

A woman in a dark dress is walking away from the camera down a tunnel. The tunnel has brick walls and a red carpet. The lighting is warm and yellow, with a series of lights on the ceiling that create a strong perspective effect, drawing the eye towards the end of the tunnel. The woman is on the right side of the frame, and her shadow is cast on the brick wall.

The Politics of Prostitution: European Policy and Legislation- Prostitution and Human Trafficking at a Macro and Micro Level

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Legal Frameworks

- **Criminalization:** Some part of prostitution is considered a criminal act, which is prosecuted under the legal system (Ditmore, 2007).
- **Regulation:** Prostitution is only legal under certain conditions specified by the government (Ditmore, 2007).
- **Decriminalization:** Prostitution is not addressed in the criminal code (Ditmore, 2007).

The Feminist Debate

- **Anti-prostitution feminists:** View prostitution as a form of human trafficking and a violation of women's rights. They frame women who prostitute as victims of coercion and sexual exploitation
- **Pro sex-work feminists:** Argue that prostitution is empowering because it allows women to defy the social and economical constraints imposed by patriarchal society

Political Parties in the Netherlands

Party	Type
People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD)	Liberal
Labour Party (PvdA)	Social Democratic
Party for Freedom (PVV)	Conservative (Centre-right)
Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA)	Christian Democrat
Socialist Party (SP)	Communist
Social Democratic (D66)	Radical Democratic
Green-Left Party (GL)	Ecologist
Center Union (CU)	Christian Democrat
The Party for Animals (PvdD)	Special Issue/Ecologist
Christian Party (SGP)	Christian (Right-wing)

Political Parties in the Netherlands

- Religious Parties lost their parliamentary majority in 1967 which led to the repeal of the Morality Acts of 1911.
- The Purple Cabinet: Formed by the Liberal Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the Social Liberals
- Christian Democratic Party: merger of major Christian parties; Held power until 1994
- The New Prostitution Act: a bill drafted by the Purple Cabinet to lift the ban on brothels which passed in 1999 and went into effect in 2000

The European Union

- The elimination of strong borders in the EU allows individuals to migrate freely to live and work throughout the continent, which directly effects both forced and voluntary prostitution
- Although there is an EU wide ban on human trafficking, legislation on prostitution is largely left up to individual member states

European Parliament

- Political Parties are most visible in this institution of the EU because Members of Parliament are directly elected by citizens
- Separated based on ideology rather than nationality
- The Left-wing tends to be more supportive of advocacy of prostitution because they view it as a private enterprise
- The Right-wing is less accepting of prostitution because it is largely dominated by traditional orthodox groups in most EU member states, which define prostitution as a morality issue

Linkage Groups and Prostitution

- Non governmental organizations that link the people to the government
- Encompasses both interest groups and political parties
- 60 percent of Western European Citizens belong to some type of interest group (Almond, Dalton, Powell, & Strom, 2010)

The Red Thread

- Advocacy and support interest group within the Netherlands formed by women engaged in prostitution
- Views prostitution as a legitimate form of labor and lobbies on behalf of women engaged in prostitution
- They focus on improvement of living and working conditions as well as legislation
- Transnational association with the Pink Thread

The European Women's Lobby

- Largest collective group of women's associations in Europe with Membership in all 27 member states of the EU
- Main goals are gender equality, promoting women's rights and ending sex-based discrimination
- Calls for an EU wide ban of prostitution through their campaign "Together for A Europe Free From Prostitution"

Together for A Europe Free From Prostitution

- “The European Women’s Lobby (EWL) has for years been committed to working towards a Europe free from prostitution, by supporting key abolitionist principles which state that the prostitution of women and girls constitutes a fundamental violation of women’s human rights, a serious form of male violence against women, and a key obstacle to equality between women and men in our societies”
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=6eVffTfbbM4

Together for A Europe Free From Prostitution

> EWL ABOLITIONIST PRINCIPLES

Values and principles

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The prostitution of women and girls constitutes a fundamental violation of women's human rights and a serious form of male violence against women. The tolerance of the EU and its member states for the system of prostitution allow for men's use of and control over women's body and sexuality, and fuels trafficking in women for sexual exploitation. The persistence of systems of prostitution in EU member states demonstrates the failure at European level to reach gender equality and promote women's rights.

Prostitution is a form of male violence against women:

- Prostitution is not a question of 'choice' – What is 'free choice'?
- Prostitution is not a question of sexuality – there is nothing sexually new in prostitution!
- Prostitution is about patriarchy: it is the ultimate way in which men control women's bodies and sexuality, through an exchange of money or an abuse of unequal economic relations
- Incest, rape, marital rape are outlawed thanks to women's NGOs; the system of prostitution remains as the ultimate place for male domination, legitimised by a distorted representation of equality in commercial exchange – money exchange is all but an expression of equality!
- Refusing prostitution is about setting a standard of human dignity for all women and girls around the world

There won't be real equality as long as there is prostitution of some women by some men!

A woman in a dark dress is walking away from the camera down a tunnel. The tunnel has brick walls and a series of warm, yellow lights that create a strong perspective and a sense of depth. The lighting is soft and atmospheric, highlighting the texture of the bricks and the silhouette of the woman.

Case Study: Prostitution and Mega-Sporting Events

- How do host governments of mega-sporting events perceive women engaged in prostitution?
- Do host countries alter policy regarding prostitution to adhere to mega-sporting events?
- Do they distinguish between human trafficking and prostitution?

The Myth and Reality of the Testosterone Party- The 40,000 Figure

- It was estimated that 40,000 women and adolescents would be trafficked into Germany to meet the increase in demand for commercial sex during the 2006 German Rugby World Cup
- This same number was used in regards to the 2010 African FIFA World Cup
- Although, this number was found to be largely inaccurate, it has cultivated a moral panic of human trafficking during mega-sporting events in Europe