



## VOCABULARY

TERMS NOT TO USE & WHY	TERMS TO USE & WHY
<p><b><i>Sex work, sex workers, commercial sex work, commercial sex workers, adult service providers, adult sex provider</i></b></p> <p>~ The term originated in the early 1970s from a mix of libertarian activists and sex industry profitters (Leidholdt)</p> <p>~ Carol Leigh (also known as Scarlet the Harlot) a prostituting woman and pornographer claims to have coined the term “sex worker” (Leigh).</p> <p>~ The term “sex work” and its derivatives have but one purpose – to normalize prostitution cast it as an occupation like any other, one that any woman can choose as freely as she may choose to become a teacher, lawyer, or doctor. Sadly, the pro-prostitution movement has succeeded in getting this terminology popularized in the vernacular of popular culture, public health, social service, and even anti-trafficking sectors. This change has occurred without difficulty since the one truth in their rationale is that the term “prostitute”</p>	<p><b><i>Prostituted persons, prostituted women/children, women/children in prostitution; prostituting; sex industry survivor</i></b></p> <p>~ Those who view prostitution as a form of violence and as inherently exploitative advocate for the adoption of terms such as those above. While accurately conveying the activity that is occurring (i.e. prostitution), the terms neither label the person involved with a pejorative term, nor normalize prostitution as just another form of work. They are indicative of prostitution as an experience, not a state of being. These terms help express the idea that persons in the sex industry are caught up in the exploitive system of the prostitution industry.</p> <p>~”...abolitionists conceptualize prostitution as an institution fundamentally based on men’s sex right, that is, men’s entitlement to demand sexual access to women (Miriam,11).”</p> <p>~”The ‘sex work’ model of agency obstructs the reality that it is men’s demand that makes prostitution intelligible and legitimate as a</p>

~"Given conditions of extreme poverty for women, pro-sex-work advocates claim that women choose prostitution to survive, and that recognition of this choice as a form of labor is essential to the goal of securing health and safety standards for women in an industry that otherwise remains unregulated and unprotected, leaving sex workers particularly vulnerable to such 'work hazards' as violent assaults, rape, and sexually transmitted diseases (Miriam,4)."

~"Applied to prostitution then, the stigmatization of prostitutes – rather than the structure of the practice itself – becomes the basic injustice to be redressed by pro-sex-work advocates who now construe prostitutes as 'sexual minorities' (Miriam,7)."

### ***Sex sector, state sex economy***

The State facilitates and regulates on behalf of the client and operates as a facilitator/pimp in ensuring the supply is continued under the guise of protecting the rights and health and safety of the victims. The State profits from the industry. Legal and illegal collusion of State and State officials continues. The State cannot be 'neutral' in this matter. If it legalizes and regulates prostitution, it promotes prostitution and protects the consumer not the victims (O'Conner and Healy,5)."

means of survival for women in the first place (Miriam,9)."

~ The "sex work" model obscures and normalizes the physical, psychological, and spiritual harms of prostitution by treating them as "on the job" hazards.

~ Children used in prostitution should never be referred to as "child prostitutes". Children cannot give legitimate consent to commercial sex acts; therefore, any use of a child for commercial sex – irrespective of supposed consent – is a form of child sexual abuse. The appropriate alternative phrase is "prostituted child" which accurately conveys that prostitution is an abuse which happens to the child, and that the child is not "a prostitute".

### ***Organized sexual exploitation, prostitution industry***

~ The phrase "organized sexual exploitation" is a good substitute for referencing sex in terms of economy. It more accurately conveys what the "sex sector" is – a massive organized system for the exploitation and commercialization and profiteering from sex.

~ Additionally, the phrase "prostitution industry" is useful, since it names the sex industry for what it is: prostitution in assorted formats – whether pornographic material (recorded prostitution), virtual prostitution

~ Sector can be used to mean part of or a division of a national economy. When used as “sex sector,” the sexual exploitation inherent in organized sexual exploitation is obscured and absorbed into mainstream economic interests of the state.

***Forced prostitution, voluntary prostitution, forced trafficking, voluntary trafficking, migrant sex workers***

“Pro-sex-work advocates press for the distinction between “free or voluntary” and “forced” prostitution.” They conflate sexual trafficking and labor trafficking on the premise that sex is a form of work (i.e. “sex work”). From this perspective, only cases of “forced prostitution” are considered sexual trafficking, and women who “choose” to engage in prostitution, it is said, should be allowed to “migrate for purposes of sex work” or to engage in “voluntary prostitution” or “voluntary trafficking.”

~ These terms overlook the dehumanization of persons inherent to prostitution

~ They shift the burden of proof from the traffickers to their victims. All a trafficker need do is to produce a consent form signed by the victim, and he’s off the hook.

~ They contribute to false and restrictive interpretation of trafficking victims as being

(web-based prostitution), or indoor and outdoor prostitution venues.

***Prostituted persons, Commercial sexual exploitation***

The result of splitting prostitution into so-called forced and voluntary prostitution is the creation of two classes of prostitution: A) bad prostitution (i.e. forced) and B) good (or less bad) prostitution (i.e. voluntary). Members of Class A are viewed as deserving of aid and assistance since they are considered “innocent” and as having no culpability in their exploitation. Class B persons however, are often viewed as “sex workers” – individuals exercising sexual autonomy.

These assessments are often made with little to no knowledge about how an individual came into prostitution with no consideration of prostitution as a system of exploitation, or of prostitution resulting from a lack of choices as opposed to a variety of viable options.

“The argument that women choose to be in prostitution is not an acceptable way to dismiss the harm of prostitution. We do not dismiss

only those persons who have suffered such things as kidnapping, brutal beatings, being held at gunpoint, being chained to a bed or locked up in hidden rooms. However, traffickers routinely use subtler forms of coercion. Professionals in the fields of torture, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and commercial sexual exploitation know that torturers, abusers, pimps and traffickers use these coercive methods to groom and reduce their victims “to the condition of slavery.”

~ One cannot have the right to violation. One only has the right to be from violation (O’Conner and Healy, 12).”

~ “Consent is not a good divining rod as to the existence of oppression, and consent to violation is a fact of oppression. Oppression cannot effectively be gauged according to the degree of “consent,” since even in slavery there was some consent, if consent is defined as inability to see, or feel entitled to, any alternative. If, for example, consent was the criterion for determining whether or not slavery is a violation of human dignity and rights, slavery would not have been recognized as a violation because an important element of slavery is the acceptance of their condition by many slaves (Barry,1995).”

~ “There is a virtual dictionary of lies that conceal the harm of prostitution: voluntary prostitution, words that imply that she

rape and battery by saying that women choose to walk down the street alone at night. Or, if a woman chose to get married, we do not dismiss battery that occurs within the marriage by saying =she chose to be with him (Stark and Hodgson, 27).”

The “forced-voluntary” split is false dichotomy maintained by:

1. Those unaware of harms of prostitution and the techniques used to recruit people for prostitution;
2. Proponents of the sex industry, from sex industry moguls, pimps and national governments, motivated by the desire for profit;
3. Consumers of commercial sex who must rationalize their behavior;
4. Human rights advocates and pseudo-feminists who assert that women have a right to prostitute and that women gain power and agency in doing so; and
5. Persons who are more concerned about the culpability of each woman in prostitution than with the systems of inequality and injustice that thrust the majority of women into this lowest caste of society.

The veneer of choice embedded in the term “voluntary prostitution” enables society to

<p>consented when in fact, almost always, she had no other survival options than prostitution. The redundancy of the term forced trafficking insinuates its opposite – that somewhere there are women who volunteer to be trafficked into prostitution (Farley, xvii).”</p> <p><b>Client, customer, hobbyist, John, punter:</b></p> <p>These words are frequently used to describe the male buyers of commercial sex acts. However, use of these terms normalize their role in commercial sex – as if buying sex is as normal and legitimate an activity as buying a car, or dining at a restaurant – and obfuscate their true identity as abusers and perpetrators.</p>	<p>blame the women, label them as whores, and look the other way.</p> <p><b>Prostitutor, purchaser, purchaser of commercial sex acts, buyer, curb crawler, perpetrator, abuser, consumer.</b></p> <p>These words do not mask or normalize the nature of the male role in the purchase of commercial sex acts.</p>
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Kathleen Berry, *The Prostitution of Sexuality*, (New York: New York University Press, 1995), quoted in Monica O’Coor and Grainne Healy, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) and European Women’s Lobby [EWL], *The Links Between Prostitution and Sex Trafficking: A Briefing Handbook (2006)*, 12

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