

TED DEBATE CLUB

supplemental working sheet

D E B A T E S E S S I O N

Instruction

1. Follow the format of attached articles
 - a. Times New Roman font
 - b. 12 points font size
 - c. Double space
 - d. Bold typed title
 - e. Reference link at the end
2. Write briefly about the issue (Critical thinking)
3. Articles should have both position of the issue (Argumentation)

Important points to read argumentative articles

- Issue: Something that is debated and about which people have different opinions
- Main argument: Your opinion about an issue
- Supporting argument: Reason for your main argument
- Support: Support for your “supporting argument”
- Counter argument: Reason to support the other side of the argument
- Refutation: Reason to invalidate a counterargument (why it is untrue or weak)
- Concession: Agreeing with the opposing view
 - By including counterarguments and refutations, you make your argument stronger and more believable

About the issue

DEBATE LEADER SHOULD FILL OUT THIS FROM AND PUBLISH ON OPEN CHAT

Issue

Should prostitution be legal?

Main argument (Point of view)

I do not agree with legalization of prostitution.

Legalizing prostitution would lead to increases in global human trafficking, and violent crime including rape and homicide. Prostitution is inherently immoral, commercially exploitative, empowers the criminal underworld, and promotes the repression of women by men. Also, there have been no outstanding positive results in legalized countries.

Counter argument (Opposing view)

Proponents of legalizing prostitution believe it would protect the human right of sex workers, reduce crime, increase tax revenue, help people out of poverty, get prostitutes off the streets, and allow consenting adults to make their own choices. They contend that prostitution is a victimless crime, especially in the 11 Nevada counties where it remains legal. Prostitution can be managed well by legalization.

The State of Prostitution Around the World

The 2007 Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defined prostitution as ‘the act or practice of engaging in promiscuous sexual relations especially for money’, ‘the state of being prostituted: DEBASEMENT’.

According to Foundation Scelles, as reported in *Le Figaro*, Worldwide there is an estimation of 40-42 million

prostitutes. 80 percent of the world population of prostitutes are female and range in age between 13-25. 90 percent of all prostitutes are dependent on a pimp.

There are estimated 1-2 million prostitutes in the United States and rest of the world statistics by Havoscope,

a provider of data on the black market :

China	5,000,000
India	3,000,000
United States	1,000,000
Philippines	800,000
Mexico	500,000
Germany	400,000
Brazil	250,000 children
Thailand	250,000
Bangladesh	200,000
South Korea	147,000
Turkey	118,000
Taiwan	100,000
Cambodia	70,000
Ukraine	67,500
United Kingdom	58,000
Kenya	50,000 children
Vietnam	33,000

South Africa	30,000 children
United Arab Emirates	30,000
France	20,000
Switzerland	20,000
Poland	19,000
Mongolia	19,000
Israel	17,500
Costa Rica	15,000
Netherlands	7,000
New Zealand	3,500
Denmark	3,200

Controversy of Prostitution

The idea that human beings could be for sale is ethically controversial. However, sex workers often say they don't sell their bodies but, like other workers, simply put a price on their talents and skills. They contend it is their freedom and private things. They argue that, if sex work was decriminalised and destigmatised, the associated problems would mostly disappear. But there's more to consider when debating the rights and wrongs of prostitution.

Prostitution is often called as a 'Victimless Crime'. There are no 'victims' of the act of prostitution itself. The 'victimization' occurs when a client assaults the professional - rape, battery, etc., robs them of their fee, drugs them. On the other hand, prostitution is often described as a 'victimless crime', or a 'consensual crime', because in theory, no one present at the crime is unwilling. In reality, this is a myth. In reality, prostitution of women is a particularly lethal form of violence against women, and a violation of a woman's most basic human rights.

Proponent say legalising and regulating prostitution will make live safer for sex workers and help break the pimps and trafficking gangs who exploit them. They contend that legalization of prostitution to be focusing on the real criminals. Legalisation or decriminalisation of the sex industry is often touted as a way to weed out organised crime in the industry and reduce the associated illegal trafficking inflows. However, evidence shows that legalization / decriminalisation only increases flows of women trafficked into the industry and provides a legitimate front for organised crime, while at the same time reducing police oversight of the industry.

Prostitution is morally wrong. The idea that human beings could be for sale is ethically wrong. However, in another point of view, the sexual workers who meet criminals cannot report these criminals since prostitution is illegal itself. In other words, they can not assert their right.

Globally the prostitution business is worth \$186 billion, according to the website www.havocscope.com which analyses the black economy. Income on that scale could generate a lot of tax revenue. It's been estimated legalising prostitution across the United States could give the tax authorities around \$20 billion a year. In Germany – which liberalized its prostitution laws in 2002 – the legal industry is worth around €16 billion and tax revenue is a major contribution to some city budgets. It's time the sex industry is taxed like any other business, so that those revenues can benefit society. But Germany's experience shows legalized prostitution doesn't work. The tax is not used to manage it clearly. Women are abused hour after hour in huge mega-brothels around German cities. Human trafficking gangs continue to sell girls from eastern Europe, South America and Africa into sexual slavery. The industry remains unregulated and insufficiently policed. It encourages corruption, drugs and other crimes. A report by Germany's Family Ministry found a decade of legalisation had “not brought about any measurable actual improvement in the social coverage of prostitutes,” nor was there any “solid proof” that the law had reduced crime.

Proponents of legalizing prostitution

Amnesty International, in its May 26, 2016 policy paper titled "Amnesty International Policy on State Obligations to Respect, Protect, and Fulfil the Human Rights of Sex Workers," available from [amnesty.org](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AMN/AMN/16/001/20160526/), wrote:

"Amnesty International considers that to protect the rights of sex workers, it is necessary not only to repeal laws which criminalize the sale of sex, but also to repeal those which make the buying of sex from consenting adults or the organization of sex work (such as prohibitions on renting premises for sex work) a criminal offence...

The fact that various aspects of sex work are treated as criminal conduct in many countries means that sex workers cannot rely on support or protection from the police. For many sex workers, reporting crimes experienced during the course of their work means putting themselves at risk of criminalization and/or penalization on the basis of their involvement in sex work, seizure of their earnings, potential loss of their livelihood through related sanctions and/or monitoring by the police to detect their clients. As a result, sex workers are frequently unable to seek redress for crimes committed against them, thereby offering impunity to perpetrators. In addition, the stigmatized and criminalized status that sex workers experience gives law enforcement officials in many countries the scope to harass, extort and perpetrate physical and sexual violence against them, also with impunity. When they are not threatened with criminalization/penalization, sex workers are better able to collaborate with law enforcement to identify perpetrators of violence and abuse, including human trafficking."

Marshall Frank, Retired Captain from the Metro-Dade Police Department, in an Aug. 29, 2015 article for floridatoday.com titled "Frank: Let's Legalize, Regulate Prostitution," wrote:

"It's time for legislators to wake up from slumber land by legalizing and regulating prostitution... Some folks disapprove of the immoral nature of sex for sale and, perhaps, rightfully so. But judging morality is for churches, employers, family members and peers. It should not be a matter for law enforcement, court dockets and jail cells, costing the taxpayer dearly, every day, every month, every year...

Prostitution flourishes in the black market that would not exist if brothels and hookers were legitimized, licensed, medically inspected, zoned and taxed. Like drugs, gambling and other crimes of morality, or alcohol prohibition of years past, the black market is nourished by draconian laws that forever fail to accomplish its intended purpose...

In Germany, and other countries, prostitution is legal and taxed. They turn the 'crime' into an economic plus. In other countries like the United States, we create the 'crime,' which turns the behavior into an economic negative. And, it's still a thriving business, law or no law."

Opponents of legalizing prostitution

Melissa Farley, PhD, Research and Clinical Psychologist and Founder of the Prostitution Research & Education website, stated in her 2016 article "Very Inconvenient Truths: Sex Buyers, Sexual Coercion, and Prostitution-Harm-Denial," available at logosjournal.com:

"The existence of prostitution anywhere is society's betrayal of women, especially those who are marginalized and vulnerable because of their sex, their ethnicity, their poverty, and their history of abuse and neglect. Prostitution is sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, often torture. Women in prostitution face a statistical probability of weekly rape, like domestic violence taken to the extreme.

The complicity of governments sustains prostitution. When the sex trade expands, women are less likely to compete with men for jobs. When prostitution is incorporated into states' economies, governments are relieved of the necessity of finding employment for women. Blood taxes are collected by the state-as-pimp in legal and decriminalized prostitution. Banks, airlines, Internet providers, hotels, travel agencies, and all media are integral to the exploitation and abuse of women in prostitution tourism, make huge profits, and are solidified as part of the economy."

Donna Gavin, Lieutenant in the Human Trafficking Unit at the Boston Police Department, in a Mar. 23, 2015 article for bostonglobe.com titled "'Pretty Woman' Normalizes Something That Destroys Lives," wrote:

"Prostitution is not a fairy tale. 'Pretty Woman' normalizes something that destroys lives. It glamorizes prostitution and creates an illusion that prostitution is a voluntary, desirable occupation. The film suggests that prostituted people are knowledgeable and have other options they might have chosen. The reality is that prostitution and sex trafficking make up a harmful, pervasive, illegal, and violent criminal industry involving pimps and traffickers who are tied to gangs, drugs, and street violence...

Now is the time to act. We need men and women to speak up for those who can't speak for themselves. We

need to attack this harmful sex industry from all sides by targeting the pimps and the traffickers, providing services and exit strategies for those being prostituted, and educating and dissuading would be buyers. We need to dissuade buyers from fueling this industry and hold them accountable when they do."

Reference

1. <https://prostitution.procon.org/>
: SHOULD PROSTITUTION BE LEGAL?
2. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/ztkpcdm>
: PROSTITUTION: IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH SELLING SEX?
3. [HTTP://WWW.DEBATINGEUROPE.EU/FOCUS/ARGUMENTS-LEGALISING-PROSTITUTION/
#.WRUPW-RG2TL](http://www.debatingeurope.eu/focus/arguments-legalising-prostitution/#.WRUPW-RG2TL)
: ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST LEGALISING PROSTITUTION