

**‘Review to make Recommendation for the
decriminalisation of sex work’.**

Questions Answered by The Pink Cross Foundation Australia

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Introduction

I love and respect everyone in the adult entertainment industry. Men, women and those in between are worthy of protection, support, to voice their opinion and to be treated with dignity. I love 'sex workers.' The survivors who already exited, those who believe this 'job' is necessary for their survival, and all those who promote prostitution as sexual expression and a choice. I love you all, because I was also worthy of love when I held these beliefs, during my first two years into prostitution...

I have deep respect for people in the sex industry. They do what they can, with what they have. You had the chance to start this business and saw a gap in the market. Good on you! It's the Labor Party 1980s government's fault, not yours. Let's get real, though. You know what really goes on behind the scenes. It is not a pretty picture. The Pretty Woman myth is laughable. (Gilbert 2018)

We have responded to the questions posed by Ms. Patten during the inquiry into the decriminalisation of 'sex work' in Victoria. Information on [how this Review was called](#) can be found in our reference section. You can find the original questions online in the reference We took the liberty of rephrasing the questions from a trauma-informed, radical feminist perspective, and added our comments based on lived experience in the sex industry, psychosocial research, and public policy analysis.

Central to this response is the fact that all brothel, street and private 'sex workers' are vulnerable girls and women who can be supported to find mainstream employment. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines vulnerability as "the quality of state of having little resistance to some outside agent." 'Sex work' is an oxymoron; the words contradict each other. The prostitution exchange will never be 'a job'.

As abolitionists, we believe that those who remain in the trade can be reached, shown respect by law enforcement and frontline agencies, and provided with the most up-to-date industry best practice in social services, psychological and medical interventions.

1. 'Operators' and 'Managers'

Males (or females) are not *authorised* to manage or purchase women and girls, as it is an act of coercive violence. By the mid-1990s, 1000 to 1400 women were prostituting in legal brothels (Pyett, Haste et al., 1996a, p.84, cited in Sullivan, 2007), rising to 4500 a decade later (Forbes, 1999, cited in Sullivan, 2007).

The most systematic estimate of numbers of female sex workers employed in brothels in Sydney recorded 3,174 in a 12-month period (Read et al., 2012a). There have been 37 years of this injustice in Victoria leading to significant moral injury to the affected populations, with a large and currently unrecorded number of women trapped in this predicament.

'Sex work' is violence against women. Figure 1 (below) shows the Duluth Sex Trafficking Wheel of Violence, demonstrating the many types of violence inherent in sex trafficking and the 'work' into which trafficked women are forced. To eradicate this violence, we believe Ms. Patten and her supporters should take into consideration the tireless work being done in the Health Department to address violence against women. For example, see the prevention efforts outlined in *Violence Against Women in Australia: An Overview of Research and Approaches to Primary Prevention* (Victorian Health Promotion Foundation 2017).

While we do acknowledge the ongoing debate in feminist scholarship about sex trafficking and prostitution being distinct phenomena, in this paper we consider the two to be interlinked

because, as Farley aptly put it, “trafficking is the marketing of prostitution” (2003, p. 248).

Further, despite social distinctions between “forced” and “voluntary” victims, there is no real choice in voluntary involvement when a woman is hungry or lacks alternatives for survival (Wilson et al. 2014).



Figure 1: *The Duluth Sex Trafficking Wheel, adapted from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project's Duluth Model Power and Control Wheel (Polaris 2020).*

Regarding suitability requirements, under our proposed Equality Model of Prostitution, men and/women operating a brothel managing 'girls' or 'boys' will be penalised. Current men and women operating brothels are abusers of people and may suffer from mental health issues such as behavioral sexual addiction, covert narcissism, psychopathy, BPD, anxiety, depression and trauma themselves. For example, Bradley Grey is a former Canberra brothel operator convicted of trafficking a 17-year-old girl to work in his *Mitchell Mistresses*, Australia Capital Territory (ACT) brothel and to produce pornography (Inman 2018). He was accused by multiple women of raping new recruits under the guise of 'training'. He had asked them about their financial situation and knew they were vulnerable. With the help of Pink Cross, this woman made a statement to Federal police. Grey is now in prison. Certainly, he has serious mental health issues. But journalists do not understand how to present the mental health state of brothel owners, pimps, and men who sexually abuse women. Traumatized people traumatize and re-traumatize others.

Internationally, Australia is seen as a convicts' country, more so when we know that antiquated law such as the *Sex Work Act 1994*—and all others in WA, SA, NT, ACT and NSW—perpetuates power and control over vulnerable populations. There is evidence to suggest that trauma truly has been enacted into law in 1986 because of a propensity to acts of violence against others; victims being re-traumatized and victimized again has become deeply rooted in

our social psyche. The moral injury that this has caused to thousands of children, women and men in Australia is sickening.

2. Requirements for ‘private sex workers’.

As abolitionists for the sex trade, we believe that those who ‘privately’ remain in the trade can be reached, shown respect by Law Enforcement and frontline agencies, and provided with the most up-to-date, industry best practice in social services, psychological and medical interventions.

By offering them the dignity of risk they deserve, they could lead healthy and fulfilling lives. But there has been only fickle, unreliable funding from the state government since the Sex Work Act was born in 1986. We believe we can abolish the pain that those who sell sex ‘privately’ are going through by providing them treatment and exit options such as Hope Counselling’s *Post Traumatic Recode Neurological Rewiring & Attachment Repatterning For C-PTSD* (Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder).

Prostitution as a means of survival may still occur in a world where brothels are shut down, which is imminent. Therefore, people still selling their sexual services and wanting to work from home or hotels will be reached by Pink Cross staff and supported to recover from the harms of prostitution, their life-long issues, and to reach their specific life goals.

Goals may involve, in a case-management setting by a support or social worker, a reduction of their prostitution hours, obtaining some training for mainstream employment, or being linked with organisations to help them apply for NDIS funding.

Most people we work with at Pink Cross suffer from numerous co-existing issues such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and complex post-traumatic stress disorder (C-PTSD), drug and alcohol abuse as well as prescription drugs misuse. Depression and anxiety are also addressed within our programs.

3. 'Sex work' at home

All brothel, street and private 'sex workers' are vulnerable girls and women who can be supported finding mainstream employment. 'Sex work' is an oxymoron; the words contradict each other. The prostitution exchange will never be 'a job'.

Therefore, we suggest brothels cease operating and that any reference to the building or renting of a building for the purposes of sexual exploitation within local planning laws be removed.

Instead, we suggest that town planners rewrite their Code of Ethics, which Code could include references to knowledge of prostitution activity happening.

Public servants must take action to curb demand for unwanted sex, which can only help prevent and decrease supply and its related life-long ramifications on physical and mental health.

'Sex work' is an oxymoron. Therefore, we refute the idea that people need to be zoned for taking part in prostitution. Police can have dedicated areas in which they pay more attention to cars who come by with men inside to purchase sex off the streets. They could inform men that it is illegal to purchase sex—under our proposed Equality Model—and give them referrals to a support agency such as Pink Cross.

The aim when reaching buyers is to educate them on the harm their actions can do to women, and the harm to themselves, highlighting that symptoms that they may experience now with their action of wanting to buy sex can be linked to issues needing to be addressed so the men can live a more rewarding life.

The women are also gently approached by Police, in conjunction with frontline agencies, about getting their life back on track if presenting with co-existing issues such as mental illness, alcohol and other drugs (AOD), legal issues, or housing needs. These are the usual situations we see and hear about daily at Pink Cross.

4. The definition of 'sexual services'

Definitions are matters of semantics. This poorly formulated question (where do you find the definition in The Sex Work Act 1994 is obscure. Section 3 contains 45 pages).

Members of Parliament and the general population should be re-educated, after 37 years of moral injury to children and women.

Moral Injury is the root cause of burn out, emotional exhaustion, poor performance and detachment.

We need to put in place strategies to overcome the systemic issues that causes moral injury and its end-stage, burn out.

Women often exit the sex trade completely burned out, and with as much debt as they had when they entered. There is academic literature about this but the Pink Cross CEO, Geneviève Gilbert, is speaking here from lived experience.

Survivors of the sex trade are resilient yet have to use maladaptive coping mechanisms to handle the kind of stress that C-PTSD causes. We cope by overworking, overthinking, using drugs and alcohol cyclically, or dissociating even with our friends and family. Only treatments such as new advances in neuroscience to reprogram the brain have been proven to work. Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Cognitive Processing Therapy and Schema Therapy are effective, long-term treatments which people experiencing symptoms should know about.

Moral injury stems from the failure of a system. The Labor Government has failed to protect the health and safety of countless women and men and should revise its strategy for good—and best—mental health outcomes.

It is a sophist argument, highly deceptive to all women over those 37 years of brutal enslavement in the legal sex trade, to have implied for that long that sex *can* be sold.

We, victims of the sex trade, have been deceived.

A sophism is a statement to deceive someone in a debate or conversation. It might be made to seem to make sense when really being wrong, or it might use difficult words and complicated sentences to intimidate the audience into agreeing. An argument *ad hominem* is an example of sophistry. (Wikipedia)

Ms. Patten, leading the Sex Work Review Team, asks whether the definition of ‘sexual services’ needs to be updated. This reveals that the team is lacking knowledge on numerous fronts.

We recommend reading the *Free from Violence* action plan by the Department of Health (Victoria State Government, 2018). Although you won’t find words such as ‘sex work’, in Outcome 2 at page 8, it is recommended that:

- Victorians actively challenge attitudes and behaviours that enable violence
- Victorians discuss and condemn violence through challenging rigid gender roles, gender inequality, sexism and discrimination, to break the cycle of violence.

The following are recommended as indicators of success (Victorian State Government, 2018):

- Decrease in sexist and discriminatory attitudes and behaviours

- Increase in organisations and institutions with systems to support people who challenge sexism and discrimination
- Reduced reports of everyday stereotypes and sexism
- Increase in bystanders feeling supported to challenge sexism and discrimination
- Increase in positive bystander behaviour in the face of sexism and discrimination
- Increased confidence among men and boys to challenge their peer group when faced with disrespectful or hostile attitudes towards women
- All Victorians experience respectful relationships underpinned by human rights and gender equality – healthy relationship behaviours are celebrated and promoted.
- Victorians do not tolerate family violence – family violence reporting rates reflect increased confidence in the system and intolerance of family violence, and eventually reflect sustained effort in prevention.
- Victorians hold beliefs and attitudes that reject gender inequality and family violence – people recognise and reject all forms of family violence and gender inequality and know how to challenge it when they see it.
- Individuals and systems do not minimise or deny family violence or blame victims, and stigma and discrimination are addressed.
- Women and men, and girls and boys, are equal – gender inequalities where people live, work, learn and play are diminished.

These outcomes are the goals of the Action Plan (Victorian State Government, 2018):

- Victorians hold attitudes and beliefs that reject gender inequality and family violence
- Victorians understand the causes and forms of family violence, who is affected by violence, and the impact on victims.
- Victorians actively challenge attitudes and behaviours that enable violence

- Victorians discuss and condemn violence through challenging rigid gender roles, gender inequality, sexism and discrimination, to break the cycle of violence.

We wonder whether Ms. Patten understands from where the term 'sex work' emanates.

The lobby to validate the pain that gay people were putting themselves through came about alongside the Gay Rights Movement in San Francisco (Mgbako 2020):

The activism of transgender sex workers involved in the 1960s queer liberation movement in the United States provides some of the earliest examples of sex worker organizing. By 1973, Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics (COYOTE), the first formal sex workers' rights organization in the United States, was founded.

Sex as a form of self-injury has been identified by researchers in Sweden and elsewhere, especially for victims of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, those with non-heterosexual orientation, trauma, mental illness, and eating disorders (Fredlund, Svedin, Priebe, et al. 2017).

'Sex Work' as a definition should *not* be updated. It has been part of a wider sophistry argument which makes no sense to those working in the medical frontline services. We, the victims of the Sex Work Act 1994 and its system, refute this term. There is no such thing as a 'sexual service'. In radical feminist theory, we call this 'giving consent by way of financial coercion.'

As previously stated, this Act will be abrogated and replaced by one that supports prostituted populations in their mental health recovery.

In the meantime, we believe that the Act should channel through \$10.2 million accumulated in the *Sex Work Regulation Fund* over a five-year period to Pink Cross Foundation, as stated in Section 66 (4) of the Sex Work Act 1994:

(4) The Minister may give to the Authority written directions in relation to the purposes for which the Authority may spend money in exercising its functions under this Act and the extent to which the Authority may spend money for any particular purpose.

This portion of the surplus is to provide Exit Services to those who express a desire to transition out of this lifestyle and require case support to reach their goals. This accumulated surplus is also needed to educate men and the general population on the prostitution transaction and its harms. Violence against women is rampant in our State, and primary prevention is important (VicHealth 2017).

This funding is required to provide mental health support to men and women involved in the prostitution transaction. Without trauma-informed, professionally trained and appointed staff and outreach workers, suicide rates within the industry will continue to increase and life-long disabilities, diagnosed conditions, ill-health, and drug and alcohol misuse will continue to widen the gender inequality gap.

5. Street-based ‘sex work’

We at Pink Cross agree with a decriminalised model of prostitution but NOT akin to the two-tiered model that the Review suggests.

Decriminalising managers, purchasers and buyers is a crime of extreme violence against millions of women and girls in Victoria and beyond. This involves the premise that *any* girl or

woman *can* be prostituted, thus that ourselves (you, the reader), our sisters, daughters, mothers, aunts and girlfriends can also be prostituted, would they choose so.

Geneviève Gilbert, Pink Cross CEO, joined a team of outreach workers in 2015 at a Moorabbin brothel called The Bignell, on Bignell Street. There she chatted, sitting at the brothel 'café bar', with a 65 years old woman who said that her pension did not bring her enough money, that she did not have education nor a job and that is what she saw as an option (prostituting within this brothel) to make ends meet.

She had delicate features, was wearing stockings and a short skirt, and her skin was very wrinkly. "Tell me, Geneviève, what else should I do?" she asked, coming as close as ten centimetres to Geneviève's face. "I have children and grand-children, and I don't have enough money to live on!"

They exchanged phone numbers. However, due to the lack of sustained income to work with these women over a period of time with trained staff to give them information referrals and improve their lives, we could not meet with her again and establish a recovery plan for her.

It was a once-off meeting, as it often is when we visit and revisit brothels while women move around. We work with twenty regular volunteers, mainly, and we have implemented a system in 2017 to capture data from our activities.

We have met between 3000 and 4500 people in Victorian brothels per year since 2013. Our outreach program has been running for a total of six years, excluding 2020, where we had time to visit a limited number of brothels before Covid-19 pandemic hit Australia on 1 March 2020.

As Georgina Anderson, Registered Psychotherapist and a Board Member of Pink Cross, in the video consultation stated, 'No little girl tells their mum: 'Mom, one day, I want to become a prostitute'.

Do we want our children to know about this and express this desire? We do not want so.

Therefore, those who buy women for sex (the buyers, the managers) need to refrain from this and not be encouraged to do so. Making the decriminalisation of managers, purchasers and buyers of 'sexual services' a possibility—especially on the streets, where it is currently illegal, for women and a legal loophole for men (no penalisation, no accountability, total invisibility)—can only increase mental health problems from both population groups.

A two-tiered model of decriminalisation would continue to increase the rates of pornography addiction, sexual addiction and crime and violence against those vulnerable falling into the prostitution lifestyle, including the National Crime of Trafficking in Persons for the purposes of sexual slavery.

You may find it interesting to read about all the laws governing 'sex work' (Consumer Affairs Victoria, 2020). To read this document is an ironic experience for those of us with lived experience of gang rape and other crimes in the sex industry.

6. Workplace Safety and Wellbeing

'Workplace safety' is an oxymoron in the sex industry. Decriminalise venues and men who manage and purchase, and you have a bombshell awaiting, explosions of child abuse cases, deaths and homicides. Decriminalise within an Equality/Nordic Model framework is the safest option. A female private 'worker' can have her children on the premises and studies, publications and media articles suggest that these children are getting sexually assaulted and psychologically harmed.

Shelley Lubben described in her book *Truth Behind the Fantasy of Porn* (2010) that her daughter was left alone as Shelley saw clients and the harm that has resulted from this. In February 2019, Tiffany took her own life. Shelley, her mother, followed her two weeks later. Porn (filmed prostitution) kills and impacts children's of survivor's lives.

Pink Cross Australia as a frontline agency aims to bring *wellbeing* to those who have or are engaging in the sex trade. Wellbeing and mental health recovery is at the center of all our programs.

National marketing strategies are needed to promote health warnings against entering this lifestyle. Prostitution is harmful to both parties involved in this transaction, as stated by Kim Lefebvre Poirier (2016). You can also refer to academic resources about risks and predisposing factors of entry into prostitution (Lefebvre-Poirier 2016; Farley, Bindel and Golding 2009; Farley, Cotton, Lynne et al. 2003; Clayton, Krugman and Simon 2013; Bindel, Brown, Easton et al. 2014; McCarthy, Benoit and Jansson 2014).

7. Discrimination within and against the sex industry

The Committee asks: What can be done to address social stigma and discrimination against 'sex workers'? We will provide an answer below. But to those who wrote these questions, can we please ask why you do not include buyers of sex experiencing social stigma and discrimination? Brothel owners' and managers' social stigma and discrimination?

Geneviève Gilbert, Pink Cross CEO and survivor of the trade, remembers numerous conversations with brothel owners during her time in the trade and afterwards, when she visited back premises. Needless to say, she has had hours and hours of conversation (to fill in the time gaps, of course, pushing away a client's ability to sexually abuse her again) with clients. Yearly, Geneviève saw on average between 600 and 1000 men, working 4-5 days or 'shifts' per week.

Buyers do not, for a fact, tell their wives, girlfriends, sisters and mothers or aunts about going to a brothel. Some have shared with her that they told their work colleagues, and what ensued was giggling, bullying and demeaning remarks. As a way of example, this short, blond, rather skinny man in his twenties was seeing 'Paris' (dissociated Geneviève) every month for more than a year. He appeared to have a mild intellectual disability. He was working full time at a regional historical educational venue. He seemed to be enjoying his visit to 'Paris' in Melbourne as he felt quite isolated and had difficulty making friends. Geneviève did not enjoy spending time with him. It was a 'forced' friendship (having to put up with that boring conversation for the whole hour he paid \$300 for, whilst naked with him).

A social responsibility from the government would be to put in place better education, marketing and systems on how others can support a young man like this who experiences those issues. Ms. Patten should look into creating a Pink Cross National Centre for support when one feels the urge to go and buy sex, or when one needs to recover from selling sex. We like what Headspace and Orange Door are doing for the community. Why not extending this for the 'sex trade'?

At Pink Cross, our compassion extends to those who purchase sex.

The very act or behaviour of offering money in exchange for access to a person's body is an act of coercion against a vulnerable person. Therefore, no 'sex work' promotes public health. On the contrary, 'sex work' encourages unhealthy behaviours such as sexual addiction, and reinforces problems experienced by people who are already suffering from mental health conditions such as bipolar disorder, dissociative identity disorder, C-PTSD, drug and alcohol use and misuse, and more.

Social stigma exists for one important reason: because our sexualised bodies are not to be exposed or offered for financial exploitation. With more time, we at Pink Cross can find ample medical academic literature about this. Those who are ashamed of purchasing girls and women for their sexual pleasure and those who are ashamed of selling access to their bodies for survival (or other reasons) have a good reason to be: it is not natural and has long-lasting consequences.

As Aaron Darrell, son of a brothel manager and 'sex worker' mother explains (Barlass 2015):

"I had worked as a support person for their brothel since I was 15. I knew a lot about their workplace, about the people who worked there and the clients who visited.

Sometimes my mother was a worker, sometimes the madam. Always my father was her pimp or co-owner. If I listen, I can still hear the footsteps on the stairs as my mother and yet another client ascended to the room upstairs."

He says working in a brothel took its toll on the women too.

"I watched what working in a brothel did to them. And I watched the men who used them, who used my mother, walk into the foyer of my parent's brothel. And I saw so many of them when I started uni the first time, I was instantly confronted by the reality that I recognised this lecturer or that tutor as men who had rented my mother.

"Aaron called himself Craig. It's the name I took when I began working at my parent's brothel. I chose it because I hated it just as I hated what I was doing. At work we were Craig, Cathy and Chris. I was acknowledged as Chris's son but there was no acknowledgement of the tie between my mother and myself."

His psychologist, who has diagnosed Darrell as having C-PTSD attributable to a traumatic event at a very young age, also says he is ready to go public. He has decided to tell his story, not only as part of a cathartic process of recovery, but more importantly, to highlight the plight of the children of 'sex workers'.

He grew up with a prostitute for a mother and her husband/pimp for a father. They owned brothels on the north shore and lived in a substantial property in Killara. One brothel, a stone's throw from Roseville's art deco cinema, still exists and is now under new management.

Aaron Darrel tell us that nation-wide there are 40,000 children of brothel owners and 'sex workers' who have been negatively affected by the 'sex trade' and who suffer from numerous mental health issues. According to the Australian institute of Criminology (Dwyer and Strang 1989), there have been twice as many children abused within the sex trade as there are women in the trade.

Considering that more than 85% of women in the trade are single parents of a number of children, it makes sense to believe that the children of the trade are at risk, too.

Aaron is researching what happens to children of the trade. Children are labelled and ridiculed. Perpetrators often go on abusing more, more violently, and in other forms, other children more broadly.

These are 'John's joke's' about children with parents in the trade (Reddit 2017). The jokes point to the dark fantasies that lead to more bullying.

Q: *What do you call a whore's child?* A: Whore d'oeuvres.O: Whoreable

Q: *What do you call a prostitute's child?* A: A prostitot. Or, children of the Porn. Or, "the only way to get an erection". Or, "next".

The Sex Work Act should be revoked and replaced by an Equality Model, taking into consideration the impact of childhood trauma on later life, mental health for those in the trade and for the children of those in the trade, as well as any significant others who are concerned about their loved one being a purchaser or victim of the trade.

Other Acts of Parliament should appropriately be modified in order to bring expert mental health support to those at risk.

8. Promoting public health with regard to the sex industry

Laws are needed to provide Medicare Rebatable - or 100% free - treatment for recovery and holistic services to men and women having been or still involved in commercial sexual exploitation.

We at Pink Cross do not agree with a two-tiered model of decriminalisation. We do not want pimps, managers and the like to be free to exploit more human beings. Rather, we promote the decriminalisation and revocation of any convictions for prostitution crimes (street prostitution). Punishing the vulnerable person who prostitutes only accentuates and widens the economic and class gap between the person and her cultural surroundings. There is no social justice if we do not provide mental health support for those who buy sex and those who sell sex.

Now in 2020, 37 years of making legal the enslavement of people into commercial sexual exploitation is enough, Victoria. Daniel Andrews *must* hear this, Fiona Patten.

Wake up, Victoria. Wake up, Australia. The COVID-19 pandemic may claim lives and turn around the way we live; we at Pink Cross believe it will naturally render obsolete the Sex Work Act, especially because of your findings throughout this enquiry. We trust, Ms. Patten, that you will be convinced of the negative impact of this industry on public health.

Pink Cross Foundation Australia calls on the revocation of the Sex Work Act 1994, which destroyed eight precious fertility years of CEO Geneviève Gilbert's life and damaged her mental and physical wellbeing. Daniel Andrews *must* be made aware of this. I can only imagine the damage that legal 'sex work' and its health impacts has had on those young, homeless or at risk of homelessness girls and women who do not complete high school and enter, before the legal age of 18 years old, this lifestyle.

After 20 years in the industry, Annabelle (her real working name, Boardroom Brothel, South Melbourne, Victoria) had nothing to look forward to, reports Geneviève Gilbert. In 2010 when Geneviève exited, Annabelle was still lounging around at the brothel, saying no to seeing Indian

men as usual, and just being plain depressed, superficial, confused and lonely. There was not much Geneviève could do for her as the existence of exit programs was not even known to the ‘contractors’ that they were, the ‘sex workers’.

The Rhed Magazine, the only sex industry magazine reaching the ‘contractors’ within the brothels, did not contain information on the harm of prostitution. It was a publication from their fourth edition of the year in 2009 (Geneviève had already been in the industry for six years, wanting out but having no resources to do so) that an upcoming *Pathways to Exit Program* (funded by the local Victorian government) was being offered, and that it would begin in April 2010. Geneviève Gilbert is the first client who eagerly undertook this program. She had to reach out to obtain her own support services and resources on top of feeling painfully ashamed of having a social worker (after all, she was postgraduate educated, had it all together—or so she thought—and did not believe she would come that low). With the support of numerous agencies, she never returned to a life of corruption, physical abuse, sexual pain and exploitation, rampant addiction, blatant co-existing mental health presentations and a double-life marred with daily shame, guilt and remorse.

Seeing the gap in service delivery in Victoria, a decision was made to start speaking publicly about her own ordeal after she watched a public presentation by Dr. Shelley Lubben, speaking in Michigan about her life as a formerly prostituted and a porn star. She had founded The Pink Cross not-for-profit in California and was reaching and giving hope to hundreds of women and men worldwide. Her charity was booming, and very effective. Here in Australia we thought that we could leverage on the brand she created and asked her if we could use it in Australia. She agreed to it on a whim.

Both organisations worked independently. In 2016, Shelley closed down Pink Cross USA, after a long battle with her ex-husband in an acrimonious divorce. She had many trolls and abusers online as well as stalkers at Adult Conventions she attended throughout the US to reach porn stars and give them hope: that there are other ways to live. One of them was Michael Hardacre, who still runs smear campaigns about her by keeping his negative and hate-filled videos of her online.

With untreated Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder becoming apparent, living in a caravan park in the country and away from her three daughters, Shelley Lubben took her life in early 2019, aged 50 years old.

Preceding this was the apparent suicide of her first daughter, Tiffany, conceived by one of her 'tricks'. Shelley continued to prostitute until the child may have been ten years old and this had long lasting effects on Tiffany, then in 2019 a parent of three little children. Tiffany killed herself. As mentioned earlier in this document, her mother followed her in heaven.

You can watch *Dead Porn Stars Memorial* (Lubben 2008), which Lubben put together about all those porn stars a.k.a. 'prostitutes on film' who have died because of their 'occupation'.

All the Acts and laws stated in the Victorian Sex Work Act 1994 have to be revised to include generous supplemental health funding directed at frontline services such as Pink Cross Foundation Australia to avoid more suicides, deaths, despair, medicated treatment (which often acts only as a panacea in a person's life, and doesn't address long-term trauma and its effects), as well life-long untreated conditions ultimately claiming women's lives. If appropriate, we can submit further details about our Clinical Management Strategy if asked by the Sex Work Review and your concerned stakeholders, for example a five-year detailed budget including important marketing campaigns reaching the whole population, graphics and posters on trains and buses on mental health impacts of engaging in prostitution at different times of the year, as we know peak times *when* the buyers and the 'sex workers' are engaging in this practice the most.

Also, a budget stating how many staff, remunerated based on Fair Work modern awards, are needed to bring relief to the despair men and women are facing in the sex industry.

From her lived experience, Geneviève Gilbert, Pink Cross CEO, was not warned of the psychological consequences and dangers of 'working' in a brothel.

As a way of example, in her desperation trying to quit this 'job', she refinanced a humble unit she had purchased after paying off her university debt, 'in order to get started in life with something ahead for me, not a debt', as she mentions in *Prostitution Narratives*, a collection of twenty first person account of women who survived prostitution in developed countries (eds. Tankard Reist and Norma 2016).

She took cash out from her mortgage and gave it in a stash to one of her clients that she was 'dating' (a conman and liar, who was married with one child, she later discovered after chasing him with a private detective). Alan Pun Lam from Hong Kong also involved three of her friends in his Forex Exchange Currency Scheme. Geneviève and her three friends invested a total of one hundred thousand dollars overall, which Alan had promised with a written contract to return to them in payments of 30% of their initial investment per month. This was a way for Geneviève to get out of the industry; to receive passing income and never returning selling sex for money.

Alan Lam stopped transferring monthly returns to all of the friends. He disappeared with one hundred thousand dollars of the group's cash. They chased him for two years, threatened to bankrupt him, and finally amidst the global financial crisis of 2008, he spit out 87% of the total cash the group had given to him. He did not return the last few thousand dollars because he knew it would cost them as much in solicitors' fees to get him to pay this back.

Such is one person's desperation to exit the sex trade. Taking unprecedented risks. After further investigations with the help of another of Geneviève's clients — a Law Enforcement officer — it was discovered that Alan Pun Lam was charged three years prior with stealing computer equipment from a warehouse and that he was never charged or served a sentence.

Alan was verbally, emotionally and financially abusive towards Geneviève, so much so that she, under his pressure — because he labelled her with all sorts of epithets — believed that she was

the one needing to see a psychologist. And so she did. What Geneviève described to the psychologist was a person she was 'dating' who was suffering from Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). BPD is an attachment disorder and Geneviève experienced his love-hatred relational ways towards her. The only answer to a BPD destructive relationship, Geneviève discovered after reading *Walking on Eggshells* (Mason & Kreger, 2011), is to cut all links with the person.

Men who visit brothels are at risk, and women who sit down at brothels selling sex to survive a life full of neglect, abuse and injustice are also very much at risk of further harm. Both types of risks are different, but they are real risks to live a fulfilling life. Without appropriate information made public statewide and nationally, men and women in the sex industry will continue to suffer and die. Laws on free choice protects individuals to make decisions and give them the Dignity of Risk each one of us deserve. Yet, nothing is done to tell the truth about prostitution.

Geneviève Gilbert, Pink Cross CEO, is happy to consult with the government to input into all aspects of the different Acts which will need amendments in order to promote and protect public health under a partial decriminalised model. What she is most interested in is to draft a brand new, nationally-endorsed Bill supporting at-risk people in the sex industry. Other countries have voted into laws this kind of Bill (Sweden (1999), Norway (2009), Iceland (2009), Canada (2014), Northern Ireland (2015), France (2016), Ireland (2017), Israël (2018), with variations in South Korea and Finland and being considered in Italy and Luxembourg), which is called the Equality/Nordic Model of Prostitution Law, or Buyers' Law.

Over the years Geneviève has met other stakeholders and charities in other states and around the world. She understands and can draft in great detail what sort of funding is required to best support everyone, from concerned relatives and friends to former ‘sex workers’ who have never talked about it and have kept this a dark secret for years, holding them back from living a fulfilling life.

9. Compliance, enforcement, and illegal brothels

In our discussion of this topic, we replace the term ‘sex work’ (this term is so triggering for a survivor) with ‘compliance and enforcement of the Equality Model’.

It is impossible to make the industry safer. The only way to eliminate danger for children in the industry is to eliminate the industry in itself. (Aaron Darrell, personal communication)

In the home-based sex trade, Johns, or buyers, are at home with the kids and this puts the children at a high risk of being sexually assaulted themselves. Home based ‘sex work’ should have requirements to protect children. People engaging in prostitution should never make the children aware of their actions, neither would any male with children discuss visiting prostituted

women in front of them. This is blatant child abuse and warnings should be placed everywhere about this risk.

The Victorian Sex Industry Coordination Unit (SICU) is doing a great job with limited resources. Pink Cross believes that a team of at least fifteen full time employees should oversee the current Sex Work Act Consumer Affairs regulated operations. The SICU Team is not attending the 95 legal brothels (pre-COVID-19 crisis) in the State often enough, and regional ones are largely ignored.

Under an Equality Model, Enforcement would mean that Police would *always* refer a woman found prostituting, in any locations or circumstances, to case management and support services such as those offered by Pink Cross.

Tip-offs and calls from prostituting women would also be protected from much more harm. In the case of an Ugly Mug (a bad 'client'), the 'client' could be traced with the phone number provided to the prostituted woman even though the exchange could have had happened at any type of location, from the street to private homes, Airbnb homes, and hotels. On the streets, a specific team of officers would be mandated to deter clients from approaching women.

Police would be trained to talk the talk: tell the man that buying a woman for sex is illegal, is an act of coercion, power and control over an individual, and reinforces not only sex stereotypes (a

woman serving a man, doing what 'he' wants) but that it reinforces the prostituted person's vulnerability, poverty, and visible victimisation.

Eight countries have adopted the Equality/Nordic Model of Prostitution legislation with four more considering it seriously: Italy, Luxembourg, North Korea, Finland (Catwa, 2017). Australia, a Commonwealth country, needs to follow suit in 2021. Law enforcement needs to be on par with new models of legislation in order to continue teaching the general population about poor mental health in the women and men affected by commercial sexual exploitation. The purchaser is also at risk of suffering from difficult life circumstances (Malarek 2007).

The revocation of the Sex Work Act 1994 can only bring a decrease in crimes against women and trafficking in humans for sexual slavery, as proven by other countries' data (Fein 2019). This will demonstrate that Australia is able to lead the way, protect its citizens, and work towards gender equality in a much more informed approach.

10. Addressing non-compliant businesses

Non-consensual 'sex work' is a crime. It is a National Crime in humans for the purposes of sexual slavery and it is called Trafficking in Humans. When no money is exchanged, it is also called rape. 'Sex work' is an oxymoron. Violence abounds in 'sex work', and in non-consensual 'sex work'.

What else can be done? Tougher convictions for perpetrators, and a justice system that rehabilitates yet protects its community from a convicted person. A convicted person should not be allowed to advertise, for example, on Tinder or any other people matching websites. These sites should have strict processes to screen men in order to protect women from predators.

All online businesses where strangers are able to meet through a given portal and then interact with girls or women should be held to the highest scrutiny.

Take for example, this woman that Pink Cross is supporting, a mother of two, and a victim of domestic violence, Venesa Bestel.

To access the article, you need to be a Herald Sun Subscriber. If not, here is the story by Delibasic (2019):

A 28-year-old drug user, who spent four years in jail for plotting to kill her ex-husband, has told how she was horrifically abused as a sex slave at the notorious Gatwick Hotel.

Venesa Bestel said she is now drug free, has turned her life around, and wanted to speak out to help other victims.

Ms Bestel spoke to the Leader ahead of a Human Sexual Trafficking Awareness conference where she, Pink Cross, which tackles sexual exploitation, and the Australian Federal Police will reveal the prevalence of trafficking, how to spot warning signs and the dangers of illegal brothels.

Venesa Bestel will be speaking at a human trafficking seminar about her experience.



Venesa Bestel. Picture: Andy Brownbill.

Inset: The notorious Gatwick Hotel in 2016. Picture: Yuri Kouzmin

The Cranbourne woman said in 2015, when she was still a heavy drugs abuser, she was bound and gagged and taken into a room at the Gatwick Hotel, where she endured three weeks of “unspeakable horror”.

“I was repeatedly raped, burnt with cigarettes, my throat was cut and my head was shaven—I thought I was going to die,” Ms Bestel said.

“I lost my dignity and I felt like there wasn’t a reason to live any more.”

She said she managed to escape after someone, who seemed to realise what was happening, untied her and “told me run to the back door as it was unlocked.”

Ms Bestel said she called Cafe Care founder Bill Pontikis who was supporting her prior to this.

“It was in that moment I left that life behind me and I thank God for giving me strength.

“I have never looked back and since then I’ve been dedicating my life to helping other victims of sex trafficking,” she said.

Ms Bestel said she wanted to use this weekend’s awareness event at Glen Eira Town Hall to highlight illegal brothels.

“A lot of the women working in these places have been trafficked and they have no escape as the owners hold their passports, forcing women to live at the parlours for seven days a week.”

She said telltale signs of human trafficking included women showing symptoms of mental and physical abuse.

“The signs include women sleeping in corners at brothels, they appear non-responsive, drugged and look exhausted as they’re forced to live there against their will.”

The Leader has repeatedly reported on how illegal brothels, many masquerading as massage parlours, are prolific throughout Melbourne’s suburbs, especially in the southeast.



The Australian Adult Entertainment Industry, which manages the interests of the majority of Victoria's legal brothels, has also warned that unscrupulous managers of unlicensed brothels ply "sex slave" migrant workers and students with drugs then force them to have unprotected sex.

Australian Federal Police detective Sergeant Bevan Moroney will also speak at the Glen Eira seminar.

Not-for-profit organisation Pink Cross received a grant from Glen Eira Council to develop the seminar.

"We want to make the community aware of the prevalence of trafficking within our community and how to prevent it," executive director Genevieve Gilbert said.

Pink Cross, with appropriate funding from the current Labor Government (2020) towards effective marketing, can roll out education campaigns for men and women engaging in prostitution. Campaigns may have different aims. For example, one could describe consent and use the word 'rape', to put it in the mind of boys and men that when there is no answer, it does not mean yes, it means it is a no-touch, a no-go.

Another one can describe effects of prostitution on physical and mental health. We think of campaigns such as those trying to deter people from smoking tobacco, logging, and coal mining.



We are thinking of a campaign to discourage the abduction and underground selling of women for sex, when drugged and restrained. We are working with Venesa Bestel, who has experienced the most horrific and violent trafficking one can live to experience.

Funding can come from different parts of the government with interests in this sector. The health department could certainly fund our health programs.

Because of groups and individuals promoting the sex industry as a viable life option and good entertainment for men, we have yet to convince the Department of Health of the damaging effect of this lifestyle on both parties at stake: women and men, supply and demand.

The marketing campaign could graphically describe the problems they will face as they spend more and more time undertaking these activities, one party for fun, the other for survival. You could compare such campaigns with those we have now seen for a few years on tobacco cigarettes' packs. There are enormous health consequences in smoking tobacco regularly. Combating life-long consequences of trauma from the sex industry should be well described, documented and funded so that Victoria, and Australia at large, can pursue the attainment of good mental health for the men and women who are still engaging in this practice.

Massage parlours will need to be legislated under current Victorian laws *and* when the Equality Model is passed and put in place, actioned by law enforcement and other stakeholders. At Pink Cross we believe that all employees, casual or regular, should undergo training in massage parlours to *not* take any offers from men for extra services (the 'happy ending': a massage 'therapist' providing a hand job, or masturbating a man until he ejaculates).

Instead, we came up with a *Do-It-Yourself* bag; see Appendix. The therapist should provide these bags to the men at the start of the massage service, and make sure the man understands that a massage to his genitals will not be provided.

These bags, akin to condoms currently provided freely to men and women in legal brothels, should be compulsory for any men wanting a 'happy ending'. He can do it himself with the 'Do-It-Yourself' bag. This way, the woman is protected from being coerced into touching the man's genitals and no illegal activity takes place.

The 'massage therapist' would be obliged to leave the room as to not witness the man's ejaculation. The man could be charged not only with trafficking a woman if he asks her with the gift of cash to touch his genitals, but if we look into the Indecent Exposure legislation, could also, by the massage parlour management, be charged with exposing himself indecently. If you need further explanation on this idea, please contact Pink Cross and we will provide a legal explanation.

Massage parlours could be consulted and a design for a silk bag with plastic endings to capture semen could be created. Plastic nappy bags are already used in brothels, in each rooms that 'sex workers' use, to place condom plastic covers, tissues and condoms themselves, after use. These bags are then placed in a chute with all towels used in rooms. Replacing brothels' paraphernalia, frontline agencies such as Pink Cross could supply those for the women (and men) remaining in the trade, under an Equality Model of Prostitution Legislation.

Our staff could reach the 'workers' wherever they are, or they could come by to one of our ten drop-in centres to fill up on free supplies. This can take place to continue some parts of the harm minimisation approach which was the underlying principle upon which the Sex Work Act 1994 was initially written, in the early 1980s.

11. Sexual offences

This is a broad topic to cover. As stated from lived experience by Pink Cross CEO Geneviève Gilbert, when engaging in legal prostitution between the years of 2002 to 2009, she personally could not be bothered going to Police or to make a statement when the gang rape, at the Buck's party, happened. It had happened to other co-workers before and it happened to her then.

You go home and you try to forget about it. You have your money, and you get up after a few days' break and you go back to brothel 'work' to make more money. No time to do this 'sh*t' of reporting to police outside hours. No. Outside hours: you need to do really good self-care to

forget about the harshness, danger and sexual abuse into which we are coerced by the lure of so much cash, to swallow and let go.

Outside hours, you are another person. You dissociate from your working name (Geneviève Gilbert was 'Jane', then 'Paris', then 'Marina', then 'Trinity', or any other name chosen when she switched brothels from time to time). Outside hours we do not live and breathe 'sex work'. We despise men looking at us, even in our most feral and laid-back clothing. We hate men's gaze at us. We run away from the public, isolate ourselves, or try to network with friends and family but it is difficult because we need to lie all the time. Therefore, we need to keep our lies up, and consistent, for everyone. If we slip up, we cast doubt in people's heads and then they may start asking questions, and we don't want that. We don't want to be reminded of the trauma, sexual violence and daily abuse we face, by what prostitution-loving men and those with vested interests in 'sex work' promote as a human right.

We do not want to think about 'sex work' outside of 'sex work'. Being touched by two to ten strangers daily is hard enough. The rest of the time we do things that we like, that remind us that we are humans. Loved. Not used and abused and treated as objects.

Rape occurs in legal brothels, outcalls from legal brothels, from Escort Agencies (which are, at the core, based on outcalls) and it happens on the streets, in illegal brothels, residential properties, or in Massage Parlours. If you look at the definition of rape, it only takes a few centimetres and one finger to wander into a woman's vagina or anus, or a man's anus, without

consent (this is a daily occurrence for those in prostitution) for a person to be able to make a statement to police.

When having vaginal intercourse and refusing anal sex, this action from the man can be prosecuted. As stated above, it often is not. Women in prostitution prefer the time (to recover) and money. Very rarely would we see women going through the process of making a statement to police, and further paperwork, meetings and prosecution. Charges are dropped. The justice system is not supportive of the women. Which prostituted woman would like to spend her hard-earned money on a solicitor, anyway? Although women in prostitution are mothers, sisters, daughters, and either have or do not have education or vocational training, it is not that they lack moral conscience. It is that their own survival takes precedence over the difficult, emotional, confronting work that would be involved in going to Police and making statements. Would they be informed by agencies such as Pink Cross on the free legal support they would get when such events could occur in a prostitution setting, I believe that *some* women would dub the men in ('dub' being slang for ignoring or rejecting) and file a report. Hotels have surveillance cameras. It would have been easy for our CEO Geneviève Gilbert to make a report and go down the long road of prosecuting these young rapists. But in 2005, all that mattered was to her was to earn income, pay debts from university studies, and move on, never to tell a soul about this excruciatingly painful subjugation she put herself through to compensate for the lack of parental support to achieve her academic goals, back in 1998.

Raised with a Catholic mother and a runaway, addict father, it was only when she was radically burnt by the sex industry, after seven years into it in Australia (this started in Québec, Canada,

three years before arriving in the country), it was only after having tried to exit numerous times, that she then, started to research what prostitution really was.

She found academic and now retired Melbourne University professor Sheila Jeffreys' publication at her local Preston library: *The Idea of Prostitution* (2009). Geneviève realised that things, in the mind of the hidden, invisible prostituted woman that she was, started to make sense. She was fooled, and she was and still is, today, paying the price for it.

She suffers from C-PTSD, and further disabling neurological and mental health conditions such as misophonia, which greatly affects her day-to-day life. But she is undertaking treatment and maintains hope that her unwanted psychological and physical symptoms will ease, as it has been proven for some of her symptoms when treated for a few weeks at the Phoenix Clinic, Melbourne, in 2019.

In conclusion, the question should not be about what to do with 'businesses' who do not comply, but with citizens who exploit, abuse sexually and are lonely, depressed, suffer from narcissism, BPD, drug and alcohol misuse and untreated trauma. Because that is what it is: men who have untreated trauma retraumatise others. This is how generational trauma is passed on.

Paying for sex is an act of power and control over someone more vulnerable than you are, because you have the money, and the other person is there because she needs that money you are offering. As Kajsa Ekis Ekman (2013) puts it:

Prostitution is, in reality, very simple. It is sex between two people—between one who wants it and one who doesn't. Since desire is absent, payment takes its place. This inequality of lust is the basis of all prostitution, be it 'VIP escort services' or the modern slavery of trafficking. The same condition is always present: one person wants to have sex, one doesn't. Money may get the buyer 'consent' and even fake appreciation during the act, but it only highlights the fact that the other party has sex even though s/he does not really want to. No matter how much is said or done to cover this up, if there were mutual desire, there wouldn't be any payment—and we all know it. Prostitution is therefore an enemy of sexual liberation, of lust, and of free will. This, of course, is only one of the problems associated with prostitution. There is also the violence, the poverty, the high mortality rates, the pimps—be it the mafia or the state—and the whole industry that feeds off the inequality of lust. The sex trade is a highly gendered phenomenon. It primarily involves women and girls being sold to men: 98% of the people whose lives are sold through trafficking are women and girls. A minority are men and boys whose lives are sold to other men.

12. What else should be done to address exploitation?

There is so much that could be said. Refer, for example, to the #metoo movement and public cases such as the one of Chanel Miller, raped by Brock Turner (see Miller 2020).

It is all about consent. But how shall a person give consent? As Andrea Tokaji mentioned in the video teleconference consultation time, consent is feeble.

Marketing campaigns to promote good mental health in the sex industry are paramount. But not the sort of mental health promotion of 'sex work' that is graphic, or that incites the purchase or sale of sex, as according to the Act it is illegal.

To address exploitation or non-consensual 'sex work', consultation with Pink Cross to run statewide marketing campaign is crucial, in order to follow harm reduction strategies and offer hope and alternatives to those to whom these ads will speak.

We shall also consider family members and concerned friends who would see these ads and how to respond to their needs. People in general—unless already in the sex industry—are always concerned about a prostituted person. The scrutiny is intense, and this is why most people in the industry make a choice not to talk about it to anyone. Being reminded about 'sex work' is not fun, during Christmas or Easter Lunch, for example, or in more mundane get-togethers.

One example sets the tone: a brunch get-together with a dozen friends:

—Friend [sitting away from others and only with Geneviève]: ‘So, Geneviève, how was your week-end?’

—Geneviève: Nothing special.

—Friend: So you didn’t go to work? I thought you saw many of your regular clients on Saturdays?

—Geneviève: Well, I had diarrhea Friday so I didn’t feel like seeing Trevor, who always requests anal sex. It’s good money, but I stayed home and rested. Missed out on at least a thousand bucks though. I should have just forced myself.

—Friend: Oh, don’t say that. When you are sick, you are sick. How often do you see Trevor?

—Geneviève: [bored and wanting to change subject]. Every few weeks. He comes from the country just to see me.

—Friend: Oh really? What part of regional Victoria? My parents have a farm near Ballarat.

—Geneviève: Sorry mate, I don't want to talk about this further. You know his name now, so go around and spread the word that he is a sex buyer, maybe. Would that make you feel better?

—Friend: I didn't mean to get into details. Sorry about that. But it is a small world.

—Geneviève. Yes, indeed. So you are the only person I told about my 'sex work' and I really don't want to talk about this when I see you next. Is that all right? [long pause]

—Friend [nodding. Really uncomfortable]. Sure...

—Geneviève: How was work this week teaching music at Mentone Grammar? Will any of the teenagers there, you think, end up doing 'sex work'?

—Friend: Oh dear, I hope not. But sorry. Not that I want to be demeaning towards what you do. But I know you do other things on the side; you are a visual artist, right?

—Geneviève: Yes but you can't live from that. It is even very competitive to work as a graphic designer. My brain is not coping with prolonged, focused computer work. I switch off. I don't know. I have always been like this (this is a common symptom from childhood and abuse victims in their later lives: memory issues, trouble concentrating, difficulty sleeping, amongst other symptoms).

—Friend: *no words*

—Geneviève : Got to go order my food at the counter now.

13. Notes on the Sex Work Act 1994

Part 3 of The Act, Section 33 - (1): (B)

License to be obtained by all 'sex workers' in order to be coerced with cash to provide access to their bodies for the sexual pleasure of men: to obtain a license is ludicrous. No woman entering a brothel to 'work' has ever, known to Geneviève Gilbert, held a license, nor Geneviève been asked to apply to obtain one.

Part 3 of The Act, Section 33 - (3)

Fingerprinting is discriminatory and should be completely eradicated from this destructive Act.

Part 3 of The Act, Section 33 - (4)

To be 'refused a license' to be abused by men because a vulnerable, impoverished, at-risk woman refuses to have her fingerprints taken is laughable. Positive mental health and wellbeing should be at the core of the support provided by a person who undertakes this lifestyle as a means of survival.

(C) Under the Equality Model of Prostitution, women may enter this lifestyle and not be prosecuted in any way, shape or form, nor shamed or condemned for doing so. All women, under the Equality Model of Prostitution, are reached by Pink Cross staff member because our experienced staff know where to find them.

(D) Part 3 of The Act, Section 37 - (1)(b)

Numerous women prostitute themselves because they already have a criminal conviction of some kind. This means that they may be refused work because of past criminal convictions. Therefore, it is astounding to think that this Act can enforce some kind of pre-selection of 'Licensees' on the basis of their past criminal history. There surely is academic research on the matter and we encourage you to seek further evidence of this. Nevertheless, this topic becomes

irrelevant because no prospectively prostituting person applies for a license anyway.

How dare this Act appoint 'Authorities' to determine whether a woman/person can or cannot enter this lifestyle? This vulnerable, impoverished, at-risk woman is already a victim of the patriarchal system and has elected to earn an income this way for a season in her life. 'Authorities' should be trauma-informed, knowledgeable about the Mental Health Act (2014) and extend enough compassion to understand the tragic predisposing factors leading a person to decide to earn an income this way.

All criminal records should be expunged or revoked from the women who currently have a criminal record for prostitution.

(E) No further charges should be laid on women when Police find them offering 'sexual services.' As it will be explained further below, women are already victims of an oppressive patriarchal system and have predisposing factors which lead them to enter this lifestyle. Therefore, Pink Cross as a social services agency should provide holistic recovery plans and treatment programs for those willing to undertake an intake and assessment.

Part 3 Division 8A - Inspection powers

Mental Health support agency such as Pink Cross should not be prevented from entering any licensed brothel. Since our inception in 2013, it has been a common occurrence. Commercial sexual exploitation is detrimental to those involved and requires lifelong recovery support.

Staff at an agency that supports prostituted women should be able to apply all powers that Police currently have when visiting the premises, in order to ascertain that women are informed about the physical and mental health risks involved in undertaking such activities for their survival.

Staff should also be able to speak to all men seeking to pay women for their sexual gratification and offer them pathways out of this addiction.

By 'addiction', we do not imply that all buyers are regular buyers, or that they suffer from a behavioral addiction as stated in the DSM-5, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders from the USA. We imply that the need that they are filling by seeking sexual favours with flaunting their cash to vulnerable women can be addressed with appropriate mental health strategies.

Pink Cross provides mental health support to people who identify as having a sex or love addiction and can support people's recovery accordingly.

Our treatments follow best practice in the social services sector, both for those engaging in prostitution ('service providers') and those who are purchasers (the buyers, addicts, or unknowing 'abusers' of women by way of financial coercion for sexual gain).

Part 3 Division 9 - Powers of entry

Pink Cross as a mental health support agency for those engaging in prostitution activities should come and go as they please in order to ascertain that all staff, sub-contractors (prostituted people, or 'service providers') are ok.

Pink Cross offers mental health strategies for wellbeing in the 'sex industry' following world, national and state best practice in the medical health sector encompassing counselling, psychological and therapeutic treatments.

Part 3 Division 9 - (64)

Pink Cross should be allowed to enter businesses categorised as Massage Parlours, which may have staff who become exposed to clients offering them cash in exchange for a 'happy ending'. Pink Cross should have the mandate, stated by governmental law, to be able to train all staff at all Massage Parlours in

conjunction with Police in order to decrease human sexual trafficking. Training involves information and warnings put in place within the premises and in all their online advertising, as well as access to therapy with a dedicated hotline for staff (regular or temporary), contractors and clients to report problems.

Part 3 Division 9 - (66)

It is stated that we should refer to the relevant bodies for investigation by The Australian Tax Office. Shall we investigate *why* there hasn't been any funding?

Page 124-125 of the Act. Under Division 10 (Miscellaneous), (67) Advisory Committee, it states that one of the functions of the advisory committee is "(e) assistance for organisations involved in helping sex workers to leave the industry". This is about government obligations rather than brothel owner obligations.

Assistance for organisations involved in helping 'sex workers' to leave the industry.

Here, in the Sex Work Act 1994 itself, there is an acknowledgement that some people involved in the sex trade want or need to transition out. Where is the

evidence that the Government has channeled funding to those agencies? And who are these agencies?

Part 3 Licensing system, number 66, Point (g)

This is extremely relevant. This also describes why we are for the revocation of The Act because of the dangers (including dangers to health) inherent in 'sex work', especially on the street.

The Act invites dissemination of information about the dangers of prostitution. Nothing Geneviève Gilbert, CEO of Pink Cross came across in her seven years on and off the trade (2002-2009) ever warned her of what she may, one day, suffer from. Or that there are predisposing factors from her family of origin which can lead her to fall prey to abuse, especially if she falls into the sex trade gutter.

The application of the different parts of The Act should be a matter of a Royal Commission into physical and moral injuries within the Victorian sex trade.

We ask that Treasury and the Tax Office opens its books and disclose the amount of money the government, over the last 37 years, has taken in from the commercial sexual exploitation of women within a legalised system.

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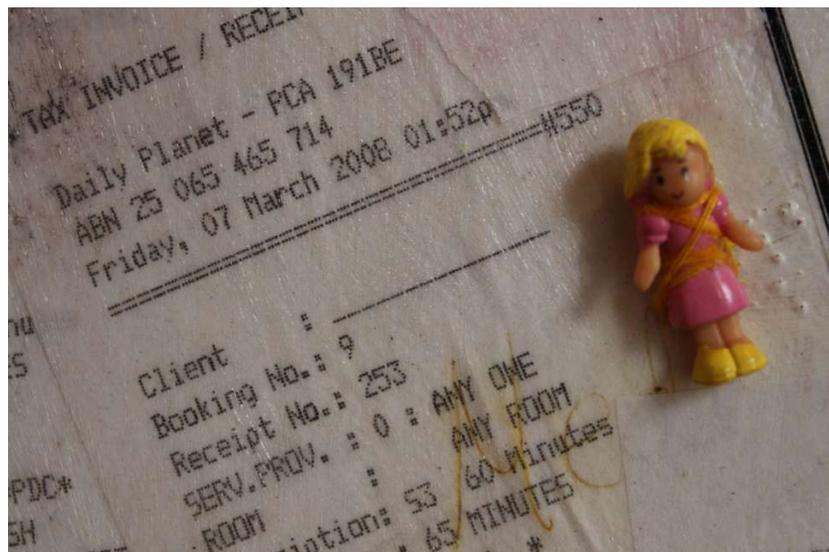
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Appendix 1: Do-it-yourself bag, natural and popcorn flavour.



Appendix 2: Legal Slave (2015) Art Piece by Geneviève Gilbert.

Printed on book Cover of Prostitution Narratives: Stories of survival in the sex trade (Norma and Tankard Reist, eds. 2016). Full mixed-media triptych (photo 1) and a zoom in from parts of the piece (photo 2).



For further clarifications, questions or advice as well as referrals, please contact us:

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END OF CONSULTATION QUESTIONS ANSWERS

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