

Opposing- The Save Act- Hr 4225

In February 2014 I was granted a meeting with Rele Abiade, who is Senator Sheldon's policy advisor.

1) We oppose Save Act hr 4225, and we believe it to be unconstitutional, as it discriminates against "erotic service providers. The courts already have addressed the same issue with past legislation in [Backpage.com, LLC v. Cooper](#) (Nashville, TN: January 6, 2013). We know if the Save Act hr 4225 does pass the Electronic Frontier Foundation will immediately get an injunction on it, just like they did with [California's Prop 35. Doe v. Harris](#)

2) We oppose the Save Act hr 4225 because it will not help identify trafficking victims, and it discriminates against erotic service providers + violates the constitutional rights of consenting adults.

Criminalization of consensual adult prostitution results in displacing sex workers by arresting them, and dragging them through the court system, while not offering them any REAL DIRECT SERVICES. Criminalization creates the perfect playground for predatory cops and other predators to rob, rape, threaten, beat, exploit, and murder sex workers.

LET'S LOOK AT THE RESEARCH

Dr Melissa Farely who was quoted in the research done by Donna Hughes out of URI, has been discredited.

[The official complaint against Dr Farely](#)

Rehashing Tired Claims About Prostitution

[A Response to Farley and Raphael and Shapiro](#)

DOJ website is still quoting false statistics , because they are also quoting Dr Farely

[" Is one of the most-cited statistics about sex work wrong?"](#)

Sex workers organizations have done their own research and the findings are much different.

- 1) The average age of entry into prostitution is 17 to 25
- 2) The average age of those arrested for prostitution related charges are 25 to 65
- 3) When we look at all the prostitution and disorderly conduct arrest in the US from 1981 until 2013, we find that only 1.8% of these cases involved minors.

It also looks like in many states that they were arresting more minors for prostitution in the 80's and 90's than they did in more recent years. Please note this data was taken from the FBI + DOJ websites yet this is not what they have been reporting to congress + the media.

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http://www.academia.edu/1039197/Comment_on_Melissa_Farleys_claims_regarding_decriminalisation_of_sex_work_in_New_Zealand

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“ Is one of the most-cited statistics about sex work wrong?”

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2014/09/is-one-of-the-most-cited-statistics-about-sex-work-wrong/379662/>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/wp/2015/05/28/the-bogus-claim-that-300000-u-s-children-are-at-risk-of-sexual-exploitation/>

What we found through the efforts of [The Erotic Service Providers Legal Education & Research Project](#) and the action that was taken as a result, that...

CA sex workers had been denied access to victims compensation, and even though the Obama administration, stated that “prostitutes would not be excluded from any public service” .

Sex workers organizers asked the committee “what kind of message are we sending to society that there are certain women that it is OK to abuse and that are unworthy of compensation and protection?”

[Which resulted in CA sex workers gaining access to victims compensation](#)

[Here Dr Melissa Farely insists that anyone advocating for the safety and protection of sex workers is the pimp lobbyist.](#) Research shows that most of the violence that sex workers face are at the hands of the police. Many victims have told researchers that it is criminalization that made it so easy for their traffickers to exploit them. The United Nations, The World Health Organization + Amnesty International all recommend decriminalizing consensual adult prostitution in order to reduce trafficking and violence against women.

[Yet New Zealand is ranked as Tier 1 on the US TIP report, when they have not had a trafficking victim since 2003.](#)

[People in Alaska's Sex Trade:
Their Lived Experiences And Recommendations](#)

[Sex Trafficking in Alaska. Kenyana's Story](#)

In many countries around the world, sex workers report more violence from law enforcement than from clients and pimps.

[It was launched in Bangkok—nobody wrote about it. It was launched in Myanmar—nobody wrote about it. The UN distributes it—nobody writes about it.](#) Media came to all the events. People from TV, people from newspapers—they interviewed people like the study's interviewers, who were all sex workers themselves. And then nobody wrote about it."

But apparently nobody wants to write about a serious report that takes an honest look at sex workers' lives and at the culture of impunity that exposes them to violence.....

The culture of impunity," Seshu told me, "is so much that even the media is scared to touch it. The data is very clearly saying that the police are the biggest violators. At the report launch in Nepal, the police walked out! They didn't believe we had talked to sex workers even though the sex workers were there

Research shows that 97% of sexual abuse of children happens with someone the child knows. These are members of the community, priests, police officers, coaches, teacher, family members, or friends of the family. Yet the trafficking narrative has mislead the media into thinking that most sexual abuse towards children happens with sex trafficking. It is already illegal for adults to have sex with minors, creating new laws against consenting adults doesn't protect children.

Law enforcement not only has a higher rate of domestic violence than any other occupation, they also seem to have a very high rate of officers who commit sexual assaults on children + prostitutes.

[TRUE STORIES OF RAPIST/PEDOPHILE COPS OUT OF CONTROL AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT FAILS THE VICTIMS](#)

[PEDOPHILES AND CHILD PORN- THE COPS, JUDGES, DAs, FBI AGENTS, SECRET SERVICE AGENTS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO CAN'T KEEP THEIR HANDS OFF MINORS](#)

In some states police officer are allowed to have sex with women and then arrest them for prostitution, under the guise of rescuing them. This could easily result in a police

officer having sex with a underage teenage sex worker, who is defined as a trafficking victim per US federal law.

[SHOCKING! SCANDALOUS! COPS NEW POLICY: 'RAPING PROSTITUTES TO RESCUE' THEM FROM SEX TRAFFICKING](#)

We wonder the justice system is not insisting on the prosecution of law enforcement officers who sexual assault children + prostitutes.

Why are we allowing law enforcement to harbor these predators within their own police departments, and why are these monsters not being prosecuted to the fullest extend of the law.

[Poverty + Homelessness isn't going to just go away. and at the start at 2015 the US has 2.5 million homeless children.](#)

Rather that cut the school lunch funding, we need to step up and support our youth. We found that most trafficking NGO's do not provide any direct services to the victims. Why is it that the do not provide long term housing, jobs that pay a living wage + a higher education without student loan debt. If you go on www.guidestar.org you can see the huge salaries the board members of these NGO's are making. The majority of all funding goes for salaries and to "create awareness about trafficking".

[Recession Drives Surge in Youth Runaways](#)

[Survival sex for LGBTQ](#)

[Locked in "Interactions with Criminal Justice and Child Welfare Systems for LGBTQ Youth, WMSM and YWSW who Engage in Survival Sex](#)

["Nearly all of the youths—95 percent—said they exchanged sex for money because it was the surest way to support themselves.](#)

These agencies might improve upon their \$400,000-per-rescued-child average if they joined in the effort to develop a clearer picture of the population they aim to aid. But there's no incentive for them to do so when they stand to rake in even more public money simply by staying the course."

[NYC Trafficking court aka whore court](#)

[The Woman Who Fought and Won Against New York's Special Prostitution Courts](#)

“....When you say that you “rescued” someone, that statement is about empowering and aggrandizing yourself while disempowering the person you think you rescued. This is because “rescuing” creates an uneven power dynamic where the “rescuer” (read: hero) has all of the power in the relationship and the “rescued” (read: helpless victim) has no agency or role in the exit of his or her abusive.”

[Trafficking Victim Protection Act](#)

[The TVPA says that anyone who "harbor's" a prostitute is guilty of trafficking. Ironically the word "Harbor" means to protect.](#) The TVPA also states that all minors and immigrants arrested for prostitution are classified as trafficking victims. Once an immigrant is arrested for prostitution, they are told that if they will not say that they are a victim and were forced into prostitution, that they will be deported immediately. Even after the immigrant lies and says that they are a victim and helps the US government get a conviction for trafficking, most are deported anyway. The immigrant women are locked up in shelters for up to 2 or 3 years and detained and not allowed contact with their families or cell phones. The traffickers do not even have to take their passports because just the threat of deportation will keep these victims from reporting their abuse to the authorities. (I heard a few years back that the US hired 250 more case managers to assist trafficking victims, and this is insane because they don't have any services to provide, thus there is nothing to manage + last check of the numbers there was 389 trafficking victims over a 2 year period. [All these policies were put in place without consulting sex workers.](#)

[Yet countries such as New Zealand have reduced corruption and almost eliminated exploitation in the prostitution industry by replacing prostitution under criminal law with labour and civil laws.](#) The country is on Tier 1 (excellent) of the US TIP report. There has not been a single incidence of trafficking in the sex industry in New Zealand since 2003.

[Anti Trafficking Awareness Day](#)

[A tool to assess the human rights impact of anti trafficking laws and policies.](#)

[A public service announcement from sex workers.](#)

[Beyond Trafficking and Slavery](#)

["The unfreedoms of Canada's live-in care giver program and various temporary worker programs start to sound quite a lot like trafficking, or at least profoundly exploitative debt bondage.](#) Yet advocates for the rights of care workers, for example, don't call for the elimination of the work itself, or for saving care workers by deporting them. Instead, they argue for changes in the terms of their employment and general improvements in their working and living conditions. The point is to focus on the rights of workers and migrants in practical and pragmatic ways."

[One year after Bedford: Where are we now?](#)

[Fantasies of White Sexual Slavery: How Our Nation's History of Sexual Oppression is Still With Us.](#)

[A Brief History of Prostitution](#)

[Sex online: Police target lucrative Internet Prostitution trade.](#)

RHODE ISLAND

In 1979 RI decriminalized indoor prostitution between consenting adults and then in 2009 the RI state police insisted that they could not investigate trafficking without criminalizing all prostitution. Yet here we are 5 years later and they have only found 6 underage teenagers as victims in the whole state so they are currently arresting less women for prostitution than in the years that indoor prostitution was under decriminalization.

More research is needed to see how criminalization effects sex workers. We have no doubt future research will show a direct link between domestic violence + trafficking, Currently any person a sex worker hires is classified as a pimp or trafficker by US law. We know from our community outreach that the majority of the women in the sex industry are consensual adult sex worker, who are working independently.
The save act will be as bad as bill c36 in the Bedford case in Canada

[New data out of Sweden showing the Nordic model did not reduce those who buy or sell sex](#)

[Take action and stop the Save Act By SWOP USA](#)

[The #1 service that women and children need is affordable housing.](#)

This is a brilliant project out of Portland that can make small homes for 12,500 to 20,000 and then rent them to those in need of affordable housing for just 250 to 300 bucks a month. I remember the World Health Organization report submitted to the UN a few years ago that said in order to stop violence against women, that all women and children needed to be provided shelter, food and water even in times of war and displacement and all the countries at the UN promised to implement these services by 2012.

Here we are in 2014 and in the US we still are not even taking housing applications and all the rescue groups are only interested in displacing women by putting them in shelters. So to empower women all women need to have their own households, and this would help with out homeless youth and would probably slow down the amount of women running towards the sex industry to try to escape poverty.

[Now they claim nobody opposed the Save Act](#)