**SHOULD SOUTH AFRICA DECRIMINALISE ADULT PROSTITUTION?**

Crystal Clear Ministries International are called to Evangelising Nations, to Restore & strengthen the Natural family, Defend Religious freedom and rights for Christians, advance Biblical values and to stand against destructive influences on the family and general society. These include standing against Christian persecution, woman & child abuse, pornography and prostitution.

CCMI believe Adult prostitution should remain criminalised. There are too many facts and factors that cannot be ignored. The impact personally, physically, mentally, emotionally and psychologically for the prostitute, and their children, for those with children, as well as the country are realities that must be faced and dealt with. We do not believe decriminalisation is the answer. We also believe partial decriminalisation, (Nordic Model) does not have enough proven positive results for the prostitute nor for the country, and that it is like putting a plaster on a sore. It covers it without bringing real healing.

We believe supporting decriminalisation is saying, that the life of the prostitute is worth less than mine, and while I want my children to grow up with hope and a lifestyle without abuse, I am not concerned about theirs. It is saying, if our country’s crime further escalates and the rate of abuse, drugs and homicide (specially in prostitution) becomes out of control, we will be okay with that. And we are not okay with that.

 **We will share our comments in the following bullet points:**

* Law

Law that relates to crime is perceived as threatening, harmful, or otherwise endangering to the property, health, safety, and moral welfare of people.

Laws relating to crime, and the links to prostitution.

Research, policing & crimes.

Sentencing of crimes

* Rape Culture & violence

South Africa have one of the highest rape cultures in the world.

International study on rape in prostitution in South Africa, Thailand, Zambia, USA and Turkey.

* Human Rights

The use while disregarding the rights of others.

* Criminal records expunged

A criminal act equals a criminal record the bigger picture

Not all doom and gloom a real-life story.

* Prostitution & labour law

Not found unconstitutional and the fight behind it.

* Study of 5 countries and the real needs of prostitutes.

Practical things that can be done without decimalisation.

* Other countries & prostitution

Things aren’t as rosy as it seems…

* The seamless connections can’t be denied, only ignored.

Trafficking and prostitution ring exposed

* Hear it from the horse’s mouth

Honest feedback from Grizelda Grootboom, a South African who exited the life as a prostitute.

Real story from Polly in London after spending 11 months as a prostitute.

Real story from Annie Lobert, 16 years in prostitution.

**OUR SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

* Find and start companies & campaigns to help those in prostitution to exit the lifestyle.

Local & International examples

**CCMI SUPPORTS FULL CRIMINALISATION:**

**LAW:**

 It prescribes conduct perceived as threatening, harmful, or otherwise endangering to the property, health, safety, and moral welfare of people.

We don’t believe prostitution is really a free choice but rather a **choice forced by** **circumstances**. Prostitutes should be given a chance to choose again instead of leaving them in a lifestyle where **breaking the law is part of partial with their lifestyle**.

The **South African Police force is unable** to completely fight this crime as it is. We should rather **spend more money on resources and training to identify prostitutes in distress** and humantrafficked woman, how to deal with them and where to refer/take them for help and places of safety. **Even partial decriminalising** prostitution will still leave the force with the so-called johns.

**Maxwell (2000)** and other researchers have found substantial evidence that there is strong – **co-occurrence** between prostitution, drug use, drug selling, and involvement in non-drug crimes, particularly property crime. **Prostitution and related crimes** therefor adds to the already **strained police force**.

**Despite the romantic notion entertained in some quarters that all will be well with the work of prostitution if only the criminal law is removed, the practical truth, it seems, is that it will not. All the opportunities for other related crimes, abuse and exploitation remains.**

Writing into law a **similar and fair sentence** on convicting the prostitute and the buyer is of utmost importance.

Full criminalisation, with **diversion programmes** to exit the lifestyle is the solution.

**RAPE CULTURE & VIOLENCE:**

South Africa has one of the highest rape cultures in the world, and **decriminalising** adult prostitution will the **open the door for more abuse**. A study on Prostitution in **Five Countries:** (South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, USA, Zambia) 62 percent reported having been raped since entering prostitution, 68 percent pf women, men & transgendered people in prostitution had post-traumatic stress disorder. (PTSD).

**One woman said, 'Only my head belongs to me now. I've left my body on the street'** **(Hoggard and** **Finstad, 1992**). Also described **long-term changes** in trauma survivors' emotional regulation, changes in consciousness, changes in self-perception, changes in perception of perpetrator(s), changes in **relations** with others,

Some go through experiences that may result "**in lasting** **feelings** of worthlessness, shame, and self-hatred. The lack of a healthy relationship can lead to higher divorce rates and can influence unhealthy relationship to their children, influencing their future relationships.

Prostitution is degrading to women; it is conducive to violent abuse of prostitutes both by customers and pimps; it **is associated with and encourages** international trafficking in women,

**Johns believe** a prostitute a do not have the right to say no, and most of themrefuse condoms.

* Legal Amsterdam brothels have up to 3 panic buttons in every room. Woman who prostitute have described it as “paid rape” and “voluntary slavery.”
* the burden is on the victim of violence to prove that they were experiencing harm or that the exploitation increased.

**HUMAN RIGHTS:**

We believe human rights are being used through **tainted glasses**. **Those who say** prostitution is their human right, want to **simultaneously take away the human right from others.** Nobody sells a product unless there is a market. **Supply & demand** goes hand in hand. **How can the law allow** a person to sell a product without being prosecuted, but the same law must prosecute someone for buying the product?

Those for decriminalisation gets very irritated when the link between **prostitution and human** trafficking arise. They make it clear they prostitute by choice and that is their right and are not trafficked. Ignoring the link between prostitution, human trafficking **and even** child prostitution for the sake of human rights, will be a **high price** to pay.

**Prostitution has been condemned Internationally as a single form of human rights abuse and an attack on the dignity and worth of human beings,**

When interviewed, many prostitutes when asked if they think **legalizing prostitution** will decrease the violence in prostitution the response was no. We believe the result will be the **same with decriminalisation**.

Decriminalisation of prostitution will have **everyone fight to have laws change** to the **detriment** of our country, our safety and the next generation under human rights.

**CRIMINAL RECORDS:**

 Prostitutes want their records expunged, reasoning this is standing in the way of finding **better employment** and wanting to reintegrate back into society. In a **study across 5** **countries**, the USA and South Africa, were all currently in prostitution, whereas a higher proportion of respondents in Thailand and Zambia were actively attempting to leave prostitution and find another employment. **There is not enough proof** that the reason prostitutes want their records expunged is really for alternative employment.

How can we expunge prostitute’s criminal records and thinking all **other offenders** won’t ask for the same? This will leave us with dire consequences and even a **law-less country**. **Repeat offenders** will be sentenced and convicted as first-time offenders instead of receiving an appropriate harsher sentence.

Is it more difficult to find **employment** with a criminal record, yes sure but why should prostitutes be singled out?

 An example ofnot all doom and gloom, is an **ex offender Fannie Manganyi** who bettered himself while incarcerated and who explained how the ABET training got him to move from and offender to an ABET facilitator in a mining company.

**PROSTITUTION & LABOUR LAW:**

Those for decriminalisation, wants changes to the labour law. **The Minister of Justice** confirmed as a human right we all have protection under the labour law when in employment, **however even if prostitution is decriminalised**, the prostitute will only be covered by this law if she is **employed by a brothel or pimp** but not when she is working independently. The Minister said that it has been checked as not being unconstitutional. To which the **argument arises** from prostitutes that it is against allowing them to become an **entrepreneur….**

Those for decriminalisation also fight under the labour law for **safer brothels**, by which they admit the danger of the industry. Yet, even in countries where prostitution is legal, some of the **brothels** still have at least 3 panic buttons in the room.

Also at the **critical thinking forum**, those for decriminalising prostitution, literally verbally attacked **Grizelda Grootboom** on her comments and her view about the realities of prostitution and the links with human trafficking. **This clearly indicates no desire to change or to exit the lifestyle, but only to change the law to their favour.**

**REAL NEEDS:**

In this study, many when **asked** what do they need, said a home, a safe place to stay, a job, training, drug/alcohol treatment, health care, peer support, personal counselling, self-defence, legal assistance, and physical protection from pimps. Also, many prostitutes that was interviewed openly said they just **didn’t enjoy** the other jobs they had, yet still admit prostitution is not their first choice.

Simply put the road to prostitution and life within “the life” is **rarely marked by empowerment** or adequate options. Full criminalisation, with **diversion** programmes and projects that would give prostitutes access to income-generating alternatives is the only option.

**We believe the only solution to problems created by the prostitution industry is to end it!**

**STUDY OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND PROSTITUTION:**

A study in 2017 states that there is lots of evidence about the **negative consequences** of legal and/or decriminalised prostitution**. New Zealand** seems to be the go to for those who want prostitution decimalised, yet they never quote the **Law review** committee (2008) about what happened after prostitution was decimalised in New Zealand. **Seven years after** the law was passed, battles are still being waged. No one wants prostitution next door and prostitution is zoned into the neighbourhoods of people who cannot afford the legal fees to prevent it. This further manifest the **social/psychological stigma** that they tried to avoid.

After decriminalisation in NZ, **violence and sexual abuse** in prostitution continued as before, and most **still mistrust the police** and **never report** violence or crimes against them. **Trafficking** in children has increased in New Zealand since decimalisation, especially of ethnic minority Maori children.

Auckland New Zealand **gangs** have waged turf wars over control of prostitution. Street prostitution also spiralled out of control. A 200-400% increase in street prostitution has been reported. Staff at a **New Zealand agency** providing prostitution exit strategies observed there were **twice as many johns** since decimalisation and they were also **more aggressive**.

 In **Australia,** the Australian Occupational and safety codes recommend classes in hostage negotiation skills for those in legal prostitution. Their feedback was that trafficking is most prevalent where prostitution is legal or decimalised.

In **Vancouver,** the first nations survivor of prostitution said, and I quote: “We want real jobs, not blow jobs. She is now supporting sisters to also escape.

In **Sweden,** those who exited prostitution take a positive view on criminalisation. While those who are still exploited in prostitution are critical. A decade ago, Sweden named prostitution as a form of violence against women. They have state-provided exit services and say those who exit the life themselves take a positive view on criminalisation.

The new **French** law recognizes that prostitution harms all women (in prostitution or not) by undermining their emotional and physical wellbeing, security, health and fundamental rights as human beings, harming society.

As **Amsterdam** began shutting down its legal brothels a few years ago, Mayor Job Cohen acknowledged that the Dutch had been wrong on legalised prostitution and it increased organised crime and trafficking.

**Turkey:** Brothels are still walled off multi-unit complexes.

**Nevada:** Brothels are ringed with barbed wire or electric fencing.

**SEAMLESS CONNECTIONS:**

August 2017 South Africa made more arrests in **trafficking and prostitution ring** ([www.timeslive.co.za](http://www.timeslive.co.za)) Michael de Olivera handed himself over to police and his co-accused Norman Bridger was arrested during the Hawks “Operation Madame” in Cape Town. Shantell Bridger and five others were arrested and charged with racketeering, human trafficking, extortion, car theft, robbery, fraud and money laundering. Among the accused were also those who were accused for murdering Bruno Bronn, the owner of Bronx nightclub in Sea point. Shanta was also accused of keeping the sex workers on a drug regime and using physical violence.

* 47% of US johns who responded to an online advertisement were willing **to buy a child** despite 3 warnings.

**HEAR IT FROM THE HORSE’S MOUTH:**

**Grizelda Grootboom:** A South African prostitute who exited the lifestyle, talking openly about the abuse, the rape and the trafficking. She has written a book called **“Exit**” wishing to help others to leave this lifestyle. She herself calls it “modern day” slavery and question why anyone in a free country would like to go back into slavery. Grizelda was on the panel at the critical thinking forum in Johannesburg and was sadly verbally attacked.

**Polly:** Tells her story as a former prostitute in London for 11 months. She was offered drugs but said no, wanting to get back to her studies and needed money. Then she was offered to go to clubs as a pair, and while he offers drugs, she offers blowjobs. When this was not very successful, she was taken to a brothel. She talks about the emotional roller-coaster and rejection based on outfits and how easily they are replaceable. She also spoke about how cocaine was popular in the industry. She discussed how one of her clients kept touching her vagina with his cocaine covered hands and how she overdosed. She talks about the condoms that kept breaking and how she ended up with STD’s.

She admits how prostitution affected her attitude towards relationship’s. Discussed her colleagues longer in the job and their embarrassed, ashamed and self-loathing image. She also admitted prostitutes re very popular targets for muggings.

She finished her PhD and has written a book – **“Cured Meat”.**

**Annie Lobert:** Worked for 16 years in the sex industry and call them victims of the sex trade. At the age of 18 she moved to Minneapolis, thought if she could meet a rich guy who can sweep her of her feet. She thought money was the answer to the deep seated, rooted unforgivers towards her dad. The lure of money pulled her into prostitution. Selling herself with no attachment to relationships gave her immense power. One day she met a man who claimed he was falling in love with her and took her to Las Vegas. Then she learned he was a pimp and he choked her, kicked her, punch her in the face and broke her nose and ribs while telling her this is what pimping was. Annie was diagnosed with cancer, got addicted to painkillers that led to cocaine.

Lobert founded **“Hookers for Jesus”** in January 2005 to address the realities on human sex trafficking, sexual violence, and exploitation linked to pornography and the sex industry. She shares a nearly 14-minute video on the website that features the testimonies of her personal struggle.

**SUGGESTIONS & RECOMMENTDATIONS:**

1. **Start a campaign like take a girl “child to work” campaign**

Because of female, male & transgender prostitutes create an **all-inclusive name** i.e.: “Better our nation” campaign. This can be advertised **nationwide** where people/companies can get involve exposing prostitutes to the corporate world, expose them to basic skills training,teaching work ethics, dress-code, punctuality and a wide spectrum of skills.

1. **Days of dialogue/National talks**

Organise days to inform and empower **the general society** on prostitution and the **contributing factors**, peer pressure, families, communities and lack of education. Arrange days at schools, community centres & churches. Also discussing the reality. Reminding communities, the youth of 1976 did so much to obtain freedom, why would you want to go back to **modern day slavery.**

1. **Create support groups**

Support groups that run like drug and AA groups where prostitutes can safely come together to discuss circumstances, emotions and find encouragement as well as being referred to places of safety or companies on the campaign list.

1. **Places of Safety**

Prostitutes that **wish to exit** the lifestyle must be able to find places of safety, even if only for short term before they can be transferred to something more permanent.

1. **Convert a network of places Nationwide as skills centres**

The **“Dream Centre Network in Los Angeles** is one of the greatest examples. A place to offer God’s love to the homeless and addicted, to victims of sex trafficking and domestic violence, to emancipated foster youth and to those who hunger for food and hope.

Emergency food, medical services, transitional housing as well as support for human trafficking.

They have actively explored educational partnerships or acquisitions, believing education is inherently humanitarian. Some sectors including consumer, medical, technology, industrial, energy and real estate.

They make use of volunteers and are always looking for corporate partners for financial support through many ways and campaigns.