

Consenting Adults

the organ of the Sexual Freedom Coalition
LOVE • LIFE • LIBERTY

Tabloid with a
regular page written by
and for prostitutes
and articles on other kinds
of sex work



£20 subscription from
The Sexual Freedom Coalition
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Prostitution

Pride



Launch

Sunday 19th January 1997 at the Conway Hall

Aims of Prostitution Pride

- *Encourage sex workers to take pride in our work, and help us shed the stigma we experience in society*
- *Improve legislation so that we can run our own businesses safely, free of harassment from pimps, police and state*
- *Enable all sex workers to specialise in our own particular skills, with training, support networks and professional recognition*

Please leave your name (and details of your organisation) at the door if you'd like to be kept informed of progress and contribute in the future.

Prostitution and Law Reform

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 Laws originally made to protect female prostitutes, in the days when women found it difficult to run their own lives, make it illegal for *others* to make money out of them.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 one 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. Your opinions are welcome.

Definitions

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 girlfriend" 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 rooms for erotic massage at a set fee, paid at the desk. Sexual favours are negotiated between the client and masseur.

Escort Agency — agency which hires out people 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 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, the porn star appears 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.

Founders of Prostitution Pride

Helen Buckingham

(founder of Prostitution Laws are Nonsense, PLAN)

Bella Lamu

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

John Blandford

criminal lawyer

Jahnet deLight

(Writer, Tantric teacher, 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 panellist at the 1997 International Conference on Prostitution, Los Angeles)

Background

The Sexual Freedom Coalition

When the 1996 Sex Maniac's Charity Ball was stopped by the police at the eleventh hour, this was one injustice too many and protesters formed the Sexual Freedom Coalition. Individuals, clubs, law reform groups and organisations were invited to join and we now have over 500 supporters in the UK and overseas. We hold monthly plenaries — open meetings in central London where the progress of the various working groups are discussed and decisions made. We do not expect supporters to agree on all topics but we work on what unites us — a determination to counteract current hypocrisy, repression and general fear of sex, and kick out the ancient laws that are used against consenting adults.

Prostitution Working Group

This group was formed last autumn, and comprises a wide range of sex workers, their partners, lawyers, sex therapists, clients and other interested parties. Helen Buckingham, who founded PLAN (Prostitutes Laws are Nonsense) in November 1975, put forward the view that all the laws surrounding prostitution should be abolished. Lawyer, John Blandford agreed to write a document on our laws, explaining the social implications. Bella Lamu suggested Prostitution Pride. Discussions at the following Plenary were so lively that we decided to hold a special session. Hence today's meeting.

Spreading the word

Naturally, the first job was to get in touch with other prostitutes: male, female, transvestite, gay, straight, catering to the entire spectrum of clientele. This proved more difficult than expected. We wrote to over 80 outreach/drop-in centres around the UK with only one response. Tuppy's paper was sent to all the prostitute magazines around the world. Days were spent calling the numbers left in phone boxes and placed in advertisements. Finding politically aware sex worker *men* proved particularly difficult, but slowly people are stepping forward.

Several days before this launch, the programme of the International Conference on Prostitution in Los Angeles arrived, introducing us to several groups around the UK we'd been unaware of. Amongst those we discovered were the Royal College of Nursing's Campaign on Decriminalization of Prostitution and the Network of Sex Work Projects. We sent them all news of our project and hope they will come today.

Programme

3pm

Introduction by Tim Summers, Chair

3.05

Principal Speakers

Mr O'Maoileoin barrister and supporter of the Campaign Against Censorship and the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts.

Mr O'Maoileoin will speak on the Sexual Freedom Bill and explain why Britain's sex laws need reforming.

John Blandford criminal lawyer

Mr Blandford handles a large number of prostitutes defence cases and has joined the Prostitution Working Group to advise on the law. His view is that the "nuisance factor" of some prostitution trading is an important issue when deciding on law reform.

Helen Buckingham ex-Prostitute, founder of PLAN (Prostitute Laws are Nonsense)

Helen Buckingham presents powerful arguments for radical changes in attitudes and legislation, regarding the status of sex workers in Britain. Her advocacy of a complete abolition of prostitution laws would reduce the whole question to a private matter, as professional people expect in any other field of valuable knowledge and services. Any problems that eventually emerge should be a matter of fresh legislation.

Dr Tuppy Owens sex therapist, founder of Outsiders, organiser of The Sex Maniac's Ball and author of *Planet Sex - The Handbook*

Tuppy's concerns are with the needs some disabled people have for sexual surrogates. Her paper "Disabled Men make the Best Clients" has earned her a trip to Israel to speak at an international conference on women and disability, and now to the International Prostitutes Conference in Los Angeles in March. There, she will be speaking on the intricacies of surrogacy and disability, and also co-presenting a paper on prostitution and British law with Richard Green, lecturer in sexual behaviour and law at Cambridge University.

3.50

General Discussion

4.40

Brief Replies from speakers