

LONDON ABUSED WOMEN'S CENTRE
BRIEF ON TRAFFICKING IN CANADA
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Submitted by Megan Walker, Executive Director

Background

The London Abused Women's Centre (LAWC) provides woman-centred, trauma-informed counselling, advocacy and support to women and girls over the age of 12 experiencing abuse, assault, sexual assault, sexual harassment and/or torture by an intimate partner, sex purchaser, trafficker/pimp, and/or in the workplace. The London Abused Women's Centre provides specialized programs for women and girls being prostituted, trafficked and/or sexually exploited.

Two-thirds of all trafficking in Canada originates in Ontario. London, located in Southwestern Ontario, is a hub for sex trafficking because it is the first large city located between Detroit/Windsor and Toronto with easy access from exit ramps along Highway 401 into hotels and motels in South London. Girls and women are being lured into trafficking from Western University, Fanshawe College, local bars and even places of employment. London is also a destination city for girls and women being trafficked across Canada.

LAWC recognizes prostitution as male violence against women; incompatible with women's equality and human rights; and gendered and racist with women and girls as the overwhelming majority of those who are prostituted and trafficked. It is estimated that 50 percent of sexually exploited girls and 51 percent of trafficked women in Canada are Indigenous (Canadian Women's Foundation 2014: 32.

Retrieved from

<http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/NO%20MORE.%20Task%20Force%20Report.pdf>). This is alarming particularly given Indigenous Peoples comprise only 4.9 percent of Canada's population (Statistics Canada 2017. Aboriginal peoples in Canada: Key results from the 2016 Census . Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/171025/dq171025a-eng.htm>). Almost all sex purchasers and most pimps are men.

Evidence shows the inextricable link between prostitution and trafficking. It is the demand for prostitution that fuels sex trafficking. Further, according to the Palermo Protocol, to which Canada is a signatory, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Aspects of the Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children stated in 2006 "prostitution as actually practiced in the world usually does satisfy the elements of trafficking" (Waltman 2014: 515 fn. 321. Assessing Evidence, Arguments, and Inequality in Bedford v. Canada. Harvard Journal of Law & Gender. 37. Retrieved from https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2091216).

The best approach to reduce and eventually end sex trafficking is to continue to decriminalize exploited persons while criminalizing pimps, brothel owners and sex purchasers. It is inconsistent with the committee's goal to end sex trafficking by decriminalizing traffickers which is exactly what pimps and brothel owners are. Further, prostitution operates on the economics of supply and demand, one of the most fundamental concepts of economics. Decriminalizing sex purchasers (the demand for sexual services) will result in increased trafficking and exploitation of women and girls on the market (the supply) to meet the increased demand. This is basic economics.

The Nordic Model, adopted in Canada and known as the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA), is the only legislative model of prostitution where evidence confirms decreased

trafficking and demand for sexual services. The committee and government must make a commitment to protect the groundbreaking and globally respected PCEPA.

Evidence-Based Research on Three Most Prevalent Legislative Approaches to Prostitution

In 2017, as a result of Prime Minister Trudeau's request for evidence-based research on the impact of prostitution in Canada, LAWC launched an extensive research project studying the outcomes of the three most prevalent legislative approaches to prostitution: The Nordic Model (also referred to as The Equality Model); decriminalization; and legalization. The research goal was to determine the most effective approach to women's safety and promoting women's equality and human rights.

The Nordic Model (Equality Model)

The Nordic Model decriminalizes prostituted persons while criminalizing sex buyers and profiteers (pimps and brothel owners); provides comprehensive support services and safety planning to both those wishing to exit and those who are not able to exit for a variety of reasons; and educates its citizens about the impact of prostitution and sexual exploitation on the lives of future generations of women and men. Developed in Sweden, it is based on three overarching philosophies: prostitution is gendered, with women and girls as the overwhelming majority of those prostituted; prostitution is a form of male violence against women; and prostitution is incompatible with women's equality and human rights. The long-term goal of The Nordic Model is to abolish prostitution by decreasing demand (Choosing the Nordic Model: Championing Women's Equality and Human Rights 2017. Retrieved from <http://lawc.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Choosing-the-NordicModel.pdf>). Contrary to statements by the pro-prostitution lobby, police in countries who have legislated The Nordic Model say there is no evidence to show that prostitution has gone underground.

The Nordic Model sees prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation as inextricably linked. The demand for prostitution fuels the growth of trafficking for sexual exploitation. This is the only approach that recognizes the right of women and girls to live free from the harms and violence inherent in prostitution and sex trafficking (Choosing the Nordic Model 2017: 25).

The Nordic Model has been successful in reducing demand for sexual services and thereby reducing trafficking. In 1996, before the sex buyer ban, the percentage of Sweden's population who reported having ever bought sexual services was 13.6 percent. In 2008, nine years after the ban, the percentage of sex buyers decreased significantly to 7.9 percent. In 2014, the percentage was reduced even further to 7.5 percent (Coy, M., Pringle, H., & Tyler, M. (2016). The Swedish Sex Purchase Law: evidence of its impact: 3-4. Retrieved from https://www.catwa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/NMIN_briefing_on_Sweden_July_16.pdf).

In addition to Canada, The Nordic Model is legislated in Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Northern Ireland, France and Ireland. The Nordic Model is advocated and supported by national and international survivor-led organizations, women's advocates, allies, police services, and communities across the country.

Decriminalization

Decriminalized prostitution eliminates all laws around the sex trade including sex buyers, pimps and brothel owners. There is no prostitution-specific legislation. Decriminalization is based on a harm minimization philosophy. New South Wales, Australia and New Zealand have adopted a hybrid decriminalized/legalized model of prostitution because it does retain some prostitution-specific legislation (Choosing the Nordic Model 2017: 26).

New Zealand's Prostitution Reform Act (PRA) is the model supported by the pro-prostitution lobby in Canada. In 2003 New Zealand's government of the day voted by a majority of one vote to decriminalize pimping, brothel owning and sex purchasing.

Territorial authorities can regulate the location of brothels and restrict prostitution advertising. Contrary to The Nordic Model, which decriminalizes prostituted and sexually exploited individuals, the PRA does criminalize prostituted individuals who fail to adopt safer sex practices while imposing no law on sex buyers who demand and pay more for unsafe sex practices (Choosing the Nordic Model 2017: 26).

The PRA allows for both large, full-scale brothels known as "entertainment facilities" along with small owner-operated brothels (SOOBS) where four or fewer women can provide sexual services from their home. The operators of large brothels must be licensed and the locations are restricted to commercial or industrial-zoned land. However, there are no regulations on the location of SOOBS. SOOBS are located in apartments and homes in residential neighbourhoods; near primary and preschools; and close to offices, restaurants and cafes. Both women operating from SOOBS and the men attending to purchase sexual services generally arrive by car and/or taxi day and night every day of the year. Neighbours report all-day parking problems and noise in their neighbourhoods and there are complaints that given the number of men arriving and leaving daily, some SOOBS have expanded into full-scale brothels. SOOBS do not need permits and city councils, medical officers of health and other agencies usually don't know where they are located (The problem with "safety in numbers" 2017. Nordic Model Now! Retrieved from <https://nordicmodelnow.org/2017/09/07/the-problem-with-safety-in-numbers/>).

Street prostitution in New Zealand is the least regulated and contributes to increased stigma, safety concerns and prevents a wider acceptance of the sex trade.

Legalization

Similar to decriminalized prostitution, legalization is a harm minimization approach. The difference is that while decriminalized prostitution in New Zealand is partially regulated, legalized prostitution is fully regulated with laws around where and when prostitution can take place. Prostitution is considered a job with the same rights as any job. Legalized prostitution is legislated in Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and Victoria, Australia.

Brothels are licensed and areas of legalized street prostitution are zoned as prostitution districts (red light districts) and prostituted women are intended to register as brothel employees. The rationale for this is that "legalization would break the links between prostitution and organized crime, and that levels of violence against women in prostitution would decrease as women would be working in 'controlled' environments" (Bindel & Kelly 2003: 12. A critical examination of responses to prostitution in four countries: Victoria, Australia; Ireland; the Netherlands; and Sweden. Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit, London Metropolitan University. Retrieved from http://nordicbaltic-assistwomen.net/IMG/pdf/Study_in_4_countries_Kelly_Bindel.pdf). The assumption is that because prostitution is no longer an illegal activity, prostituted women would be more likely to report violence and the protection of pimps will no longer be required (Bindel & Kelly 2003: 13).

It is worth noting that of the 400,000 to 1,000,000 prostituted persons in Germany, only 44 have registered as employees and therefore almost all prostituted persons in Germany do not receive social security or pay taxes (Bien-Aime 2015. Germany wins the title of 'Bordello of Europe': Why doesn't Angela Merkel care? The World Post. Retrieved from <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/taina->

[bienaime/germany-wins-the-title-of_b_7446636.html](http://www.bienaime/germany-wins-the-title-of_b_7446636.html)). Prostituted women do not register as brothel employees because of the stigma and because such a high proportion of prostituted women in Germany are trafficked and under the control of pimps rendering any independence moot (Choosing the Nordic Model 2017: 63).

In 2014, 3,500 brothels and mega-brothels in Germany were registered and could accommodate up to 1,000 sex-buyers at one time (Kraus 2016. The German model is producing hell on earth! Retrieved from http://www.trauma-andprostitution.eu/en/2016/11/02/the-german-model-is-producing-hell-on-earth/#_edn12). There is a huge increase in the demand to buy sexual services from women and girls under the legalization model. Eighty percent of German men have visited brothels, 1.2 million purchase sexual services from women and girls daily and 18 percent purchase sexual services from women and girls regularly (Kraus 2016). Many brothels provide sex purchasers with a “flat rate” where they pay one rate and can purchase sexual services from multiple women or insist on sexual services from one woman repeatedly.

Outcomes

The evidence-based key findings of the three prevalent legislated models of prostitution from LAWC’s research are outlined in the chart below. The evidence is clear in demonstrating The Nordic Model is the only model to significantly enhance women’s safety, equality and women’s human rights; and to decrease trafficking and child sexual exploitation, and the involvement of organized crime. Further, it is the only model that educates future generations about the value of girls and women and women’s equality rights.

FINDINGS	NORDIC MODEL	DECriminalIZATION	LEGALIZATION
Demand for Prostitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant reduction in demand for prostitution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased demand for prostitution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest increase of three approaches in demand for prostitution
Number of Women and Girls Prostituted or Sexually Exploited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased number of women and girls sexually exploited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger number of women and girls sexually exploited than Nordic Model • Increase in underage child sexual exploitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher numbers of women and girls sexually exploited in prostitution • Significant increase in underage child sexual exploitation
Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small number of women and girls trafficked into Sweden for sexual exploitation • Sex-trafficking is reduced and deterred under the Nordic Model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased prevalence of sex trafficking of women and girls • Widespread sex-trafficking in brothels in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia • Disproportionate number of trafficked Indigenous/Maori women/girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased prevalence of sex trafficking of women and girls • Child sexual exploitation significantly increased

Risk of Lethality

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowest risk of lethality by sex buyers • No women or girls murdered by johns in Sweden in 16-year period under Nordic Model | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher risk of lethality by sex buyers • Three women murdered by johns and fourth by a gang member in 13-year period in New Zealand | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest risk of lethality by sex buyers • 28 prostituted women murdered by johns over 15-year period in the Netherlands • 55 prostituted women murdered by johns and 29 attempted murders over 13-year period in Germany |
|--|--|--|

Violence

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant decrease in number of prostituted women and sexually exploited girls subjected to violence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher number of prostituted women and sexually exploited girls subjected to violence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly higher number of prostituted women and sexually exploited girls subjected to violence |
|--|---|---|

Organized Crime

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized crime involvement in prostitution is deterred | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized crime in prostitution is more prevalent • Substantial links of organized crime and gangs to prostitution • Organised crime involved in illegal brothels and massage parlors in New Zealand • Extensive involvement of organized crime in sex trade including criminal gangs linked with 40 brothels in New South Wales, Australia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized crime in prostitution most prevalent • Organized crime extensively involved in legal prostitution sector in the Netherlands |
|---|--|--|

Power Imbalance; Power and Control

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power and control of sex buyers, brothel owners, pimps and traffickers decreased • Decreased imbalance of power between prostituted women and sex buyers/pimps | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power and control of sex buyers, brothel owners, pimps and traffickers increased • Greater power imbalance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power and control of sex buyers, brothel owners, pimps and traffickers increased • Greater power imbalance |
|---|---|---|

Women’s Equality and Human Rights

- Overwhelming majority of prostituted women are prostituted because of constrained choice and limited options
- Harm minimization approach inconsistent with women’s equality and human rights
- Normalization of sexual inequality and commodification of women’s bodies
- Harm minimization approach is inconsistent with women’s equality and human rights
- Normalization of sexual inequality and the commodification of women’s bodies

Men’s Violence Against Women

- Recognizes prostitution as male violence
- Acknowledges prostitution is inherently violent
- Inherent violence in prostitution is normalized
- Harms in prostitution are characterized as workplace health and safety issues
- Three percent of prostituted women report being raped by a john/sex buyer over a 12 month period; 35.3 percent reported no choice but to have sex with a john/sex buyer when they wanted to say no
- Inherent violence in prostitution is normalized
- Safety and welfare of prostituted women and girls is addressed through regulation and licensing
- High level of violence in Germany: 82 percent subjected to psychological violence; 92 percent sexually assaulted
- Higher number of sexually-exploited children and significant increases in child sexual exploitation in the Netherland and Victoria, Australia
- Increased number of children subjected to violence, rape and assault by the buyers/johns

(Choosing the Nordic Model 2017: 20 -23. Retrieved from <https://www.lawc.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Choosing-the-Nordic-Model.pdf>).

The Ruse - Prostitution has always Existed, It’s the World’s Oldest Profession

During the hearings some witnesses and committee members justified and normalized prostitution because “it’s always been around.” Girls and women from the past to the present have been victims of male violence, however past governments have recognized that for the protection and safety of women and girls, perpetrators of violence against women should be criminalized while victims should be decriminalized. There is no justification to view prostitution as anything other than male violence against women. Normalizing male violence in prostitution as a job like all others takes women back to a

time where perpetrators of violence against women were justified in harming women because women were not considered to be “persons.” It is beyond explanation that in 2018 the “feminist, equality rights” Liberal government believes prostitution should become legalized as a job.

It is clear after listening to the committee’s deliberations that the Liberal and NDP members on the almost exclusively male committee do not comprehend the historical reason for crimes against women including prostitution. Male violence against women in all its forms occurs today as it has throughout history because women live in a patriarchal system where men hold the balance of power and women are excluded from it.

Decriminalizing prostitution perpetuates and normalizes the patriarchal systems women live in. Patriarchy has always existed and decriminalizing male violence against women including in prostitution fails to advance the struggle for women’s equality and human rights.

Normalized Sexual Violence in Decriminalized Prostitution

The committee heard from a few prostituted women stating they had made a free, autonomous choice to enter prostitution. Their view represents only a small fraction of prostituted and sexually exploited women and girls. It is not a view shared by those who are trafficked and exploited, under age, prostituting to survive, mentally ill or abusing substances, and/or Indigenous Peoples lured off their Nations with a promise of a better life. These are the women and girls the London Abused Women’s Centre and numerous Canadian agencies meet with every single day.

Governments have a responsibility to make decisions based on the best interests of all individuals and not only those with the loudest voices. You may never hear from those who are most vulnerable. They may not even know the issues directly impacting their lives are being debated. The views of the prostitution lobby do not reflect the views of the overwhelming majority whose views you aren’t hearing.

Prostitution is NOT a Job Like all others

The London Abused Women’s Centre has been providing service to prostituted, trafficked and sexually exploited women and girls for twenty years. During the last two years, LAWC provided service to 340 prostituted, trafficked and sexually exploited women and girls. Sixty-two reported being tortured by their trafficker and/or sex purchaser. Some report being trafficked into amateur pornography. Their experiences of torture include being penetrated in their vagina and anus by objects including baseball bats and hot straightening irons; branded; suffering from electric shocks including to their labia and clitoris; waterboarding; knife play; fulfilling violent rape fantasies; and gang rape. They have suffered from prolapsed anus, gonorrhoea of the eye and numerous other sexual transmitted infections.

During this same timeframe LAWC received calls from 130 families from across Canada in shock and traumatized because their daughters have been lured into the illegal and highly dangerous world of trafficking. Some have flown across the country to meet with staff members. They worry their children will be murdered and/or so traumatized they will never return home.

The experiences shared with front-line service providers, police and health care practitioners are so heinous that vicarious trauma counselling is necessary. Some are not able to remain employed in their professional fields.

Total Number of Individuals Served in Choices Program – July 2015 to March 2018: 1,437

Prostituted women/girls receiving individual counselling and outreach services - 340 (291 identify as sex trafficked) (3,893.5 hours of service)
Prostituted men/boys receiving individual counselling and outreach services - 1 (Unknown if sex trafficked) (4 hours of service)
Prostituted women/girls and/or at-risk women/girls attending Choices Groups - 169 (1,280 hours of service)
Transgender boys at risk of being prostituted attending Choices/Tripod Groups - 1 (8 hours service)
Families of prostituted women/girls provided with counselling, support and advocacy - 130 (343 hours of service)
At-risk women/youth provided with information through community outreach - 796 (47.5 hours of service)

Total Service Hours: 5,576 hours

During a three-month search on Backpage.com before it was shut down, 355 advertisements in Canada included providing the following sexual services: bareback blow job (BBBJ), cum on face (COF), cum in mouth (CIM) and Greek (anal sex). In addition, the chart below outlines regularly advertised sexual services which are not only degrading and humiliating for women, but in many cases involve unprotected sexual services placing the lives of women and girls at risk. The women and girls accessing service at LAWC do not consider prostitution to be job. There is no job in the world where women would have to accept sexualized torture as a condition of employment.

<p>ANALINUS licking anus</p> <p>ASIAN COWGIRL girl on top, squatting</p> <p>ATM ass to mouth</p> <p>BAREBACK without condom</p> <p>BBBJ bare back blow job, oral sex without condom</p> <p>BBBJTCIM bare back blow job to completion in mouth</p> <p>BBBJTCWS bare back blow job to completion with swallow</p> <p>BBBJWF bare back blow job with facial</p> <p>BBFS bare back sex</p> <p>BDSM bondage, discipline, sado-masochism.</p> <p>BLS ball licking and sucking</p>	<p>CIM cum in mouth</p> <p>CIP cum in pussy</p> <p>CIB cum in butt (anal)</p> <p>COF cum on face</p> <p>DDP double digit penetration, vagina and anus</p> <p>DOUBLES A threesome with two girls and you</p> <p>DT deep throat</p> <p>FACIAL cumming on face</p> <p>FIV finger in vagina</p> <p>FOB fresh off the boat. Asian immigrant recently arrived in the US.</p> <p>GREEK anal sex, back door</p> <p>GS golden shower - urination play</p> <p>MP multiple pops - multiple releases</p>	<p>MSOG multiple shots on goal - multiple releases</p> <p>OWO oral without condom</p> <p>OWOTC oral without condom to completion</p> <p>PIV penis in vagina</p> <p>PSE Porn Star Experience (like being in a porn movie)</p> <p>RIMMING anilingus</p> <p>ROMAN SHOWER vomit play</p> <p>SOMF sat on my face</p> <p>SPANISH ATM - ass to mouth</p> <p>TEABAG man squats and dips balls in mouth</p> <p>TOSSING SALAD anilingus</p> <p>TUMA tongue up my ass</p>
--	---	--

(Collection of Codes from Online Advertisements)

Occupational Health and Safety Implications of Decriminalized Prostitution

The pro-prostitution lobby wants to see prostitution recognized as a job where prostitution would be included in labour and occupational health and safety legislation. This is a ruse.

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) outlines routine practices for all professions in which employees may become exposed to infectious diseases through contact with blood and body fluids. As is evident by the above noted sexual services advertised by women and pimps,

prostituted and trafficked women are exposed to urine, feces, vomit, ejaculate and blood. As such, all women providing services would have to abide by the routine practices outlined by the CCOHS.

The CCOHS outlines five major components to routine practices. They are “risk assessment, hand hygiene, protective equipment, environments and administrative controls” (Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. Routine Practices 2018. Retrieved from <http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/prevention/universa.html>).

For the purpose of this brief, we are focusing specifically on the component of personal protective equipment (PPE) which outlines the following equipment required when any profession is dealing with blood and bodily fluids:

PPE includes gloves, gowns, lab coats, shoe covers, goggles, glasses with side shields, masks, and resuscitation bags. PPE is particularly needed when disease transmission may occur through touching, spraying, aerosolization, or splashing of blood, bodily fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, body tissues, and contaminated equipment and surfaces. PPE can help create a barrier between the exposed worker and the source of microorganisms. (CCOHS 2018)

Prostitution is inherently dangerous because of the physical, psychological, emotional dangers, and because women and girls are exposed to bodily fluids as an everyday part of what men expect them to do. There is no job in the world where it would be the standard that employees face sexual assault, trauma, assault, near death choking and who work so closely with bodily fluids and blood without protection. Yet, this is the standard expectation of women and girls who are sexually exploited.

Decriminalized Prostitution will Increase Sex Tourism in Canadian Border Communities

Aside from some parts of Nevada, the United States’ legislative model of prostitution is full criminalization. The means that women in prostitution, sex purchasers, pimps and brothel owners are all illegal.

“The Canada/US border is the longest international border in the world at 5,525 miles” or 8,892 kilometers (USA-Canada Border Crossings 2018. Retrieved from <http://www.canadaduentrylaw.com/border-crossings.php>). Crossing into Canada is not an onerous process. In fact, Canadians and Americans are crossing the border routinely, even for short periods of time.

Decriminalized prostitution would allow brothels to open in every border-crossing community where American men could freely, and without concern for criminalization, cross into Canada for the sole purpose of sex purchasing. Canadian women and girls, and in particular Indigenous women and girls, would become commodities for American men to sexually violate.

This is already evident by the actions of Nevada’s Bunny Ranch owner Dennis Hoff who stated in 2013 during the Supreme Court of Canada hearing re Bedford that he was “keen to expand his brothel business into Canada” (Blanchfield 2013. Prostitution Laws Canada: Bunny Ranch Founder Dennis Hof Ready To Expand To Canada. Huffington Post. Retrieved from https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/06/12/prostitution-laws-canada-bunny-ranch_n_3423523.html).

It is highly unlikely that voters will support a decision to decriminalize prostitution once they become aware that it means legalizing pimps, brothels and sex purchasing across the country. Voters will not

tolerate brothels at entry points into Canada or in their neighbourhoods. They will not support legalized pimping. Decriminalizing prostitution in Canada will be the single most regressive and unsupported act the Liberal Government of Canada can do.

The PCEPA Supports Police/Exploited Persons Relationships and Provides Police With Valuable Tool

“The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act is a valuable tool that enables police to protect our communities and a vulnerable population of women and girls. Illegal sex purchasing is more sophisticated and organized. Predators operate online, in hotels and motels and frequently move women and girls across jurisdictions. On any given day there are anywhere from 30 to 200 online advertisements in London. The legislation allows police to assist victims and focus on men who prey on and exploit women and girls.” (London Police Chief John Pare. Personal communication. 2018)

London Police Service has been working with prostituted and at-risk individuals since 2005 and has forged trusting relationships. Since the prostitution legislation was passed in 2014, no prostituted persons have been charged.

The following information regarding London Police Service programs and units addressing the needs of prostituted and trafficked persons are provided by Detective David Ellyatt MMM, CD, London Police Service Human Trafficking Unit, Criminal Investigation Division:

Persons at Risk Program (PAR)

London Police Service Uniformed Division initiated its Persons at Risk Program (PAR) in 2005 in response to community complaints of street level persons in the sex trade and events that had occurred in Vancouver and Edmonton. The PAR program identifies and tracks street level persons in the sex trade with the goal of assisting them to exit this high-risk lifestyle. London Police Service continues to build relationships based on trust in order to provide assistance when required.

The PAR coordinator (a London Police Service Sergeant) advocates on behalf of street level persons in the sex trade and assists to get them connected to the help they need. This includes mental health, medical care, addiction treatment, counselling, housing and criminal matters. At present the PAR program has 134 street level persons in the sex trade whom PAR is in contact with.

Criminal Investigations - Human Trafficking (HT) Unit

The London Police Service created the Human Trafficking Unit in late 2016 to focus on this crime that generally targets vulnerable young girls and women, although there are male victims as well. The victims are often held hostage and forced into the sex trade. The HT Unit consists of one Detective and two Detective Constables.

During the 2017 year, London Police Service HT Unit identified 85 suspected traffickers, received complaints from victims resulting in 16 charges laid, identified and connected with 115 victims of HT, contacted 180 prostituted individuals including “independents,” investigated 184 human trafficking occurrences, made 82 arrests relating to HT, laid 254 criminal charges related to HT, worked with 26 police enforcement services, laid 61 advertising related charges under s 285.4, and charged 77 sex purchasers.

When women are decriminalized and pimps, brothels and sex purchasers are criminalized, it gives women power knowing they can report to police without fear of police reprisal. The work being done by

London Police Services in building relationships and working collaboratively with its community partners speaks to the success of this approach under Canada's prostitution legislation.

Conclusion

The evidence is clear: Canada's current legislation on prostitution, which closely resembles The Nordic Model, is the only model which identifies that prostitution is gendered, with women and girls as the overwhelming majority of those prostituted; prostitution is a form of male violence against women; and prostitution is incompatible with women's equality and human rights. Accordingly, and based on those philosophies, The Nordic Model legislation decriminalizes prostituted individuals while criminalizing pimps, brothel owners and sex purchasers; provides comprehensive support services and safety planning to both those wishing to exit and those who are not able to exit for a variety of reasons; and educates its citizens about the impact of prostitution and sexual exploitation on the lives of future generations of women and men.

The Nordic Model is the only model with evidence-based research to demonstrate a significant enhancement to women's safety, equality and women's human rights; and an equally significant decrease to trafficking and child sexual exploitation, and the involvement of organized crime. Further, it is the only model that educates future generations about the value of girls and women and women's equality rights. In 16 years, under the Nordic Model legislation in Sweden, not one woman or girl has been murdered by a sex purchaser or organized crime. This compares with three women murdered by sex purchasers and one by a gang member in a 13-year period under decriminalized prostitution in New Zealand; and 55 women murdered by sex purchasers with 29 attempted murders of women over a 13-year period under legalized prostitution in Germany. To repeat, there has not been one single murder by a sex purchaser in Sweden. This fact in itself should convince the committee to protect the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act in Canada.