

Red Light Green Light (52-minute version)

[Transcript]

Introduction

Cathy: I had an alcoholic mother. Father actually wasn't in my life. So I didn't ever have that father figure that a little girl needs.

Elle: I answered an ad in the newspaper. And the ad was looking for models. And so I was really excited about that because I thought, oh, wow, maybe I can do this. And so I called him up on the phone, and they agreed to buy a plane ticket for me and fly me from Utah to Las Vegas.

Toshia: I remember pulling up to the nightclub. And I remember looking over at a car, these two guys sitting there.

Cathy: I see all my girlfriends having things, as we call it on the streets - meaning that they were having gold around their neck, their hair was done all the time, they nails was done all the time. And I knew in the back of my head they did not have 9 to 5 jobs.

Elle: Initially, they had us do-- it was a wet t-shirt contest. And they had us do some mud wrestling. And they kept putting us off saying, oh, we're going to get somebody in here to do your photo sessions. And then they had us working in strip clubs.

Cathy: It was exciting at first. I had this sense of, oh my god, someone loves me because they were paying for me.

Toshia: I'm in my own vehicle. I didn't see a problem with following these guys to breakfast. Hey, they want to buy me breakfast. Again, I can handle my own - or so I thought. And that was it. That was the start of my nightmare.

Cathy: I have, myself, been left for dead three times. I've woken up in a hospital not knowing how I got there, my mother not even knowing who I was because I was totally dismantled.

Toshia: It was a time where I didn't think I would live because you're doing things that you could never imagine, things that you wouldn't wish on your worst enemy. And to be bought and sold is horrible.

[Title Screen]

Narrator: Prevention, prosecution, protection - these are the three 'P's of fighting sex trafficking. In the past few years, governments have started to prosecute pimps and protect victims. But for some reason, the first 'P' remains mostly silent. No one wants to talk about preventing sex trafficking in the first place. In fact, neither did we because then we'd have to address the prostitution debate. My wife and I preferred to focus on sex trafficking, keeping prostitution as a separate issue altogether. But as we began to see the world through the lens of

prevention, the lines began to blur. So far, countries around the world have taken one of two approaches when it comes to commercial sex. The first is criminalization, to ban the buying and selling of sex altogether. The second is legalization, to make buying and selling fully legal. So which is working? We want to explore the approaches taken by various countries. So we embarked on a journey to answer the question - what is the best way to prevent sex trafficking?

Amsterdam

Narrator: When it comes to buying sex, Amsterdam is one of Europe's top destinations. The ban on brothels was lifted in 2000, making both the buying and selling of sex fully legal. We met with the head of the Amsterdam Human Trafficking and Prostitution Unit, a man with an incredible passion for finding victims and hunting down traffickers.

Harold van Gelder: Fighting trafficking is not the same as fighting prostitution. Prostitution is one of the branches in our society where, unfortunately, people are exploited by criminals. And that's the main interest of human trafficking, exploitation. So we do have prostitution. And yes, we have legal framework here in Holland. In my idea, this system is not perfect. But maybe you could tell me another country in the world where they have a better system? If you walk the red-light district in Amsterdam, there are a lot of police officers who work there. So it's quite normal that the police interviews the people who are working there. It's quite normal that the police can offer their help. If you have to be afraid for the police, like prostitutes do in a lot of countries, then they won't step forward if they need help.

Narrator: We visited De Wallen, Amsterdam's most touristy red-light district. The first thing we noticed was the way men treated the women in the windows.

Saskia Wishart: They say all kinds of horrible things, calling them whores, rating their bodies, saying that one's fat and that one's skinny. And the girls hear it all.

van Gelder: If you look at the figures, we approximately find 1,200 victims of human trafficking on a yearly base in Holland. One third of them comes from Eastern Europe in mainly Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria. That's the main. The second group comes from Western Africa-- Nigeria, Sierra Leone. And the third group is our domestic, Dutch girls who are forced into prostitution on a different method, a "loverboy" method, as you might describe it.

Eline: I'm Eline. I'm now 25. And I was being groomed by loverboys when I was eighteen. So he brought me to a big club. I got a drink from him. And he asked me, do you know this drink? The next thing I remember, I was naked around with all men, and they raped me. And that was my first customer. It was my 19th birthday, and that was the beginning of a new life. If you just do what we want you to do, then we're not going to hurt your family. So I did what he wanted me to do. I gave him money. I had sex with men almost every night. Sometimes there were just two men, sometimes nine, sometimes more. He forced me into prostitution in the Netherlands, but also in Belgium.

van Gelder: It's a wide scale. It's one guy who is forcing his girlfriend to prostitution, but it's also organizations who work together and have several girls or several cities where they are exploiting these girls.

Narrator: A study was conducted to learn more about the Hungarian women that ended up in the red-light district. It found that over half of them came from one, impoverished town in northeastern Hungary.

Wishart: In this research on the women from Hungary, 90% of the girls felt that what they had been told about working in Amsterdam and what was the reality, they did not meet the expectation. So they were told something different than what the reality was.

van Gelder: We have achieved some of our goals. When we lifted the ban on brothels in 2000, we wrote down several goals. And we achieved a few of them. But 12 years later, it's still not perfect. So the challenge for us is, within the legal framework, to detect, for instance, victims of human trafficking. Because if I can force you into prostitution, I can also force you to tell a good story to the police if they're coming to investigate.

Narrator: Eline met a man who freed her from her traffickers. About a year later, he proposed, and she said yes. On their wedding night, he revealed that he was an auctioneer, and that his product was women.

Eline: So I said to him, okay, when do I have to work? Just tell me. He said, no, I don't want you to work. You're my wife. Don't be so stupid. But you have to earn money because in the hospital you don't earn enough. So you have to groom girls. And he told me what to do. He threatened me. He locked me up in a closet for 24 hours. And after 24 hours, I would listen to him. I did exactly what he wanted me to do. I was like a robot, like a copy of him. If he was aggressive, I became more aggressive. If he was mad, I was mad. If he was nice, then I was nice. I would lie to the police like he trained me.

Narrator: In an effort to gain a better understanding about the sex industry, we wanted to hear the perspective of someone who had willingly entered prostitution in the Netherlands. We spoke with a former sex worker named Marianne.

Marianne: I was sick and tired, though, for having sex for free. I was living in a sexual, liberal climate, and I was very promiscuous. And I said, you know what? I'm not gonna listen to all the stories about people's ex-girlfriends, and mothers, and having to wash the sheets for myself, and serving breakfast. Let them pay for that. And I had a great time and earned a lot of money.

Melissa Farley: If you kind of imagine a triangle in your mind. At the top, are very few women who are not coerced much. Maybe they have the privilege of race and not so much poverty, and they have friends that can help them get out after the first gang rape. That's maybe 2% of everybody in prostitution. The further you go down in this triangle, the more the coercion. On the bottom of the triangle, are people who are physically coerced, frankly, enslaved, kidnapped, trafficked with brutal, mental and physical third-party control. In the middle is about 35% or 40% of everybody in prostitution. This is where the argument rages about choice. These are

people who are coerced because of economic desperation. They can't pay the rent next month. Their kids are hungry. They need to pay tuition.

Narrator: No matter which side of the legalization debate one falls on, everyone agrees on one fundamental truth - human trafficking must be stopped.

Marianne: Trafficking should be banned. We all agree. But there is also sex work as labor. Our mayor, he says about 80 to 90% are victims of trafficking. We don't know because there is no real counting. Some work behind windows, and you can count them. But there are a lot of people working right now in the private house, or in the bedroom, or in a hotel, whatever. We don't know. But why should you count? I mean, the only issue is let sex workers get rights so they can make their own decisions. My point is don't be an abolitionist. Just accept the fact that the sex industry is all over the world.

Narrator: Though Amsterdam has tried to separate sex trafficking from prostitution, they've run into a number of complications. Organized crime has infiltrated the red-light districts, and the government has been forced to spend millions of euros on buying up brothels and then turning them into businesses in an effort to have more control.

Just a Job

Andrea Matolcsi: We would have to ask - what other job, what other legitimate job has a panic button in the office - as many brothels do, for example, in the Netherlands - because there's such a high risk of violence and attacks from clients? We would have to see what other job has a mortality rate of its employees that's about 10 to 40 times more than the average population.

Max Waltman: There's almost no legal business where the practitioners get post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms just as high as treatment seeking Vietnam veterans from the '70s.

Toshia: You'd be having this insatiable hunger to want more and more. And you feel this surge of power by being in sex work, up until that john beats you, up until you become raped, up until someone puts a gun to your head. If they strip you of your power, and then all of a sudden, you're powerless. And you're really taking a good look at yourself and saying, is this money worth it?

Janice Raymond: As one survivor said to me, people say, well, prostitution is just like McDonald's. A woman has to go to work in a place that she doesn't like and where she gets all sorts of guff. Well, I say to that - at least at McDonald's you're not the meat.

Farley: I spoke to a woman in an upscale brothel in Johannesburg, South Africa. She was very proud that she was taking good care of her son, who is in a very good school. And she told me that he didn't know what she did to make money. And one day when she was getting ready to go to work, she had her prostitution clothes on. And what had happened is when anyone goes into the prostitution transaction, there's a shutdown that happens emotionally. The person switches into another part of the self who prostitutes. Her son unexpectedly ran downstairs and saw her and was scared. It had nothing to do with the clothes she was wearing. He said to her, Mommy, where are your eyes?

Narrator: Even Marianne, who entered the sex trade willingly, admits that it can be tough.

Marianne: They should be prepared in working in the sex industry because it's a job. But it's not very easy. You should be a little strong.

Narrator: Ironically, it's the weakest, most vulnerable in society that usually end up in the sex trade. So we looked at the experience of the average person in prostitution, and a number of factors stood out.

Poverty

Rachel Lloyd: Are there women in the sex industry who, as adults with options, and an education, and financial other options, chose to go into the sex industry? I can concede that, yes, there are. Are they representative of millions of women and girls around the world who ended up in the sex industry because of lack of choices, not because of choice? No. That's such a small contingent. They tend to be a more vocal contingent when they talk about right, choice, and empowerment, and those kind of things. But that's not true for most women and girls who end up in the sex industry. So we're talking about an industry that preys upon, that makes its money off the backs of folks who are vulnerable.

Narrator: In Switzerland, we met a woman who had been trafficked from Brazil. We'll call her Juliana. She used to work in a restaurant where she barely made enough money to feed her children. One day, a customer started coming into the restaurant. She began slipping her extra money and telling her she was too beautiful to work there.

Juliana: She began to tell me marvelous things of paradise, showed me pictures on bookcase. She told me about snow, and clothes - things I didn't even dream of. She told me about other beautiful things that I would have at the snap of a finger and not work in that hot, sweaty, stress-filled life. Do you want a better life? I said, yes, I want it. I didn't even ask what I would have to do. So she and her boyfriend took care of getting my passport and tickets. And a man met me at the airport in Europe who knew all about me. I wondered, how does he know all this? He brought me to a legal brothel. They called it a sauna.

Parentlessness

Lloyd: Did my young people make a choice? Yeah, but a choice at 14. A choice based on worth? On going back to the group home where they were being sexually abused? Going back to their mother's house where they were witnessing domestic violence? Or going to stay with this guy? And so whether people made a choice to be in the sex industry, they made a choice to remove themselves from one harmful situation and go to something that looked like it might be better.

Racism

Narrator: In every country we visited, racism played a huge role in prostitution. In the US, black and Hispanic girls were overrepresented. In Canada, it was First Nation girls. In Switzerland, there were a surprising number of Brazilians. In the Netherlands, it was Hungarians.

In Hungary, it was the Roma community. In Austria, refugees are only allowed three legal occupations. The first is collecting garbage on the streets. The second is selling newspapers at train stations. And the third is prostitution. In Vienna, we drove by the city's convention center late at night, just in time to see traffickers drop off their girls for their shifts. The women were lined up by country on the street, standing in the cold as their trafficker sat in warm cars nearby. Customers would select a woman and park in the convention center parking garage.

Age

Michael Shively: The typical person who begins selling sex does so as a child. Even the studies that have much more conservative starting points, the surveys of women that sell sex and that ask them when did they first start doing this, a very high result from a survey is 18. But even 18, that that's an average, which means, roughly, that half are younger.

Lloyd: We agree that young people can't choose to have sex under a certain age. They can't choose to drink. They can't choose to drive. They can't vote. They can't go to war. All of those things that we agree young people can't do, but then they can choose to be in the sex industry.

Child Abuse

Harmony Dust: One of my earliest childhood memories was being exposed to pornography by my dad when I was three years old. I was sexually abused throughout my life by multiple people, both men and women starting at the age of five and raped as a teen, just sexually broken from the beginning.

Narrator: Despite her brutal childhood, Harmony was determined to get an education. She went to college, but found herself struggling to make ends meet. She became a stripper at age 19 after her college professor reassured her that it was a viable way to make more money. For the next three years, Harmony lived a double life as Monique, a dancer in a strip club. Though she ended up being one of the highest paid strippers at the club, her pimp boyfriend took most of her money. Her professor came into the club for his bachelor party.

Dust: Obviously, not everyone who's been sexually abused ends up in the sex industry, but up to 90% of women in the sex industry have been sexually abused. And I think that part of that is because we learn to become familiar with things sexualized and objectified. And we learn to become familiar with this idea that our body is not our own. And sex, for me, was used as a weapon against me. And so then entering sex work, now, I have this false sense of empowerment that perhaps I could take back control of what had been exploited, and I could use this weapon, sex, to my advantage.

Narrator: So why is the average woman in prostitution? Well, it's normally a mix of poverty, parentlessness, racism, age, and child abuse. From what we can see, the commercial sex trade seems like a very high-risk industry.

Shively: There are many things that are against the law where the harm doesn't have to occur. It's just risky behavior. Drunk driving, far more often than we can accept, it goes wrong, and people

do get hurt. So we've decided that drunk driving, even though, probably, 90% plus of all the drunk driving events have no harm that you could measure, it's still unacceptable because of the risk it poses to others.

Harm Reduction

van Gelder: If you are now entering a brothel, you can see some amazing things like alarm knots on the wall and near the bed so if there's a problem, a loud alarm will go off that raises the safety of the working conditions of the prostitutes.

Matolcsi: A lot of these individuals, though, they want to minimize the harm that people are experiencing in prostitution, so that they're going to give them condoms. They're going to help them file a report to the police every time there's a violent client attacking them.

Shively: I think an equivalent is to say we found child labor sweatshops, and the answer to it is to put a fan in the room. They talk about harm reduction. Sure, you can reduce it. If you have excessive heat in a work environment, it's better to be at 98 than 102, but it's still hot.

Matolcsi: And all of these harm reduction efforts are absolutely vital. They're absolutely necessary. But we're going to have to keep doing them on a larger and larger scale if we don't address the root causes and if we don't address the demand.

Shively: Well, you can make arguments for some benefits for the people in those systems. The majority of the commercial sex markets remain outside of those legal and regulated systems. So even in parts of Australia where they have legal brothels, there have been studies that have found 80% of the brothels are illegal brothels where they don't get any of those protections, whatever they may be. The women that insist on condom use make far less money than the ones who don't. The men will pay a premium for unprotected sex.

Cathy: There's been times where you got this certain john that don't want to use one. But you want this money so bad, meaning myself, at this time because of my habit, I did almost anything sometimes for it.

Narrator: During the transatlantic slave trade, some pro-slavery countries wanted to regulate slavery by promoting standards of hygiene on the ships and by making the voyages shorter so they wouldn't be as hard on the slaves. Some claim that the trade itself was not bad, but had merely been abused.

Farley: If we in the United States had gone down that path with slavery, we would never have gotten rid of the institution. Maybe we would have separated out field slaves who got whipped more from house slaves that got better quality food. Maybe we would have decided that children in slavery were worth rescuing, but adults were - what?

Juliana: To keep up with all the costs, I would meet with around 9 to 12 men a day. They would pay 100 to 150 francs. And sometimes, someone would pay 2000 francs to spend the whole day with me. But that was before I came too drugged and sick to work. There was one Brazilian girl

that they threw out the window and claimed it was suicide, but I knew it wasn't. We had to live in that world and think it was normal. I lived in fear. I was mistreated by clients who would throw me on the bed and have violent, animal sex with me. I had to be treated for a lot of gynecological problems.

Narrator: Despite being a legal brothel, Juliana was often forced to have sex without a condom. After she escaped, the police visited the sauna and interviewed the remaining girls. All the women said that the owner was great and that they were being treated well. Juliana is currently under police protection in Switzerland, and her mother and her children are in hiding in Brazil.

Pimping

Christopher Baughman: I was around 12 years old. I was hanging out with my best friend at his mom's apartment I guess. In the neighborhood that I grew up in, there wasn't a whole lot of money, so it was pretty much a project. There was a knock at the door. His mom didn't go open the door. She locked it and told us to be quiet. What happened after that was the knock kind of became like a pounding. And ultimately, the door got kicked in. And I just remember we were freaking out. There was no phone in the house to call 911. This guy walks in, and he just drags my boy's mom out of the house, down the stairs, and just starts to beat her. And he's kicking her, and he's calling her names in the dirt in the front - kind of in the front yard area. And we're screaming. And we're throwing rocks. And we're doing everything that we can, begging for someone to help, but nobody came.

Narrator: As Maslow's hierarchy teaches us, humans have needs that must be met in order to function as healthy individuals. Pimps exploit these needs and use them to their advantage. In fact, you can buy their training manuals online.

Lloyd: You make sure they're physically exhausted. You take away the things that feel comfortable and normal for them. You isolate them from people that might be supportive of them. You try to change their identity in some way. You withhold affection, and use affection or love or reward sparingly and in a way that is designed to kind of manipulate someone. We train our animals like this, right?

Elle: They made us feel like we were really special all the time. They told us that we were their favorite, and they played mind games on us.

Shively: There are profits to be made. And drug traffickers are actually diversifying their portfolios. And drug traffickers and gangs are systematically getting into human trafficking because the penalties are far less likely to befall them. They're very good at manipulating the people they exploit so that they're not cooperative with law enforcement. Without their cooperation, it's very difficult to make cases against them. Whereas if they have a kilo of cocaine in the trunk, just it being there, you're done. But you can have three human trafficking victims in your back seat. And as long as they're scared, or well-trained, or are suffering from Stockholm syndrome, they're just people in a car.

Elle: It's not fair for us prostitutes to be put in jail when everybody else goes free. The johns don't get caught. The pimps don't get caught. We're the ones putting our lives out there on the line every day for the men.

Las Vegas

Narrator: Contrary to popular belief, prostitution isn't actually legal in Las Vegas. However, it's legal in surrounding areas all over Nevada, creating a prostitution culture in the whole state. Due to its city slogan that draws crowds from all over the world, Las Vegas has developed a booming sex industry.

Toshia: What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. That tells all. That tells the public, the people, to come on here and do what you want to do because we're going to keep this a secret. It's all about secrets here in this city. Prostitution, this is our culture. You notice that when you go down on the Strip and you're getting all these pamphlets pushed in your face.

Baughman: I recently had an opportunity to speak to about 1,500 students at a high school. About 15 girls came up and said, I go to school here. What I'm dealing with is guys coming to the mall, telling me I could make so much more money if I just left Foot Locker, if I just left the burger stand that I work at. They're coming at our youth from every direction.

Toshia: So people come here with the whole mindset of getting into something adult-like and leaving the trash here so they can go back to where they come from whole and wholesome.

Baughman: I can't state this enough - it is everybody's kid. It's everyone's daughter. It's not just the runaway anymore.

Andrea Swanson: Kobe had come into her life. She brightened up. She woke up. She was happy. She looked like her light was going back on. She was wanting to get involved in different things at school. And so we were ecstatic that this boy had come into her life.

Baughman: They're going to come off as everything any parent would ever want their daughter to be with. That's what they come off as. So here's what we've seen. Here's what will traditionally happen. They will introduce themselves to that young woman, treat her like gold for however long it takes to make her fall totally in love.

Swanson: He would sign the letters, her husband. You're my wife. Your husband loves you. In the game - talking about some of Hannah's friends who were in the game. Words like that that I had no idea referenced prostitution and pimping.

Baughman: I've seen guys and interviewed people that I've dealt with that have told me, hey, I started to get into this girl's head at 17 when she was still in high school. I waited for her to turn 18 before I took her from her family because I didn't want to deal with the juvenile statutes. So for me, I don't mind waiting. I don't mind being patient. What's the difference - 17 or 18? Criminals are becoming more and more intelligent on how they target, on when they put girls out.

Swanson: Her clothes had changed. Her hair and nails were being maintained. She wasn't coming home. She was 18 now. I couldn't make her come home anymore. She sent us four pictures of our daughter for us to identify her. And when the fourth picture came over, it was the same picture that popped up on my phone when Hannah's number called my phone. And I said, that's Hannah. And she said, well, then we have a problem because we took those off a back page on her ad soliciting. Her pimp had put her there. Her phone records - 2 o'clock in the morning, a call would come in from every state in this country to Kobe's phone. Kobe's phone would call Hannah's phone and the records show this. Hannah's phone would call Kobe's back, and the john would meet Hannah at a hotel. That's how the phone records helped convict Kobe.

Narrator: Kobe was arrested in July and released in December. Shortly after his release, he moved into a motel with Hannah.

Swanson: So I flew home from Virginia. And every plane trip to Las Vegas - I don't know how many times you've traveled here. But if you are flying into Las Vegas, the plane is full of partiers. And people are hooting and hollering, and we're going to Vegas. And we're going to party. And they're drinking already. And that plane trip home, for me - but they were going on vacation - was the worst thing I ever experienced because I knew my daughter was on the street. And I looked down the aisles of that plane, and I said, which one of these men will call my daughter tonight? Which one of them, if they knew it was my daughter, would change their mind?

Baughman: And I can't tell you the amount of times that some of the victims that have come for help have said, I asked the guy that paid for me to help me, and he wouldn't.

Johns

Nate Larkin: In total, over a 12-year span, I spent \$300,000 on porn and hookers. That behavior, I believe, is largely dissociative. I really have to go away from myself to do it. And I was pretty much gone for 12 years. Picked up a girl thinking that I was being chivalrous offering her a ride on a rainy afternoon, didn't know that she was soliciting until she got in the car and propositioned me. And so I paid the 20 bucks and had a very messy first experience commercial sex in my car. It was humiliating. It was degrading. But at the same time, there was enough pleasure associated with it. It was enough of an irresistible memory that I went back to it. And that became a pattern for me.

Cathy: Where they come from? Everywhere. What they look like? People. Are they nice? Some. Did I have regulars? Yes. And what we call regulars is the steady ones that I would meet on a Tuesday at a certain time every week. You become comfortable with that person because you know that person. Can they switch on you? Yes.

Larkin: It's certainly not lovemaking, and it's certainly not fulfilling. So for me, it always ended with regret and a promise that it would be the last time.

Cathy: They try to make you feel sorry, believe me. My wife left me, and I need company - blah, blah, blah. But that's not what they're there for. They're there for a bit of control. I think all johns have a control issue.

Larkin: I never wanted to get emotionally involved. I didn't want to know names. I didn't want a continuing relationship. I still was maintaining in my own mind this fiction that I was being faithful to my wife in an emotional way. I'm merely taking care of a physical need. It was kind of like getting a haircut. I just needed an awful lot of haircuts. I spent my kid's childhood. I spent 20 years of my wife's life. I spent 20 years of my life.

Narrator: Some argue that johns are the best people to identify trafficking victims and report traffickers to the police. These men could be called ethical johns, heroes of the night. But how could they tell if a woman was trafficked? And would the average john actually report it?

Shively: Many of the women who are in fact being trafficked, they have a pimp who tells them that they have a quota. If they don't come home with \$500 or \$1,000, whatever the quota is, they're going to get beat up. They're not going to eat. They're going to have to sleep in the car rather than the hotel room. There's all kinds of ways that they can get coerced into coming back with the money. The women generally present themselves to the john as if it's voluntary. Other than a few very rare, sadistic johns that many get off on the fact that someone was forced into it if he was true sadist, other than that - and the research suggests they're very rare - most men are buying sex with a fantasy in their head.

Larkin: I became aware of trafficking late during my period of active addiction, shortly before I entered recovery. By this time, I had learned that a lot of massage parlors were fronts for prostitution. And that there was really no even pretense that there was a massage parlor. You just walk in, state what you want, you got the girl. And I didn't know, at that point, how those girls had made their way to America. I didn't know the terms under which they were being kept. I didn't understand that they were working to pay back an enormous debt. I didn't know that they were moved from location to location, even though as I would go back to patronize the same place there would be different faces. But it did start to dawn on me that there were forces behind the girls. At that point, I'm sad to say, at that point in my sickness, just the craziness of my behavior, that was not enough to deter me.

Economics 101

Shively: The one thing we know about markets for drugs, or chickens, or human beings to be exploited, is that if demand is strong, the traffickers are going to innovate. It could be that we have success with vulnerable kids in malls and bus stops. Maybe we get really good at identifying them and getting them out of there before they fall prey to traffickers. They're going to find someone else if there's profit to be made. And that's what points to the solution, which is demand. Demand drives the market. It's the revenue stream for human trafficking.

Eric Neumayer: We tried to find out whether the legalization of prostitution is likely to increase or decrease inward flows of international human trafficking. It's very simple, and it makes intuitive sense. If something is illegal, you're less likely to demand it because there's always the

risk of being prosecuted. So all other things equal, once you legalize it, there will be more demand and supply of it.

Narrator: After conducting a thorough, empirical analysis for a cross-section of 150 countries, Neumayer and his team found that, on average, legalized prostitution increases human trafficking inflows.

Neumayer: In Germany, after the additional legalization of the prostitution market, there seemed to be a further increase in reported inflows, which sort of supports the quantitative analysis from the global sample.

Narrator: It seems obvious that we need to address demand. But at the same time, we don't want to make the supply side illegal because the overwhelming majority of the women are victims, not criminals. It's almost as if we need a third way.

Sweden

Narrator: Anchored in the cultural value of gender equality, parliament introduced a law that became known as the Nordic model. They decided to criminalize the purchase of sex while at the same time decriminalize the selling of sex. In essence, they decided to go after johns while helping women get out of the trade.

Patrik Cederlöf: The background of the Swedish sex purchase legislation was more a discussion about gender equality, men's violence against women. But 2002 when we put a light on human trafficking, we could also, pretty far, see that the Swedish legislation is a very good tool to fight human trafficking.

Waltman: There are many more people now favorable to the law. The percentage is around 70% of the total population is favorable to the law. Whereas before the law was passed, I think the number were around 48%, so then it was a large minority only in favor of the law. Now there is a large majority.

Raymond: Law is not just penal. It's also normative. It says what a country thinks about itself in this realm.

Cederlöf: We can even hear that the organizers are discussing this, especially when they have wiretapping the telephones in the case. They already say that it's too difficult to run these kind of businesses in Sweden. I think we to choose something else.

Narrator: Pro-prostitution groups suggest that going after demand will simply drive prostitution underground.

Waltman: Prostitution never really is underground or clandestine because it's in the nature of the business having to advertise, make itself visible for a steady, new group of clients.

Narrator: Others have pointed out that if buying sex is criminalized in one place, it will just spring up somewhere else, like a game of whack-a-mole. While this is certainly a possibility, we need to take a look at the 80/20 rule. If buying sex was legal in my hometown, it would be easy to hop out for a quick visit to a brothel. But if sex is illegal, it's a lot harder to hop on a plane, fly to another country, pay for sex, and then come home and explain the bill to my family. It's time and cost prohibitive. Yes, there are always going to be men who are willing to pay for sex. But a significant portion of demand dries up when men are held to account. And who's to say that we can't implement demand reduction laws in every country in the world?

Raymond: Within the space of 10 years, in Sweden, Norway, Iceland, in the UK also, and now possibly in France, that the tide has turned against legalization and that countries are actually launching legislation that says legalization is not the answer, this is a big tide that's turned. And I am very optimistic.

Narrator: Sweden still has plenty of room for improvement. Exit programs can still be strengthened. And giving women a legal venue to sue clients and traffickers would work wonders. But based on the body of evidence, it's quite clear that legalizing prostitution creates an increase in demand for paid sex. And it far exceeds the number of willing workers. At which point, traffickers bring people into the trade. Here's what it comes down to - commercial sex is the end destination for all sex trafficking victims. Therefore, we can't legalize demand, the economic engine that drives the trade in the first place. We do, however, see a flaw in making prostitution fully illegal. Women are seen as criminals. And the research shows that the average person engaged in prostitution is likely there because of force, fraud, coercion, and economic necessity and, therefore, should not be treated as criminals, but as victims of circumstance. Maybe we should consider the benefits of decriminalizing those who are selling sex, providing them with support and services while at the same time criminalizing and enforcing action against anyone who would attempt to purchase another human being.

van Gelder: I've been to Sweden. I spoke on the Congress and felt that it's really a different view from society to gender equality. And you can find that in several moments in your life in Sweden. For instance, if you compared the possibilities for a guy after being a father before he starts to work, there's a lot of time off and financial compensation to be a father with your child. And in Holland, it's less. The fact that they see prostitution and really believe that prostitution is a sex crime against women. Buying sex is something that Swedes, 70% of the people there, are repelled at. So it's a different approach. And I think if I, as a Dutchman, would point out one of our values is that freedom. We don't want the government to interfere too much in our society.

Shared Freedom

Narrator: Freedom and rights are strong cultural values in many countries. One could argue that, in a free world, a person should have the right to purchase another person's body. Ideally, we should be able to do whatever we want to do. But there are limitations to freedom. For example, my right to kill ends with everyone else's right to life. This also means that your right to buy another person's body ends with everyone else's right not to be trafficked. This is about proportional rights. If we legalize the purchase of sex, people are forced into prostitution to meet the demand. This is about democracy, the good of society as a whole. We have one freedom, and

it's a shared freedom. If you live on a deserted island, you have the right to eat all the food and cut down all the trees. But what happens when there's one other person on that island? Suddenly, your sole freedom becomes your shared freedom. You no longer have the right to eat all the food because the other person will starve. You can't cut down all the trees because the island will erode into the ocean. We practice this principle in society all the time. You can't drive-through a school zone at any speed you please. You can't cut down a tree on your property if it's going to land on your neighbor's house. You can't drive drunk. We have one freedom, and we need to start sharing it equally.

Real Freedom

Larkin: I'm so grateful, first of all, that I was caught by my wife. That gave me the gift of desperation. It gave me the motivation I needed to get help, to get into recovery, and to start to get honest.

Dust: I was standing in the middle of the strip club. And it hit me that I have been created with a purpose. And I looked around, and I said, this can't be it. This cannot be what I was put on this planet to do. You are loved. And you are valued. And you are purposed. And I believe that if you were to quiet your heart and just let that sit in your heart, that you would have a stirring in you and know that that's true, that you are meant for more.

Larkin: I was going to have to enlist the help of other people. As I became willing to do that, pushed, really, by desperation, I found, over time, that the miracle did happen, that the obsession did lift, that freedom did come. I'm not immune to lust and the desire still comes from time to time. That's why I protect myself with boundaries and brothers, and there are places I don't go anymore. And I don't travel alone any longer. And I don't stay in hotel rooms by myself anymore.

Dust: Because as men take a stand and make a decision to get free, and to not participate in the commercial sex industry, it's going to lead to freedom for the women.

Larkin: You can't hire friends. You can't purchase love. Now that I'm not settling any longer for artificial intimacy, I'm able to experience real love. There is freedom. You're just not going to find it on your own. You're going to have to sacrifice your pride to get free.

Can't Be Bought

Cathy: I was facing penitentiary time. So the judge that knew me well and was really, really tired of me, gave me one more chance in life. And he court committed me to a program which is called the Mary Magdalene Project for Prostitution. And that is what saved my life today.

Toshia: I survived for a reason. So saving these young ladies have been my life's mission. And if I save one, I can sleep at night.

Elle: You know, I've become a much stronger person for my struggles that I went through. And I don't feel any longer like I'm a victim. I now feel like I'm a survivor.

Eline: I became myself for the first time in so many years. And I always said to her, if I can help, I will come back to the foundation. I can give help to the girls because I really understand the girls. So now I'm working every day in the foundation to help.

Cathy: Your body is a temple. My body is a straight temple. I can't be bought anymore.

[END]