

An invitation from:

Helen Buckingham

(founder of Prostitution Laws are Nonsense, PLAN)

Bella Lamu

(Sex Worker of the Year 1996 at the Erotic Oscars)

Jahnet deLight

(Writer, Tantric teacher and nominated Sex Worker of the Year 1997)

Rachel O'Donnell

(Star of TV documentary *Soho Stories*)

Trisha Bowden

(nominated Sex Worker of the Year in the 1996 Erotic Oscars)

Rona Stock

(nominated Sex Worker of the Year in the 1996 Erotic Oscars)

and

Dr Tuppy Owens

(British panelist at the 1997 International Whores' Conference in Los Angeles)

to the launch of
Prostitution Pride '97

Sunday 19th Jan 1997

*3-5pm, Small Hall, Conway Hall,
25 Red Lion Square,
London WC1.*

Speakers: *Ted Goodman* Chairman of Campaign against Censorship and
Hon. Sec of the National Campaign for the Repeal of the Obscene Publications Acts

Helen Buckingham & Dr Tuppy Owens

Admission £1

PROSTITUTION AND LAW REFORM

The Sexual Freedom Bill is being drafted by the Sexual Freedom Coalition, to request that the new Home Secretary repeal our sex laws, and abolish all the laws which surround prostitution in Britain today.

Current laws do not stop prostitutes from working, they just make it almost impossible to earn a living without breaking them! For example, a sex worker may not legally solicit trade, nor work with (or independently from) other sex workers in the same building. Laws originally made to protect female prostitutes, in the days when women found it difficult to run their own lives, make it illegal for others to make money out of them. This includes publishing their adverts and working as maids or other back-up staff, including security. It's illegal to run a brothel or parlour, or even allow a prostitute to tout for trade in your club. A man who lives with a prostitute, even her son over 16, can get prosecuted for living off immoral earnings!

Most leases include a clause entitling landlords to evict tenants if using the premises for "immoral purposes", so sex workers have no security of tenure.

Being unworkable, many of the laws get broken, allowing room for corruption and abuse. This adds to the contempt these professionals get especially from the police, forcing many to live outside the law and outside society. Some feel trapped within the trade, others (often the best) leave it to work in alternative therapies, abandoning their true talents as sexual nourishers, educators and healers.

Abolishing the laws is the only answer. It would provide sex workers with the same opportunity to run their own businesses as other people, and give us the same police protection and employment rights as everybody else.

Definitions

as commonly understood in the UK today

Prostitute — person who exchanges sexual talent for money, or favours, with clients (one-to-one or in groups). Intercourse may or may not be included. Often uses pseudonym for trade, eg masseur or escort..

Sex Worker — prostitute, stripper, surrogate, phone sex worker, dominatrix, professional slave or variation thereof.

Whore / Harlot — one who sells or gives sex freely. Old terms used to describe traditional situations: e.g. women who traded in sex in the ancient temples of India.

Gigolo — male prostitute catering to women.

Rent Boy — male prostitute catering to men.

Lady of Pleasure / of the Night — woman who sells her body and sexual favours.

Professional Dom — person who provides fantasy scenes, domination, corporal punishment and sexual relief (rarely including intercourse) for money or favours.

Professional Slave — person who is willing to enter fantasy scenes, accept domination, corporal punishment and provide sexual relief (rarely including intercourse) for money or favours.

Call Girl — prostitute with rich clients who works by referral.

Hooker — American term for prostitute.

Surrogate — person who works as a "pretend girl/boyfriend" to teach and provide practice in the arts of love. Sometimes includes intercourse. This work is often carried out in

collaboration with a sex therapist. Many surrogates belong to IPSA, the International Professional Surrogates Association, in Los Angeles.

John — male client.

Pimp — Man takes money from prostitutes and controls them, even introducing them to heroin, for example, to make them more dependent on him.

Clipper — prostitute who takes money and runs, without delivering goods.

Clip Joint — club which fleeces clients for money and offers no sex.

Brothel — house where more than one prostitute sells sex at any one time. Traditionally, brothels are run by a madam who introduces clients to prostitutes in civilised, yet sometimes raucous or decadent surroundings, after which they could wander off to a bedroom for sex, once the deal had been agreed.

Madam — woman who runs a brothel or escort agency.

Sauna — where prostitutes are scantily clad, and selected in the spa area, after which sex takes place in a cubicle.

Massage Parlour — establishment with one or more massage rooms, where masseurs offer erotic massage for a set fee, paid at desk. Sexual favours are negotiated separately between the client and masseur.

Escort Agency — agency which hires out women and / or men who will visit clients and sell sexual services. Security is usually supplied to protect prostitute from dangerous clients.

Stripper — erotic dancer who removes clothes to titillate audience, for money.

Blue / Stag performer — stripper who will have sex with members of the audience in front of the others.

Table Dancer — stripper who takes her clothes off in a very small booth where the customer may not touch her, but usually relieves himself.

Booth Baby — stripper who seduces client while he masturbates on the other side of the glass partition.

Masseur / se — person who offers massage and / or sex, usually for money, either visiting, in their own home or in a parlour.

Street Walker — prostitute who finds clients in streets by standing in known areas, dressing provocatively or soliciting, then sells sex in the clients' cars, or in a nearby hotel.

Hostess — female who works in a gentlemen's club, drinking, talking and / or dancing with clients who may make a private deal with her to have sex later. Many of these women would never consider themselves to be prostitutes.

Porn Star — person who takes part in erotic film / video and has sex in front of the camera. None would call themselves prostitutes.

Fluffer — person employed to excite porn stars off-stage so that they appear horny on camera.

Sex Therapist — professionally qualified person who treats clients with sexual problems such as premature ejaculation, impotence, pre-orgasmia and lack of desire, through talking and sexual homework. Therapists do not touch clients physically, although surrogates may be employed to teach physical (as well as other) skills.