Do YOU want this job?

Is prostitution an occupational alternative for women? An answer to low-paying, low-skilled, boring, dead-end jobs? A solution to the high unemployment rate of poor women? A form of sexual liberation? A career that women freely choose?

Help Wanted: Women and Girls

Are you tired of mindless, low-skilled, low-paying jobs? Would you like a career with flexible hours? Working with people? Offering a professional service?

- No experience required. No high school diploma needed. No minimum age requirement.
- On-the-job training provided.
- Special opportunities for poor women - single mothers - women of color.

Women and girls applying for this position will provide the following services:
- Being penetrated orally, anally, and vaginally with penises, fingers, fists, and objects, including, but not limited to, bottles, brushes, dildoes, guns and/or animals;
- Being bound and gagged, tied with ropes and/or chains, burned with cigarettes, or hung from beams or trees;
- Being photographed or filmed performing these acts.

Workplace: Job-related activities will be performed in the following locations: in an apartment, hotel, "massage parlor", car, doorway, hallway, street, executive suite, fraternity house, convention, bar, public toilet, public park, alleyway, military base, on a stage, on a bar, in a glass booth.

Wages: Wages will be negotiated at each and every transaction. Payment will be delivered when client determines when and if services have been rendered to his satisfaction. Corporate management fees range from 40-60% of wages; private manager reserves the right to impound all monies earned.

Benefits: Benefits will be provided at the discretion of management.

NO RESPONSIBILITY OR LEGAL REDRESS FOR THE FOLLOWING ON-THE-JOB HAZARDS:
- Nonpayment for services rendered;
- Sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy;
- Injuries sustained through performance of services including but not limited to cuts, bruises, lacerations, internal hemorrhaging, broken bones, suffocation, mutilation, disfigurement, dismemberment, and death.

Note: Accusations of rape will be treated as a breach of contract by employee.

Name of applicant: ____________________________________________

Signature of manager on behalf of applicant: ____________________________

© Authored by Eveline Giobbe of WHISPER- Women Hurt In Systems of Prostitution Engaged in Revolt P.O. Box 65796 St. Paul, MN 55165
What happens when prostitution becomes work? Australia’s experience of legalized prostitution

Mary Sullivan from the Department of Political Science at University of Melbourne related the effects of two decades of legalization of prostitution in the state of Victoria, Australia to an audience gathered at the University of San Francisco School of Law in mid-April 2004. A summary of her remarks follows.

“The decision to legalize prostitution in order that the State could ‘clean it up and control it’ has proven false, as seen 20 years later in Victoria, Australia,” said Mary Sullivan.

In 1984 Victoria legalized brothel prostitution. The original thinking of the Attorney General was that prostitution would be considered part of the service industry. Prostitutes would be subject to regulation and required to pay taxes on what they earned.

In 1994 the Legislature passed the Prostitution Control Act by which brothels had to be licensed, could not be located near schools, hospitals, churches, nor in residential areas. Escort services were allowed, but street prostitution was not. Prostitutes had to register and be regularly tested for HIV. The plan behind legalization was to slow expansion of the sex industry, eliminate dangers from organized crime, decrease the health risks, and increase protection of women from exploitation and violence.

Although the intent was to minimize harm, the fact remains that men’s needs drove the “business.” In 1994 there were 40 brothels with 4,000 women working in them. In 2004 there are over 100 brothels with 3-4,000 registered sex workers. The Attorney General began to refer to the sex trade as a profitable, professional business.

However, today there are four to five times the number of underground, illegal brothels. Many of these provide foreign prostitutes, likely victims of the global trade in human trafficking, who are not regulated nor protected.

Although women do own seven percent of brothels, men still control most of what is done within the premises. When women’s bodies are “sold” 50-60% of the money passes to a male manager.

The culture now considers this service just another “product” on the market. Tourist centers now connect casinos with brothels, so visitors can trade in casino chips for brothel visits. There is evidence that clients demand more for their money. Men seek to have sex with foreign women, pregnant women, nursing women, or adolescent girls. Other prostitution-like activities have also flourished, such as tabletop dancing, sadomasochistic clubs, peep shows and shower dancing with six to seven men to every woman. None of these are regulated.

This “personal service industry” is expanding faster than the Australian economy, with Victoria’s legal sex industry worth $A 360 million. Today 60,000 clients visit brothels, paying out more than $A 7 million per week. Victoria has a total population of 4 million people.

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Politicians Propose Taxing Vices to Avoid Tax Hikes

The Texas Legislature may use new methods to fund public education if Gov. Rick Perry (R) can convince them. Perry called a special session of the Legislature in April, proposing to give wealthy homeowners large tax reductions. That needed money would come instead from increasing taxes on cigarettes, alcohol, gambling, and the price someone pays to enter a topless bar. The plan may float with a majority of Republicans in both Houses. Governor Perry calls it taxing “unhealthy behaviors.”

Other states taking the same approach include: Maryland, West Virginia, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky and Utah. Sales taxes and property taxes are being decreased, while gambling and nude or topless dancing venues are being taxed more.

Opponents of the plan say the “sintax” strategy has many flaws. These are unreliable sources of income, target lower-income people, and encourage the expansion of industries that are lucrative, even though they prey on bad behavior.

One topless dancer characterized it as immoral because it linked “adult entertainment” with children and it taxed women like herself, who lack political influence. “The governor wants to give the owners of the biggest houses a tax break and he wants women, who have to take their clothes off for money, to pay for it.” she said.

(Excerpted from: D. C. Johnston’s article “A Texas Bid to Shift School Finances to ‘Sin Taxes,” NY Times, April 21, 2004)

Australia cont. from pg. 3

industry. It owns and runs an annual Sex Industry Trade Show, held at the largest convention center in Victoria. There one may peruse the latest in brothel decors, porn videos and web sites, compare sex tourism packages, examine and purchase equipment to use during sexual activity, etc.

The rationale that regulation protects health is also a myth, since only the prostitute is tested, not her clients. Yet clients are by far the multi-risk carriers and transmitters of HIV. So the prostituted woman must be trained to protect herself. Her reasons may range from extreme financial vulnerability in a highly competitive market to acquiescence in the face of emotional bullying or physical coercion. Though “regulated,” prostitutes are often forced into unsafe sex, are often raped, or required to perform anal or masochistic sexual acts. This escalating demand for more violent sex by men is a consequence of the proliferation of Internet and video pornography, from which men learn new techniques that they then demand from sex partners.

As a result of legalized prostitution there is more trafficking of women and children and more street prostitution. Many of the women become homeless or take drugs. Eighty-six percent of the women want to get out of the industry, but the State provides no money for exit options, only for promoting “safe sex”. To legalize prostitution is to institutionalize it. The consequences ultimately affect family structure and sexualize the work environment. No matter how or where prostitution occurs, the same bad things happen to the women. There is an inherent power relationship in prostitution in which men are the winners and women the losers.

The number of people offering sexual services in Britain has increased by a staggering 50% in the past five years, according to new figures obtained from the European Parliament.

There are now as many as 80,000 women working as prostitutes in the UK, their numbers swelled by an influx of 20,000 immigrants. In London alone, an academic study found that men spend £200 million a year on sex, almost half in massage parlors and saunas. ...According to the National Crime Squad, about 600,000 people are illegally brought into the EU each year, the vast majority of them for sexual exploitation. The European Parliament will debate the issue in April. The rise in Internet use and increasingly relaxed attitudes toward sex have been cited as the main reasons behind the surge.

(Excerpted from: ‘Sex Comes Out of the City into Middle England’ David Smith, Tony Thompson and Gaby Hinsliff, The Observer April 18, 2004)
**Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter**

**Awareness**

**THE WAGES OF ‘SIN’**

The pornography industry generates $57 billion globally and $12 billion within the US. Income breaks down as follows:

- Adult videos: $20bn
- Escort services: $11bn
- Magazines: $7.5bn
- Sex clubs: $5bn
- Phone sex: $4.5bn
- Internet: $2.5bn
- Cable/pay per view: $2.5bn
- CD-Rom: $1.5bn
- Novelties: $1bn
- Other: $1.5bn

Porn revenue is larger than the combined revenues of all professional football, baseball and basketball franchises. US porn revenue exceeds the combined revenues of television networks ABC, CBS, and NBC ($6.2bn). Child pornography generates $3bn annually. In Britain 40 million soft-core magazines are sold every year, from 40,000 outlets. An MSNBC poll in February 2002 found that 84% of American men pursue sex-related activities online, as do 16% of women. Americans spent $220 million on fee-paying adult websites in 2001.

US company ComScore collects data about the pornography viewing habits of American men. They claim that more than 70% of men aged between 18 and 34 with Internet access have visited a porn site in the past month.

“There is a lack of knowledge about the link between porn, which has become normalized in every country and gets into every home, and the commercialization of women and child trafficking.” Marianne Eriksson, a Swedish MEP and author of a sex industry report for the EU’s Committee on Women’s Rights and Equal Opportunities, to be debated in Strasbourg at the European Parliament. (Excerpted from: ‘Porn To Die’ Sunday Herald 11 April 2004)

**Behind the Scenes**

“...It’s very difficult to get sex-film actors to adhere to any regulation, but most of the performers follow our rules when the rest of the industry — the producers, directors and distributors — cooperates. They are the ‘parents’ in this business, since a number of the people who act in these films are not emotionally healthy. Some are young and troubled, and their careers are short: the typical sex-film actor works in the industry for three months to three years....

Most mainstream companies don’t like to discuss their lucrative dirty secret — that they make huge profits off sex films. ... Pornography is a multibillion-dollar industry — some put the figures as high as $9 billion per year. Almost all of the national cable providers offer a pornography channel, millions of sex videos are sold each year and 50 percent of hotel guests watch pornography on pay-per-view channels.

With the explosion of the industry, the business has changed drastically. In 1975, when I started as a sex-film actor, it was more like the mainstream film business: the same agent who helped get me roles on Broadway sent me out for my first pornographic film. Back then, films had to have ‘artistic merit’ to be shown in theaters legally, so the films had plots. But ... the proliferation of video changed things. Films have become increasingly hard core because that is what sells. Rejection of condom use is purely and simply a financial issue. Filmmakers believe that viewers prefer the ‘reality’ of unprotected sex. But the reality of unprotected sex is risk of H.I.V. infection.”

(Excerpts taken from: Family News In Focus http://www.family.org/cforum/fnif/news/a0031641.cfm)

**Federal Anti-Trafficking Campaign**

The Department of Health and Human Services began a national campaign in April 2004 to identify and assist victims of the growing problem of human trafficking, a modern-day form of slavery. Many victims have been smuggled into the country and forced into prostitution or hard labor. The federal government needs the help of faith-based groups and local authorities, who may encounter victims. The pilot “Rescue and Restore” Campaign began in Philadelphia, Atlanta and Phoenix, with community awareness efforts and a toll-free hotline that connects victims to local charities that can assist them.

Phoenix was targeted because it serves as a major corridor for the state’s border population of illegal immigrants. Although 20,000 persons are trafficked into the US annually, since 2001 only 484 victims from 34 countries have been identified. The campaign targets law enforcement agencies, health care workers and faith-based groups to whom victims may come for help.

Donna Hughes, professor of Women’s Studies at the University of Rhode Island, said many victims are hiding in plain sight. “We need to be able to see them and understand the conditions of their lives in order to get assistance for them and in order to have the perpetrators arrested, prosecuted and imprisoned.”

(Anti-Discrimination Act) is being drafted by a diverse coalition of groups that includes: Equality Now, Coalition Against Trafficking of Women (CATW), Breaking Free, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Southern Baptist Convention, the Salvation Army. An action plan is being formulated to push this measure forward.
**Efforts by CMSM Members**

In February I invited Fr. Thomas Keating, President of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), to pass on to members of CMSM the same questionnaire that was circulated among LCWR members. In this way CMSM members would be able to share what they are doing in the work against human trafficking.

To-date I received five responses from representatives or members of the Jesuits, Maryknolls, Columbans, Franciscans, and Brothers of the Christian Schools. Maryknoll plans to produce a television documentary that will educate the public about trafficking. They hope to have it available in 2005 as an educational tool. A Jesuit shared that he works as an immigration attorney for Catholic Charities in Galveston-Houston and serves on a coalition of governmental and non-governmental organizations that organized a conference to bring the trafficking issue to the public forum. He also serves on a legal committee that meets bi-monthly with the US Attorney, FBI and Houston Police. A Christian Brother said they would be using the JPIC kits (see Stop Trafficking Vol. 2 No. 1, January 2004) in educational settings. The Columbans are involved in the Border Working Group along with Maryknolls, Oblates and Quaker and Methodist organizations. The Group lobbies for legislation on border issues. Some of the Franciscan communities collaborate with NGO status — Franciscans International. In the coming issue we will include the statement Franciscans International presented to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights last month. — Jean Schafer SDS

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**Advocacy**

**Trafficking in Women versus Prostitution: A false distinction**

Many international human rights and UN groups separate trafficking in women from prostitution on the grounds that prostitution is an ordinary work and trafficking is only a problem if the women are obviously and severely forced into this ordinary work. This is a false distinction as seen from the consequences to women in venues where there is legalized prostitution. The following is a short excerpt from the keynote address by Sheila Jeffreys presented to the Townsville International Women’s Conference “Poverty, Violence and Women’s Rights: Setting a Global Agenda” July 2002.

“The traffic in women for prostitution internationally is now an extremely profitable trade, only second to drugs and arms. It is the basis of a burgeoning international sex industry. ... It supplies the growth of the sex industry in western countries in which it is hard for the pimps to find enough women who are sufficiently vulnerable to staff the brothels and seek women from elsewhere. Thus in Amsterdam and London, trafficked women are now said to form 70% or more of the prostituted women in this abusive industry. The Eros Foundation, lobby group of the Australian sex industry, has called for ‘brothel exchanges’ with Asia. Would this count as trafficking?

The cause of the traffic in women into prostitution is the demand by the pimps and users for more, and particularly vulnerable women, who do not speak the language, who will be prepared to allow penetration without condoms because they have no choice, who will not answer back and who will work, under debt bondage, for no reward. It makes little sense to promote prostitution as just a job like any other, to celebrate and develop international systems of prostitution through the growth of the porn industry, legalization of strip joints and brothels, tolerance zones in which men can legally abuse street prostituted women (suggested for St Kilda in Melbourne), peep shows, escort agencies, stag nights, whilst seeking to combat ‘forced’ prostitution. The development of the sex industry creates the demand for trafficking and it will grow commensurately. This was recognized by the feminists who worked through the League of Nations and created the 1949 Convention against the Trafficking in Persons and Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. The Convention penalized brothel keepers and procurers. Trafficked women are most usually trafficked to countries with established off street prostitution industries and stored in the brothels. Concern only with ‘forced’ trafficking makes even less sense in the context of a pro-sex work lobby, which seeks constantly to expand the boundaries of what is consensual and legitimate prostitution. Where are the boundaries to be drawn?

Those who genuinely seek to end trafficking in women for prostitution need to work out how to decrease and eventually bring to an end men’s abuse of women in prostitution. Men’s prostitution abuse needs to be understood as a form of violence against women and penalized, as is now the case in Sweden where the buying of sexual services is illegal. This means that men will have to give up their ‘rights’ to be sexually serviced by women, who must dissociate to survive. Societies will need to envision what life could be like for women and girls, and how relations between men and women might be in a world beyond prostitution.”

“For the full text, visit the Australian Domestic Violence Clearing House web site.”

Sheila Jeffreys

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“Trafficking in women for prostitution cannot be challenged effectively if international systems of prostitution are allowed to grow.” Sheila Jeffreys

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Logo of the Townsville Conference
Government Intensifies Anti-Porn Campaign

Until recently most of the resources of the Anti-obscenity Division in the Department of Justice were used almost exclusively against child pornography. Meanwhile, another $10 billion-a-year adult market flourished.

But as adult porn becomes increasingly lawless, the DOJ’s anti-obscenity division intends to prosecute those producing and distributing obscene material.

This will be a daunting task, since porn on the Internet is at record levels. Websense, an Internet software management company, has more than 1.6 million adult web pages on its database, 18 times more than in 2000. Nielsen/Net Ratings studies indicate one in four internet surfers in the US (34 million people) visits adult web sites.

More than 11,000 adult films are released and 800 million DVDs and videos of adult movies are rented each year, according to the trade association, Adult Video News.

In 1973 the Supreme Court ruled that for material to be considered obscene, an average person applying ‘contemporary standards’ must find it offensive and without artistic value. Obscenity laws remained unchanged since then.

The campaign drew criticism from free-speech advocates, the American Civil Liberties Union, and those involved in the adult entertainment industry.

They accuse the government of censorship, of interfering with adults’ right to choose what they want to watch for recreation.

The policing of the adult entertainment industry follows a lowered tolerance by government towards other areas of the media. The House of Representatives approved tougher penalties for indecency on the airwaves, warning broadcasters not to lower broadcasting standards.

After recent television and radio incidences many persons voiced objections to the Federal Complaints Commission.

The investigation will look into all aspects of the adult entertainment industry, including the cable TV companies and big hotel chains providing movies on a pay-per-view basis.

A lawyer representing some in the industry predicts not much will come of the investigation, since some major Republican Party contributors own the hotels or the facilities that broadcast adult material.

A CBS News investigation into America’s porn industry last November claimed that 50 per cent of guests at the Hilton, Marriott, Hyatt, Shera ton and Holiday Inn hotel chains purchased adult movies, contributing to 70 per cent of in-room profits.

Comcast, one of the largest cable-TV providers in the US, says it made $50 million from adult programs last year, and profits for the satellite TV companies such as DirecTV are estimated to be much higher.

Jan La Rue, senior legal counsel for the Concerned Women for America group, welcomed Taylor’s reappointment. ‘This is a step in the right direction,’ she said.

‘Until the DOJ vigorously and consistently targets the major hardcore porn producers and distributors of prosecutable but less deviant material, the industry will continue to make billions exploiting women, addicting men, exposing children, destroying marriages and polluting the culture while laughing all the way to the bank.’

(Excerpted from an article by Richard Luscombe in The Observer, April 11, 2004)
Bishop Endorses Immigration-Reform Bill

Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, and Representatives Robert Menendez of New Jersey and Luis Gutierrez of Illinois, all Democrats, introduced legislation that would help establish ways for migrants to legally come to join family members and work in the United States with safety and dignity.

The legislation is intended to protect the rights of U.S. and foreign workers; promote family unity; and grant migrant workers and their families in the United States the opportunity to become permanent residents or U.S. citizens.

It is referred to as the Safe, Orderly, Legal Visas Enhancement (SOLVE) Act of 2004.

Coadjutor Bishop Thomas Wenski of Orlando, the chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Migration Committee, said the bishops support this legislation.

He recounted that bishops are concerned about the exploitation, abuse, and discard affecting migrant workers. What is most disturbing are the deaths of men, women and children in remote areas of the southwest of the U.S. and Central America, as these people try to gain access to jobs and join their family members here.


Bishop Wenski pointed out that the SOLVE Act meets all the criteria spelled out in the bishops’ pastoral letter. He hopes the legislation will correct the inadequate immigration system that does not meet the migration movements of the 21st century, but rather undermines basic human rights and human dignity.

(Source: ZE04050423 © ZENIT - International News Agency)

Loss of Innocence

One may see an update on Srey Mom and Srey Neth, the two teenage prostitutes that Nicolas D. Kristof rescued from a Cambodian brothel. Freeing Sex Slaves is a visual sequel to the NY Times story, Loss of Innocence. It describes Srey Mom’s reunion with her family and Srey Neth’s small grocery. It shows how sex trafficking maims its victims’ spirits, as well as their bodies.

Informative Web Sites:
(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

Coalition Against Trafficking of Women Australia CATW

Australian Domestic Violence Clearing House

Prostitution Research & Education
http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/

Prostitution, Trafficking and Traumatic Stress

María Suarez
http://www.freebatteredwomen.org/suareztestimony.htm

Franciscans International
http://www.franciscansinternational.org

Border Working Group
(Religious Task Force on C. Amer. & Mexico)
http://www.rrtfcam.org(border/border.htm

Freeing Sex Slaves
Nicholas D. Kristof
http://query.nytimes.com/search/query?srcht=s&srchst=m&vendor=&query=%22Nicholas+D.+Kristof%22

Stop Trafficking!
is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of Stop Trafficking!

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please use this e-mail address:
sjeansds2000@yahoo.com

Editing and Layout: Jean Schafer, SDS

New Toll-Free Hotline:
(Trafficking Information and Referral) 1-888-3737-888

Important Web-Site:
Office of Refugee Resettlement
www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking