comfortable telling ex-prostitutes their "job" is little different than "any other" shitty job. Are you comfortable telling fast-food workers, construction workers, or retail workers their job is little different than prostitution?

Lori Watson has a great article on how prostitution is different than real work here: <http://logosjournal.com/2014/watson/>

Many survivors of prostitution say that while in "the life" they felt the only thing they were good at was giving blowjobs. Prostitution feeds on the vulnerabilities of girls and women and some boys and men who have previously been abused. Self-hate can lead to

prostitution, and it only gets worse as one enters “the life.” Note that the phrase “the life” would imply something much more than a job.

There are numerous women who describe how childhood sexual abuse was a direct factor in their entering the sex trade. The blogger Rebecca Mott is one of these people. Then there are the teenage runaways who see their only option as working on the street. Rachel Moran, the author quoted in the OP, was a runaway. In her book, she talks about how her life would have been very different if her only option was to work as a hairdresser (for example).

Prostitution is not “sex,” at least not from the prostituted’s point of view. Rather, it is sexual abuse. And abuse is not something one should be free to choose to inflict on another human being. Which is where the Nordic Model comes in. Sex is something we should be having because we want to have sex with the person(s) we are having sex with, not because one party needs money or drugs. Again, this makes prostitution profoundly different than actual work.

Reply

 13 likes

**Hector\_St\_Clare** - February 18th, 2015 at 8:48 am

“Sex is something we should be having because we want to have sex with the person(s) we are having sex with, not because one party needs money or drugs”.

What? Why?

Reply

 1 likes

**Meghan Murphy** - February 18th, 2015 at 12:22 pm

Because sex — in an equal world that respects human beings — should be something that is mutually enjoyed and desired by both parties.

Reply

 10 likes

**hak** - February 17th, 2015 at 9:05 pm

“Abuses happen in every industry.”

omg, can we like stop with this liberal nonsense? you can't compare

rape -institutionalized rape/rape culture- with another abuse ffs  
rape/=murder/=torture/=etc ... does this really need to be said?  
srsly?

this relativism has so many consequences, and one of these consequences is to banalize the abuse as something common and natural: "oh well shit happens everywhere anyway lolol". The whole point of this is to protect men: we shouldn't understand why they treat women as objects, that objectification is just "an abuse like any other, don't ask why", riiiiight. It's also very essentialist, you don't even point out how, for who, and because of what prostitution exists.

men who objectify women do it because culture teaches them to do so, culture teaches them that sexuality=objectifying women, it's not natural or wrote in their DNA, and religious/moralist are all pro-prostitution ever since the Roman Empire, so your attempt to defame abolitionists as "sex moralist" doesn't work.

(Or maybe you think that whoever is critical/non liberal is a moralist, and if that's the case I can't help you here)

On the other hand prostitution is clearly a conservative and misogynist institution.

Reply

 17 likes

**Morag** - February 18th, 2015 at 10:17 am

Excellent comment, hak.

'this relativism has so many consequences, and one of these consequences is to banalize the abuse as something common and natural: "oh well shit happens everywhere anyway lolol". '

Yes. This relativism works in the other direction, too.

There is a relationship between the use and abuse of women in prostitution and all that "shit that happens everywhere" in other industries. In capitalist-patriarchy, ALL of it — the greater and lesser abuses — is banalized and naturalized. Therefore, the most horrifying abuses experienced by prostituted girls and women function to keep the majority of people who have escaped prostitution silent and "content" with their lot as abused workers.

So, on the one hand, all abuse is the same, and abuse is natural because "shit happens everywhere" and, on the other, being raped to make a living is implicitly acknowledged as the most dehumanizing "work" a person can be forced to do relative to other industries. These are contradictory positions, but both

types of relativism operate at the same time. To the benefit of ALL men (the most AND the least privileged men) because they all, with only a few exceptions, benefit from standing well above the sex/prostituted class of girls and women.

Reply

 7 likes

**FrustratedRadFem** - February 17th, 2015 at 9:31 pm

Except the abuse is inherent in prostitution because that's the job. Point over there when we are talking about over here is a classic derail tactic. Don't even try it.

You still didnt explain how these laws could be 'totalitarian' (do you mean it's too harsh for men to be held accountable for their abusive, violent actions. There is no body count because of these laws but prostitution is 'profession' with the highest body count . Men who use prostitution/pornography see women as lesser and disposable, feminists see all women full human beings.

Feminists stating that's it's wrong to exploit women and that the standards of genuine consent are higher than you seem to think. Nothing feminists support is totalitarian. Comparing right wingers to feminists is false equivalence and you know it. Stop concern trolling.

Men make the laws that affect women's lives and enforce them as they please. Men also own basically everything and make the unofficial rules women must abide by for face the consequences. It is privileged for you to worry about imaginary 'totalitarianism' regarding prostitution, when women are worried about avoiding abuse and being believed. If men obey the law and don't buy women and girls then they will be fine. If he goes ahead and does anyway these laws are designed for prostitutes women to turn in violent or non paying men. If he behaves he should be fine.

Honestly men who worry about 'the man' never consider that they may be the 'the man' to women. Your concerns are laughable you are scared of what exactly? Women having a chance at a better life? Having their abusers see justice? What exactly are you on about? Do you find domestic violence laws feminists crafted to be totalitarian?

Reply

 14 likes

**FrustratedRadFem** - February 17th, 2015 at 10:25 pm

You do realise that machines can be deceived and so can humans? Traffickers pull this shit all the time and try to pass off false documentation as her fault not organised criminals. They often lye women in with false promises then trap them. What if those machine unavailable or unreliable? Or that she started as a child but grew into it? Or if she's an adult and found herself in this situation.

In Germany prostitution is legal the union tried to get prostituted women to join for benefits but less than 5% joined because they didn't want to be known prostitute or were trafficked (often from Eastern Europe). If foreign domestic workers are often abused what makes you think it's not happening worse in prostitution considering the nature of it.

Reply

 11 likes

**bella\_cose** - February 17th, 2015 at 10:07 pm

It's not sex moralist, it's acting on the belief that women are human beings and shouldn't have to settle for being treated as semen receptacles in order to survive.

I honestly do not believe you work in law/social services, and the arguments you've made sound suspiciously similar to those that might be made by a pimp or a john.

Reply

 17 likes

**lizor** - February 18th, 2015 at 4:40 am

"Im not oppose to the law,but to act like this is not sex moralism is disingenuous."

To read the statistics and analysis; to read the survivor accounts; to consider the working conditions in Germany and New Zealand verses Sweden and Norway; and to reduce all of that evidence to people thinking sex is dirty is to be a liar. With all of the evidence on this blog alone, let alone the many other resources linked here, or what you would witness yourself if you truly are in a position to interact with prostituted people in your job, I can't couch it in more diplomatic terms – your nonsense does not merit it. Maybe you are lying to yourself and you actually believe your own bullshit, but either way, it is tragic for the prostituted people for whom you hold some responsibility.

“Dealing with issue of consent in the context of girls who come from bad situation turning to sex to survive. Once again this a moral argument,we all have to work to survive,because we live in a capitalistic society,if you feel that sex work is less virtuous again thats based on your moral feelings about sex.”

Again, there you go with the bizarre reduction to “morals”. The notion that low-income children should not work in debilitating factory conditions six days a week is no more about “moral feelings about cotton” than believing economically disadvantaged women and children should not have to submit to sexual abuse to survive. Yes, it’s moral to not want certain people’s lives to be destroyed by other people. Morals, at their base, are simply the capacity to give a shit about other people, a concept with which you seem to have a fundamental issue.

Re your anti-morality position: is having a moral centre, like maybe thinking that the torture and disposal of certain people for the entertainment of others is worthy of the designation “wrong”, or that the system (of which you are clearly an active member with your false equivalencies and misrepresentations) that upholds and enables such action is “wrong”, something you categorically dismiss? Are you open about your libertinism or do you apply the same twisted rationale and pretend to give a shit about other people’s experiences?

You grasp at imaginary differences between “anecdotal evidence”, the label you give to sociological survey techniques (guess what: they call that “science” too!) and “science”, which I can only take to mean that unless prostituted humans can be stuffed into some imaginary petrie dish in a controlled laboratory setting, you are going to turn a blind eye to any evidence, including the reports from the people themselves, so you can fanatically cling to your neoliberal beliefs. Of course you’re “not opposed to the law”, yet you offer up a heap of insubstantial argument against it, throwing around irrelevant terms like “virtue” and “totalitarianism” in opposition to the intent of the legislation. You really don’t hold any position at all. I’ll take a wild guess: you’re just counting down the days to your pension when you won’t have to deal with these ethical challenges regarding people about whom you ultimately do not care.

It’s quite ironic that so many people who subscribe to enlightened rationality and who label anyone who offers evidence-based critiques of social exploitation of women and children for the sexual gratification of men with money as being simplistic “believers” in some outdated and detached moralizing (as per the christian right) are, in fact, reenacting that exact blind irrational belief – only this time it’s a worship of male supremacy via masturbation and rape.

It's the same "god the father" poison in secular get up.

Reply

 6 likes

### **A Non-White US Lady** - February 17th, 2015 at 10:11 pm

I'd love to see how this goes in Canada. It's absurd to see some liberal US Feminists reject the Nordic model as if it could possibly be worse than what's going in the US with prostitutes being regularly arrested by the police and who fear reporting violent johns for fear of being arrested.

Reply

 11 likes

### **Iskwew** - February 17th, 2015 at 11:03 pm

" But while the pomp and spectacle of the sex trade lobby carries on, the women affected by prostitution do the unglamorous — but necessary — work of healing themselves and helping others."

The survivors who shared their stories on the panel we're incredible. But to assume that the self-identified sex workers on the panel "distanced" themselves from those narratives is presumptuous. They're survivors too. You're free to critique them but undermining women with different human rights views then yourself is not equality driven. It's competitive and it separates us from actually bridging any differences as women. They should be dignified as doing healing too, I don't get why all women on the panel can't be portrayed equally- especially with the condescending stereotypes of Terri Jean Bedford. For the record the media has been one sided and dumbing down any critic of this bill, and nordic supporters have been far more covered and gained more support especially, from non-First nations. I understand some First Nations women spoke at the committees and we were cheering and crying for them but just as our nations/languages are highly complex and different, it doesn't mean will have the same stories and views. I, and other Indigenous women identify both with abolition and sex work movements. Some of us Indigenous women are tired of being imposed into one category when talking about the sex trade, and yes some of us have different opinions on Bill c-36 and some us identify it as colonial and paternalistic and having roots in the Indian Act. Try that for a "sexy" or "cool" position, it is not. As we can be easily discredited by other Indigenous sisters who are also working on ending violence against women. I don't even know what a "pro-prostitution lobby" is. What I can tell you is that I empathize with abolitionists and they have been a great assistance in my own healing journey of exploitation, but it was a sex work organization that assisted me in exiting/criminal harassment and it was culturally appropriate. For that I admire the

work that everyone is doing. So please, with all due respect stop using terms like “pro prostitution lobby.” I don’t even know what that is, but it does imply that there are women who are not working to end the violence. That’s what everyone is here for.

Reply

 2 likes

**Leah** - February 18th, 2015 at 6:18 am

Bedford knows the sex industry very, very well. She has the same knowledge that Perrier and Falle have in terms of what it’s like and what goes on. They actually have a lot in common in terms of their life experiences. However, Bedford’s strategy is to pretend that prostitution is normal and acceptable. I support her as a person but I don’t support that strategy. I believe the way to support survivors is to name abuse as abuse, to condemn the abuse and to prevent it from happening to other women. Bedford, and the other survivors who are pro-decrim, are highly qualified to talk about the sex industry, but their strategy includes normalizing and sanitizing what really happens to make it sound like something that is acceptable. This is what I mean when I refer to the “pro-prostitution lobby.” There are organizations and individuals in Canada and around the world who seek to promote the sex industry as a legitimate choice and something women should have the “right” to do. This strategy, if made into law, would result in more women and girls being sexually exploited. If you don’t think the pro lobby exists, just talk to the exited women who speak out against the sex industry. They’re bullied and intimidated by the pro lobby every time they speak.

Reply

 8 likes

**bella\_cose** - February 18th, 2015 at 11:40 am

I hear what you’re saying, and I respect that women have different experiences, based on many factors. That being said, I think it’s appropriate to talk about the pro prostitution lobby. Globally, this lobby advocates for the sex industry as various groups, but one thing those groups have in common is that they are overwhelmingly made up of pimps and johns, who make their money off the backs of the women they exploit.

“Some of us Indigenous women are tired of being imposed into one category when talking about the sex trade, and yes some of us have different opinions on Bill c-36 and some us identify it as colonial and paternalistic and having roots in the Indian Act.”

My understanding of bill c36 is that it applies to all prostituted women, and while some indigenous women may feel the

government has overstepped its bounds, I don't think the intention was to target or disrespect them.

The fact is, prostitution doesn't just effect the women and men directly involved. It harms all of society by encouraging men's feelings of entitlement to women's bodies, and enforcing a double standard. It harms intimate relationships between men and women, and it creates a class of women seen as disposable, reinforcing the idea that women are "other", and not fully human.

Reply

 7 likes

**Mark** - [February 18th, 2015 at 7:15 am](#)

I have a question concerning this model. We know there are some women who willingly work in the sex industry because the money can be very good. For example Ashley Dupree who was making \$2000.00 an hour. So under this model a women who willingly wants to be an escort would never be arrested under any circumstances? Is that a correct understanding of the law?

Reply

 0 likes

**Meghan Murphy** - [February 18th, 2015 at 12:29 pm](#)

Yes, you are correct. She would not be arrested/criminalized in any way.

Reply

 2 likes

**A Survivor Knowx** - [February 18th, 2015 at 11:29 am](#)

It's a joy to see Bridget Perrier, Natasha Falle, and Trisha Baptie recognized for their decades of devotion and hard work on behalf of their sisters and brothers in the sex trade. Together they have created a new paradigm for abolitioni: Survivors at the center. I agree with Bridget that C36 should be called the Survivors Bill. Survivors' testimony before Canadian parliament has forever transformed public understanding of the sex trade. Thank you Leah for this great article. Thank you Bridget, Natasha and Trisha for being my inspiration. Your courage has changed the world and inspired survivors worldwide.

Reply

 9 likes

**A Survivor Knowx** - [February 18th, 2015 at 11:32 am](#)

P.S. It's important to note that Terri Jean Bedford and Valerie Scott were planning to open brothels if their lawsuit succeeded. Those who commercially sexually exploit others must never be allowed to represent or speak on behalf of the exploited.

Reply

 14 likes

**EEU** - February 18th, 2015 at 12:48 pm

Exactly. They call themselves "sex workers" but they're actually female pimps/traffickers.

Reply

 3 likes

**Michael Max** - February 18th, 2015 at 2:43 pm

This bill will cause the number of prostitutes in Canada to sky-rocket. There were vast numbers of prostitutes hiding under euphemisms of "escorts" when it was illegal to be one, so what will happen now when they are (nearly) untouchable under the law? Not only will former "escorts" become bolder... it will also encourage other women, formerly hesitant to enter sex-worker industry, to take the plunge.

Reply

 0 likes

**Meghan Murphy** - February 18th, 2015 at 3:48 pm

This makes no sense at all. Women don't WANT to be prostitutes. Like, what, they were all just waiting for the opportunity? Also, if there are no customers, there is no "business," as it were. This purpose of the bill is to discourage johns. This has proven to be effective.

Reply

 4 likes

**Iskwew** - February 18th, 2015 at 3:31 pm

"If you don't think the pro lobby exists, just talk to the exited women who speak out against the sex industry. They're bullied and intimidated by the pro lobby every time they speak"

I'll answer this first. I am an exited native woman and I have talked to other exited or exploited or working women, who are as you frame it from your belief that are "against" or "for" the industry. That is your imposition, and you're granted that belief. However, it makes it more difficult for women with sex trade experience to find out who they are, what their needs are, and how to build a safe life if everyone is

more focused on terminology, labeling, and appropriating their experiences. Identity is important, especially for Indigenous women determining their own identity because our means of access to identity has been stolen or exploited systemically. We need the space to challenge these binary ways of thinking in regards to prostitution. As for Bill C-36, many groups of women try to work together and there is a disconnect. That does not mean there can be future cooperation. I'm not saying it's right or wrong but I will say that both sides have been bullied and intimidated by each other, and yet there is a common goal on addressing colonial attitudes towards women, and freeing all women from violence. Through listening and validating each other's experiences even if they anger or do not fit our own may relieve these conflicts of interests. Yes, I envision this more between women with either survival sex trade, trafficking, or sex work or whatever they are identifying with comfortably at the time of their journey. That would increase the respectability of this dialogue rather than sexist terms like "female pimps/traffickers." Many of the well-meaning commentators on here do unintentionally produce hate speech towards sex trade survivors and victims, particularly who are Indigenous, or turn the issue of violence against women into releasing their own ingrained assumptions about women and prostitution in general. No one by any means has to agree with me, but I do not have to acknowledge a "pro lobby" exists when many fail to acknowledge the current state of Indigenous women in the sex trade fearing this bill, and it becoming a reality as they will now be forcibly dispossessed. This is everyone's lobby we're dealing with, not "pro" or "anti".

"My understanding of bill c36 is that it applies to all prostituted women, and while some indigenous women may feel the government has overstepped its bounds, I don't think the intention was to target or disrespect them."

Bella, I agree also as I do genuinely believe that this was not the government's intention. What I may be trying to get at here is seeking more inclusivity of Indigenous women. Rather than trying to get us to infight on this Bill, which is similar to the internalized racism we have shared through the Indian Act and our identities. But there was minimal to no acknowledgment of the government's role in trafficking Indigenous people, or acknowledging the historical power they have had in controlling Indigenous women's bodies either through residential schools, the sixties scoop, the criminal justice system, sexual sterilization, and the cycles go on. Yes, prostitution recreates racist and sexist attitudes of male entitlement and women as objects to be fully dehumanized and that is not acceptable. But some Indigenous communities are now having to work with less support from the government, organizations, academics, women's groups and other stakeholders on ensuring a decrease in state violence or police stalking/ harassment, safe housing, or compulsive exiting strategies

that may endanger or punish Indigenous women's recovery.

Reply

 0 likes

## Leave a Reply



Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked \*


Name \*

Email \*

Website

[Privacy & Terms](#)



[Privacy & Terms](#)



Comment

You may use these [HTML tags and attributes](#): `<a href="" title="">` `<abbr title="">` `<acronym title="">` `<b>` `<blockquote cite="">` `<cite>` `<code>` `<del datetime="">` `<em>` `<i>` `<q cite="">` `<strike>` `<strong>`

Post Comment

**Notify me of followup comments via e-mail. You can also [subscribe](#) without commenting.**

**Check here to [Subscribe to notifications for new posts](#)**

**Notify me of follow-up comments by email.**

« A Valentine's Day letter for the feminist in your life

What's Current: Mary Beard left 'wanting to cry' after Twitter goes after her due to freedom of speech letter »

Search

### Latest Comments

Meghan Murphy on Canada's new prostitution law: Separating fact from fiction

Iskwew on Canada's new prostitution law: Separating fact from fiction

purple sage on What's Current: This year's hottest trend — bullying & silencing feminists — continues with zeal

Michael Max on Canada's new prostitution law: Separating fact from fiction

A week of fierce cold & snow: listening to, watching, reading stories | Under the Sign of Sylvia II on Review: Watching 50 Shades of Grey is torture

### Advertisement



AdChoices | [Advertise](#)

featured on

DISCOVER MORE



AdChoices | [Advertise](#)

featured on

DISCOVER MORE

AdChoices | [Advertise](#)

AdChoices | [Advertise](#)

featured on

DISCOVER MORE

### Tags

'sex-positive' feminism  
abolition abuse BDSM  
Bedford v. Canada

Bill C-36 femininity  
**feminism**

Gender heterosexuality  
**interviews** Jian

Ghomeshi masculinity  
men in feminism

**Misogyny** MRAs

neoliberalism  
**objectification**

patriarchy  
**podcasts** porn

porn culture  
**Pornography** Post

feminism  
**prostitution**  
prostitution law Racism

Radical feminism **Rape**  
Rape Culture

RELATIONSHIPS **sex**  
sexism sexual

assault sexuality  
SEXUALIZATION **Sex**

**Work** Slutwalk  
Susan Cox the

backlash the male gaze  
the Nordic model  
the sex industry

### Blogroll

A Room of Our Own  
Black Womens  
Blueprint  
Boner Killer  
Easily Riled  
Feminist Frequency  
Glosswatch  
Louise Pennington  
M-L-M Mayhem!  
Marxist-Leninist-Maoist  
reflections  
Manyfesto  
MsRepresent podcast  
Paperhouse (Sarah  
Ditum's blog)  
Rage Against the Man-  
chine  
Ressources Prostitution  
What About Our  
Daughters  
WINGS: Women's  
International News  
Gathering Service  
Women's Media Center

### Topics

'Awareness' Campaigns  
BDSM  
Blog  
Burlesque  
Canadian Politics  
Comment Policy  
Faux-Feminism  
Femininity  
Guest Bloggers  
Interview Archives  
Local Events  
Love & Romance  
Male Privilege  
Masculinity  
Men's Rights Activists  
New Age Dudes  
Podcasts  
Pop Culture  
Pornography  
Post Feminism  
Prostitution  
Race  
Radical Feminism  
Sex & Sexuality  
Sexualization  
Slutwalk  
Transcripts  
Violence Against  
Women  
What's Current  
Women & Work  
Women's Studies

featured on 

[DISCOVER MORE](#)

# Violence Against Women What's Current