

Press Release and Petition  
August 10, 2015

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Prostitution Research & Education, San Francisco

**213 scholars and researchers from 20 countries** join in making the following statement regarding prostitution policy and the proposal by Amnesty International to decriminalize prostitution. Signers are from Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Philippines, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA, and Venezuela.

**We are scholars and researchers who support the Nordic model law on prostitution that 1) decriminalizes the person in prostitution, 2) provides that person with exit support and services, and that 3) criminalizes pimps, traffickers, and sex buyers. The Nordic law results in decreased trafficking.**

**In light of the documented psychological and physical harms caused by the sex trade, we oppose the proposed policy of Amnesty International, which would decriminalize pimps and sex buyers, and which fails to offer alternatives to prostitution. This policy would promote and expand the sex trade and has been shown to be associated with increased trafficking and increased prostitution of children and vulnerable adults based on race/ethnicity, sex, and poverty.**

**Signed,**

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Ann Bartow, Director of the Franklin Pierce Center for Intellectual Property and Professor of Law, University of New Hampshire School of Law, USA.

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