

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background

The Sex Industry has been a prevalent work since long ago, some argued it is the oldest kind of work that stills stands today. From a more modern perspective, the workers are seen as needing help or are unwell of mental health. This is the wrong mentality to view this issue.¹ These workers who chose to go into the sex industry are people who are searching for economic gain.² After they go into the industry, it's almost impossible for them to quit; they will be punished for their decision and might even face scrutiny from their friends.³ This goes to say that people who purchase sex are usually from the upper-middle class, they have greater power and influence from the sex workers.⁴ We can conclude that like any other industry, there needs to be a demand for people who have the money to pay for the service and a supply of workers.⁵ Many have stated that prostitution helps the economy, but fails to see the violence that has accumulated within their system.⁶

¹ Sven-Axel Mansson. "The History and Rationale of Swedish Prostitution Policies." *Dignity: A Journal on Sexual Exploitation and Violence* 2, no. 4 (2017). (Accessed 15 January 2020)

² Kamala Kempadoo. *Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered New Perspective on Migration, Sex Work, and Human Rights* (Paradigm Publishers, 2005)

³ Kathleen Barry. *The Prostitution of Sexuality: the Global Exploitation of Women*. New York; London: NYU Press, 1995. www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt9qg779. (Accessed 14 January 2020)

⁴ Giobbe, Evelina. "Confronting the Liberal Lies About Prostitution." *Living with Contradictions*, August 2018, 67–81 (2018). [e-journal]
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333962647_Confronting_the_Liberal_Lies_About_Prostitution.html (accessed 10 December 2019).

⁵ Stephen Clift. *Tourism and Sex: Culture, Commerce and Coercion*. Andover: CENGAGE Learning, 2010. (Accessed 14 January 2020)

⁶ Giobbe, Evelina. "Confronting the Liberal Lies About Prostitution." *Living with Contradictions*, August 2018, 67–81 (2018). [e-journal]
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333962647_Confronting_the_Liberal_Lies_About_Prostitution.html (accessed 10 December 2019).

One of the examples being, if a female prostitute has a child she needs to support, her pimp will use that child to keep her loyal.⁷ Additionally, the sex industry allows the fetishization of race, even supports it.⁸

Furthermore, Sexual Tourism allows women in developing countries to be exploited within their own country, or be trafficked abroad.⁹ Again with the sex industry being a demand orientated market, if a store is low on supply, they will try to increase the supply by illegal means, places like Netherland which legalizes prostitution and in a hotspot for sex tourism, have a massive trafficked person issue.¹⁰ Legalizing does not work like the sexual liberal believes¹¹ and criminalizing would only prevent the works from seeking help.¹² This is the main urgency of why this topic is chosen, the sex industry is a global issue and a human rights issue. The Nordic Model is a policy that might improve the situation.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a list of what humans are entitled to simply because they are human. In it are thirty articles of which are an emphasis on the protection an Individual has, to live their life securely. Article 4, in particular,

⁷ Kathleen Barry. *The Prostitution of Sexuality: the Global Exploitation of Women*. New York; London: NYU Press, 1995. www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt9qg779. (Accessed 14 January 2020).

⁸ Kuah-Pearce, Khun Eng, ed. *Chinese Women and the Cyberspace*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2008. Accessed February 8, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt46mvqc.

⁹ Stephen Clift. *Tourism and Sex: Culture, Commerce and Coercion*. Andover: CENGAGE Learning, 2010. (Accessed 14 January 2020)

¹⁰ Nancy A. Wonders, and Raymond Michalowski. "Bodies, Borders, and Sex Tourism in a Globalized World: A Tale of Two Cities— Amsterdam and Havana." *Social Problems* 48, no. 4 (2001): 545-71.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/240761081_Bodies_Borders_and_Sex_Tourism_in_a_Globalized_World_A_Tale_of_Two_Cities-_Amsterdam_and_Havana (Accessed 14 February 2020)

¹¹ Giobbe, Evelina. "Confronting the Liberal Lies About Prostitution." *Living with Contradictions*, August 2018, 67–81 (2018). [e-journal]

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333962647_Confronting_the_Liberal_Lies_About_Prostitution.html (accessed 10 December 2019).

¹² Kingston, Sarah, and Terry Thomas. 2018. "No Model in Practice: a 'Nordic Model' to Respond to Prostitution?" *Crime, Law and Social Change* 71 (4): 423–39. doi:10.1007/s10611-018-9795-6.

is a direct prohibition to all forms of slavery and the slave trade¹³; which includes human trafficking, especially sex trafficking. Other than the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, there are other conventions and bodies that are created by the United Nations concerning Human Rights.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women has included prostitution as part of the discrimination of women.¹⁴ Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others stated that creating a brothel, pimping, prostitution even with the consent of all parties involved is prohibited.¹⁵

The Nordic Model, previously known as the Swedish Model, also known as the Sex Buyer Law, is a policy that legalizes the selling of sex but criminalizes the buying of sex. This policy went into act in 1999 in Sweden. Ten years after Sweden puts the policy into practice, Norway and Iceland, two neighboring countries of Sweden, also includes the Nordic Model into their policies.¹⁶

Other European countries such as Ireland, Northern Ireland, and France have adopted some aspects of the Nordic Model. There is also a running debate in

¹³ “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” United Nations. United Nations, December 10, 1948. Last modified December 10, 1948. Accessed. <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>. (17 February 2020)

¹⁴ “Text of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.” United Nations. United Nations, 1949. Last modified 1979. <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>. (Accessed 17 February 2020)

¹⁵ “Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons.” United Nations Human Rights Office of The High Commissioner. United Nations, December 2, 1949. Last modified December 2, 1949. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/TrafficInPersons.aspx>. (Accessed 17 February 2020.)

¹⁶ Sven-Axel Mansson. “The History and Rationale of Swedish Prostitution Policies.” *Dignity: A Journal on Sexual Exploitation and Violence* 2, no. 4 (2017). (Accessed 15 January 2020)

the European Union, whether they should apply this Model in their policy.¹⁷ Other countries from outside of Europe that have adopted the Nordic Model are South Korea, Canada, and, South Africa.¹⁸ These countries adopted the criminalization of the buying of sex. The Nordic Model is sometimes referred to as the Neo-abolitionist approach.

An abolitionist approach was introduced in the 19th century, they were trying to fight against regulations to would protect pimps and prostitution.¹⁹ Neo-abolitionist focuses on criminalizing the purchases of sex, a belief that is upheld in the Nordic Model. The Nordic Model believes that prostitution is a demand base industry, which means if the purchase were to be criminalized than it would drive the demand down. The Nordic Model does not criminalize the act of selling sex because it sees the workers as victims of the system.²⁰

What sets the Nordic Model apart from the abolitionist approach in the 19th century is actively giving prostitutes other alternatives to work, help them exit the industry, and providing healthcare for both physical and mental attributes. As well as educating the citizen on this issue.²¹

¹⁷ Kingston, Sarah, and Terry Thomas. 2018. "No Model in Practice: a 'Nordic Model' to Respond to Prostitution?" *Crime, Law and Social Change* 71 (4): 423–39. doi:10.1007/s10611-018-9795-6.

¹⁸ Sven-Axel Mansson. "The History and Rationale of Swedish Prostitution Policies." *Dignity: A Journal on Sexual Exploitation and Violence* 2, no. 4 (2017). (Accessed 15 January 2020)

¹⁹ Accessed February 14, 2020. <https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/CLES-What-We-Know-About-Abolitionism.pdf>.

²⁰ Sven-Axel Mansson. "The History and Rationale of Swedish Prostitution Policies." *Dignity: A Journal on Sexual Exploitation and Violence* 2, no. 4 (2017). (Accessed 15 January 2020)

²¹ Sven-Axel Mansson. "The History and Rationale of Swedish Prostitution Policies." *Dignity: A Journal on Sexual Exploitation and Violence* 2, no. 4 (2017). (Accessed 15 January 2020)

As previously mentioned there have been countries that have fully or partly adopted the Nordic Model for their policies, however, for this research paper, we will be analyzing the situation in Norway. With the reason that they are one of the first countries to accept the model and has seen the most changes, the model has brought.

1.2 Research Question

As we can see from the title, two research question is brought up to help us understand the situation more clearly.

1. Does the Benefit of the Sex Industry overweight the Harms?
2. Changes to Prostitution by the Nordic Model in Norway

1.3 Research Objective

3.1 There are opposing perspective in viewing the sex industry, those who say that the sex industry helps people to gain a living and should be treated like any other work; and those who view the sex industry as violence against women, allows trafficking to happen, and exploitation to the workers. The objective is to find whether the benefits outweigh the harms or is it the other way around.

3.2 We will take Norway as a case study whether the Nordic Model managed to ease some of the issues the sex industry presents or does it make the situation worse.

1.4 Research Contribution

This paper contributes to the study of the harms of the sex industry and finding a possible solution in mitigating the effect using the Nordic Model. While also debunking the myths from the liberal perspective in stating that the sex industry is helping the economy grow and is empowering women. We will also be seeing the Nordic Model from a Marxist approach.

1.5 Structure of Thesis

In this research paper, the first chapter consists of the introduction, the research questions, and what the contribution of the research is for. The introduction gives a brief understanding of what the problem of the sex industries are and what the Nordic Model is. The second chapter talks about the theoretical framework, in it are literary reviews of books and journal which are used as the main sources of this research paper; as well as concepts and theories which will be used to understand the inner workings of the sex industry and the Nordic Model more.

The third chapter explains the methodological process of which was used for this thesis, it elaborates on the data collecting process and how the data are analyzed. The fourth chapter analyses all the data which has been collected to answer the research question, whether the Nordic Model helps elevate the situation or not will be discussed here. The fifth chapter is the conclusion of the research, recommendations will be given to help improve the condition of the issue.