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**Linking Prostitution and Human Trafficking Policies:  
Nordic Experiences**

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- Prostitution and trafficking, related or the same?
- Depends on view on what prostitution *is* and why it exists
  - Abolitionist vs. sex work position
    - Criminalize purchase to curb demand for trafficked services/legalized prostitution constitutes a «pull factor»
    - Legalize prostitution to be able to cooperate with the industry to identify exploitation/criminalization pushes the market underground and brutalize it

- How is the relationship between prostitution and human trafficking construed and practiced in Norway and Sweden?

- “Women who for different reasons have chosen to enter prostitution, can equally become exploited and become victims of trafficking. This is the background to why the red/green majority wants to introduce a prohibition against the purchase of sexual services”
- Head of the Justice Committee’s opening statement on the day of the vote on the Norwegian Sex Purchase Act

- “In the Swedish view, prostitution and human trafficking are linked by the sex buyers, whose money finances organized crime”



### **Norwegian and Swedish Sex Purchase Acts**

- Criminalize the act of obtaining for oneself or others «sexual relations or acts by the paying or giving of remuneration»
- Extraterritorial
- Fines or six months imprisonment (aggravated purchasing one year)
- Criminalizes the act of obtaining «a casual sexual relationship in return for payment»
- Only domestically
- Fines or one year imprisonment

## Sex Purchase Acts in Context

- Procurement/pimping
- Human trafficking
- Alien Act
- Other

## How much trafficking is there in Norway and Sweden?

Norway		
2007	203	2
2008	256	5
2009	292	3
2010	319	6
2011	274	3
2012	349	1
2013	300	6

Sweden		
2007	15	2
2008	15	0
2009	31	0
2010	32	6
2011	35	2
2012	21	3

## What does these numers tell us?

- The evaluation of the Swedish Sex Purchase Act: positive effects on the scope of trafficking
- The evaluation of the Norwegian Sex purchase Act: postive effects on the scope of trafficking

## What does research say?

- Criminalizing the purchase of sex prevents trafficking (Cho et al. 2013, Jakobsson & Kotsadam 2013)
- Legalization produce trafficking (Cho et al. 2013, Jakobsson & Kotsadam 2013)
- Criminalizing the purchase of sex paves the way for more or worse trafficking (Cho et al. 2013)
- There is no effect (Akee et al 2010)

- What is the evidence
- What is the assumptions made about the relationship between the phenomenon

### **What does these numbers come from?**

- Definitions
- Thresholds for identification
  - Goal of identification
- Reporting (double counting, non-identification)
- Manipulation (smuggling, crime and victimhood)
- Overview
- Overreporting by NGOs
  - Example the Danish NGO Reden: prostitution figures 3,483, not 5,534

## The Swedish National Police Board 2012

- “The number of victims discovered in Sweden depends largely on the resources which the police put into detecting this crime and on the skills that exists within the police organisation. The level of these initiatives varies between police authorities and differs from one year to another.” (RPS Rapport 2012:7)

## How other policies influence the scope of trafficking

- Social justice and equality/welfare policies
- Immigration Law
  - Swedish Alien Act Chapter 8 Section 2
    - «An alien may be refused entry if it can be assumed that during the stay in Sweden or in some other Nordic country he or she will not support himself or herself by honest means...»
  - Norwegian Victim Protection at Consulates:
    - The Council of the Baltic Sea States Trafficking Manual (2011:29): “You should not issue a visa if you think that the person may be at risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking.”

## Does national law matter?

- National policies - international market
  - Deterring crime
  - Warning prospective victims
  - Responsibilizing prospective clients

- «Guesstimates» (Kelly & Regan 2000) on trafficking critiqued by many, but why do scholars continue to disseminate flawed figures?
- The way forward
  - Detailed knowledge on the production of data