

1. What is a brothel?

Brothel includes any house, room, conveyance or place which is used for the purposes of sexual exploitation or abuse for commercial gain of another or for the mutual gain of two or more prostitutes.

2. Is owning a brothel a crime? Who are offenders under law?

Yes, owning a brothel is a punishable offence under law.

Any person who is guilty of the following are offenders in the eyes of law-

- a. Who keeps or manages or acts or assists in the keeping or management of a brothel
- b. Who is a tenant, lessee, occupier or a person in charge of premises either uses or knowingly allows any person to use such premises as a brothel
- c. Being the owner, lessor or landlord or an agent of them lets anyone use it as a brothel or is willfully a party for the premises to be used as a brothel.

3. What is prostitution?

Prostitution means abusing a person sexually for commercial purposes like money or in any other kind.

4. Is prostitution illegal?

Yes, anyone who is above 18 years of age knowingly living on the earnings of the prostitution of any other person.

If the following factors are proved, then it is considered as the person is living on the earnings of prostitution of other person-

- a. Living with or is always in the company of a prostitute ;or
- b. Have exercised control, direction or influence over the prostitute in a way that shows that the person has helped or compelled prostitution;
- c. Acting as a pimp on behalf of a prostitute.

5. Who is a pimp?

Anyone who controls prostitutes and arranges clients for them and who takes a percentage of their earnings in return is called as a pimp.

6. What is trafficking?

Any person who compels a person or takes a person without his or her consent for the purpose of prostitution is called as trafficking.

Anyone who is guilty of trafficking adults shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for three to seven years with or without a fine. If the person is guilty of trafficking children, the punishment is imprisonment for seven to fourteen years.

7. Is visiting a brothel illegal?

Yes, any person who either visits or is found in a brothel for the purpose of sexual exploitation of any victim of trafficking in persons is punished under law.

8. When is your spouse guilty of prostitution?

Your spouse is guilty of prostitution when he/she leaves you in any premises or in a brothel to have sexual intercourse with the other person.

9. Is it a crime to leave someone in a brothel?

Yes, it is a crime to take someone to a brothel irrespective of that person's consent.

10. Who to approach to file the complaint?

Approach a local police station or your district magistrate.

11. Are there any special police officers designated for dealing with these offences?

Yes, there is a special police officer appointed by the State Government to deal with these offences in your area.

12. What kind of reliefs can you ask the Magistrate to grant you?

If you have been made to carry prostitution or if you have been carrying on prostitution, you can make an application to the Magistrate in the area where prostitution was being carried upon for an order to-

- a. Be kept in a protective home; or
- b. Be provided care and protection by the court where the court assists you in your rehabilitation.

13. What is a protective home?

Protective home is a place where the person who is in need of care and protection.