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Cartoons, text and poster design by Norma Jean Almodovar ©2005

The Top 10 Feminist* Lies and Myths about Prostitution

*radical feminists and religious conservatives

1 "There is no difference between trafficking and prostitution or between adult and child prostitution- it is all exploitation - a violation of human rights...."

This is the biggest lie of all- and the most insulting- both to the millions of adult women and men who have chosen to engage in commercial sex work- and to those who are truly victims of sex slavery. Imagine if laws made no distinction between child sexual abuse, rape and consenting adult sex- how would the police be able to help any of the *true victims* of these crimes if they were so busy arresting all adults who had sex?

Is there a difference between a child bride and an adult woman who chooses to marry?

2 "Abolishing all prostitution will eliminate trafficking and close the market for sex slaves"

Sure and abolishing or prohibiting consenting adult sex will eliminate rape.... "All" prostitution will *never* be eliminated- there are simply too many women willing to engage in prostitution and the police cannot ever arrest all those who do. In some countries, prostitutes and madams are executed, and yet prostitution thrives- usually because the "pimps" pay off the police. Arbitrary enforcement of laws leads to police corruption- which is a far more serious threat to prostitutes than getting paid for an act of sex they can legally perform as long as it is free. And since the police don't have the resources to arrest *all prostitutes* and their clients, when it comes to deciding who gets arrested, how do you think the police decide whose turn it is to go to jail that day? They extort the prostitute for sex, money and information. And they always will as long as consenting adult prostitution remains a crime.

3 "No woman choses to become a prostitute"

If all prostitutes were in prostitution *against their will*, there would be no debate on this issue. Slavery is clearly wrong and no country or state would pass laws permitting it. There would be no sex worker rights organizations - founded by sex workers themselves who demand their voices be heard. The fact is, this is a job and many of us have chosen to engage in commercial sex work to earn a living.

4 "Prostitution is inherently degrading to all women- an intolerable affront to human dignity"

"Degradation," "sexual exploitation" are subjective concepts which are merely someone else's unsolicited opinions of our work. If one feels that prostitution is degrading, one ought not engage in it. Don't confuse your low opinion of prostitution with my reality.

5 "Arresting the prostitute will get her out of 'the life'"

Arresting a woman because she is a victim will ensure that she cannot get out of "the life" even if she wants to. An arrest record for prostitution makes her unemployable- particularly when a job requires a license, such as a teacher or real estate agent. It also makes her more vulnerable to those who "offer" to protect her from arrests-for a price. Some unscrupulous police will give a prostitute the choice of becoming an informant, giving the cop a blow job or going to jail.... and this helps prostitutes *how?*

6 "Of course the police and courts protect the prostitute's rights"

Cops, posing as clients, can and do have sex with prostitutes before arresting them. The cop is getting paid to have sex..... therefore, doesn't that make the cop a prostitute, too? Who will "rescue" those poor exploited cops?

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7 "Prostitutes need rescuing 'for their own good.'"

February 2, 2005: Associated Press
NASHVILLE, Tenn. - *"Police have paid confi - dential informants thousands of dollars to engage in sexual encounters with prostitutes as part of a crackdown on the sex business in Nashville, drawing criticism from the top prosecutor.....Police spent almost $120,000 over three years to foster the encounters....."*

CAN SOMEONE TELL ME HOW THIS IS FOR OUR OWN GOOD?

Don't call us- we'll call you when we need rescuing... until then, please find someone else to pick on!

8 "We support a woman's right to choose..." (unless it involves commercial sex.....)

Radical feminists are able to distance themselves from their support of a woman's right to choose (to have an abortion) "My Body, My Choice -" by declaring *that prostitution is not a choice at all.* Religious conservatives don't support the rights of anyone to self- ownership and the ability to make choices if it goes against *their* morality, regardless of the activity. By getting in bed with the radical feminists, they are able to adopt the " prostitution is exploitation" language of the radical feminists, so it doesn't appear that they oppose prostitution solely on moral grounds.

9 "Men who hire prostitutes just want to degrade and exploit them"

Actually there are many reasons why men hire prostitutes- and there may be some men who wish to degrade women. However, there are men who marry women for the same reason, but we don't criminalize marriage to protect women from such men. The single greatest determinant for hiring a sex care provider is loneliness. If all a man wants is an orgasm, he can masturbate. He is willing to pay sometimes hundreds of dollars to have company- someone with whom he can share a fantasy without concern that he will be ridiculed or rejected. Sometimes couples hire a sex care provider to help them learn new techniques which will enhance their own sexual relationship. Unless one believes that sex itself is inherently degrading, a sexual relationship is not rendered degrading because one of the participants is paying the other.

10 "We don't want the prostitute to go to jail- just her 'johns' and 'pimps'"

As long as all prostitution remains a crime, women who engage in it will be arrested and go to jail. We can then lose our children (for being unfit mothers) our homes (under the red-light abatement acts in most states) and other jobs if we have one. Under most state laws, pimps can be the prostitute's mother, husband, boyfriend, landlord- or anyone who *"lives off the earnings of a prostitute in full or in part."* Why would we want you to put *them* in jail if they haven't harmed us? If you don't want us to go to jail, decriminalize ***all consenting adult prostitution*** and allow the cops to have the resources to arrest *all* those who force young girls and women into sex slavery. If you don't trust the cops to know the difference between consenting adult prostitution and sex slavery when they encounter it, why one earth would you trust them with my freedom in the first place?

Visit our website at www.iswface.org to find many more examples of the lies and myths about prostitution- perpetrated by radical feminists, religious conservatives and legislators... and the consequences for prostitutes when society accepts those lies

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