

## **An artificial language designed to present men and women as a homogenous group is particularly harmful to prostitution survivors**

By an anonymous migrant woman survivor of prostitution  
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An artificial language designed to present men and women as a homogenous group is particularly harmful to prostitution survivors because:

1) This language does not allow a discourse on the differences between the sexes in the context of the sex industry. We freely discuss that most of the industry's victims are women, and most abusers (especially sex buyers) are men. Male people who identify as women are a distinct group in this context. They are disproportionately represented among the victims, but as sex buyers, they do not differ from the other men, statistically and behaviorally. Hopefully, someone will have the courage to research this one day, so we need clear language for that purpose.

2) Unisex language ultimately leads to unisex policies. As survivors of prostitution, we need separate therapeutic spaces. In the few countries with aid and rehabilitation systems for prostitution victims, women increasingly have to share rehabilitation spaces with individuals of the male sex. Believe me, this is not a therapeutic environment. Some of us are going through a challenging period where every male person feels like a threat to space and privacy, even if he is charming and a victim himself. I know survivors of prostitution who left therapeutic settings for this reason. Where will they go now?

3) This language is compelled speech. I apologize for being blunt, but most of us come with severe trauma also because we were forced to pretend that we are blind and insensitive to things related to sex and sexuality. It wasn't enough that we went through a period when we were forced to allow strangers' penises to penetrate our bodies – we were also supposed to pretend that we felt great about it. Compelled speech that does not separate the sexes continues the same trauma. A second ago, I was supposed to say, 'Your dick is the most wonderful in the world.' Now I'm supposed to say, 'Your dick is actually female,' when both are lies.