



## Addressing Demand

Not for Sale Sunday aims to address the incipient demand for pay-as-you-go sex in our culture. This demand both creates, maintains and grows the market driving trafficking for sexual exploitation, encouraging traffickers to sell the bodies of others across international borders for their own gain. Meanwhile in the indigenous market place of the UK an estimated 80,000 women, 70% of whom are recruited before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday are daily caught up in this invidious market place. Not for Sale Sunday reminds us that every single woman, child and man, wherever their place of birth, whatever their history, whoever they is unique, is God created and is NOT FOR SALE.

Slavery had to be fought in the nineteenth century, in parliament, in businesses, in churches, in communities and internationally -here in the third millennium we are facing a similar enormous challenge to our common humanity. Pay-as-you-go sex erodes our common dignity, erases any meaning from gender equality and effaces the image of God's love in relationality.

CHASTE commends the recent innovative legislative changes in Sweden which explicitly forbid the purchasing of sex from another person. This approach highlights the enormous responsibility of those demanding sex for cash and it shifts attention and culpability onto those seeking pay-as-you go sex from any outdated moralising about the woman caught in prostitution. CHASTE advocates in 2007 that this pioneering legislation be part of the new UK action plan for change in Britain. Look out on our events calendar for more initiatives to address demand over the course of 2007. Become a champion of change. Engage your church and community in exploring this Swedish legislation; visit your local MP to express your desire for change and become part of a wave of change for real equality and justice in this area this year.

The following information is taken from the European Baptist Federation Anti-Trafficking Resource Book:

## Swedish Law on Prostitution

### **Fact sheet**

### **Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, April 2005**

In Sweden, prostitution is regarded as an aspect of male violence against women and children. It is officially acknowledged as a form of exploitation of women and children that constitutes a significant social problem, which is harmful not only to the individual prostituted woman or child, but also to society at large.

NOT FOR SALE Sunday is an initiative of CHASTE. All funds raised will help CHASTE to continue taking forward its work and vision to end trafficking for sexual exploitation.

CHASTE is a Registered Charity No. 1106353

The Swedish Government has long given priority to combating prostitution and trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes. This objective is an important part of Sweden's goal of achieving equality between women and men, at the national level as well as internationally. Gender equality will remain unattainable as long as men buy, sell and exploit women and children by prostituting them.

Prostitution is a form of male violence against women. In the legislation on gross violation of a woman's integrity (Kvinnofridslagstiftningen), the Swedish Government and Riksdag (the Parliament) defined prostitution as a form of male violence against women and children. Since January 1, 1999, purchasing – or attempting to purchase – sexual services has constituted a criminal offence punishable by fines or up to six months imprisonment.

The women and children who are victims of prostitution and trafficking do not risk any legal repercussions. Public support for the law is widespread and growing, according to opinion polls conducted by SIFO, an opinion and social research consultancy firm. On April 1, 2005, the legislation prohibiting the purchase of a sexual service was extended to include cases where the payment has been promised or made by someone else.

### **Swedish Penal Code, chapter 6, section 11**

“A person who, in other cases than previously stated in this chapter, obtains a casual sexual relation in exchange for payment shall be sentenced for the purchase of a sexual service to a fine or imprisonment for at most six months. That which is stated in the first section also applies if the payment has been promised or made by someone else.”