

Legalization:

Legalization of prostitution is often described as a progressive solution to the harms associated with the sex trade. However, other countries who have legalized prostitution demonstrate this model fails to protect prostituted men, women, and children and does not solve the problems arising from prostitution.¹ Legalizing prostitution not only protects those being prostituted, but also the pimps and buyers of sex. The abusers should be held accountable, and if prostitution is legalized, they would not be.

Additionally, legalization of prostitution has shown an increase in human sex trafficking. In a study with data from 150 countries found that those with “legalized prostitution experience a larger reported incidence of trafficking inflows.”²

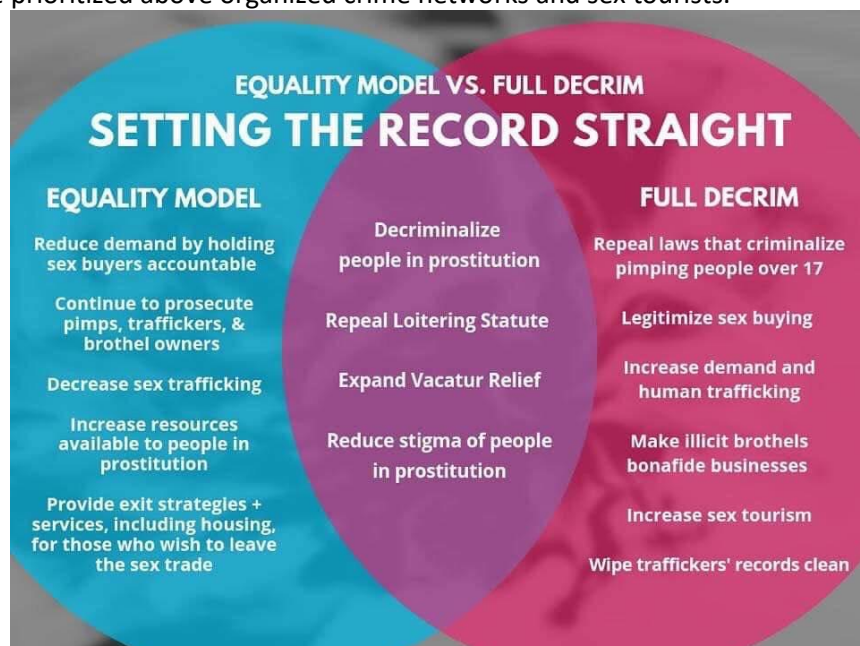
The Equality Model:

StolenYouth advocates for the Equality Model which is based on an approach first adopted in Sweden in 1999. The Equality Model takes a human rights and gender-equality based approach to prevent trafficking and exploitation with three main goals:

1. Promote equality between men and women;
2. Address sex trafficking in laws which hold every actor in the exploitation chain accountable (buyers, pimps, traffickers, etc.);
3. Recognize the vulnerability of those in prostitution and provide them with support, including exiting the trade.³

The Equality Model focuses on closing “on-ramps” into the industry, such as unemployment, housing instability, and substance abuse, and building exit ramps by developing and strengthening programs that measurably prevent the demand for child sex trafficking. These include disrupting sex buyers, educating vulnerable populations, and providing wraparound services for survivors.

Additionally, this approach is survivor-centered, ensuring that their health, well-being, and economic opportunity are prioritized above organized crime networks and sex tourists.⁴



Sources:

¹ Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation. "Legalization". http://media.virbcdn.com/files/e1/FileItem-150147-AM_Legalization.pdf

² Cho, S. Dreher, A. Neumayer, E. "Does Legalized Prostitution Increase Human Trafficking?". 2013. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X12001453>

³ The Equality Approach to Addressing Sex Trafficking https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/equalitynow/pages/267/attachments/original/1527182648/Fact_Sheet_On_Legal_Approach_%28Sex_Trafficking_Fact_Sheet_Layout%29_final_3.21_0.pdf?1527182648

⁴ Rights 4 Girls, "Equality Model". <http://rights4girls.org/wp-content/uploads/r4g/2019/07/Equality-Model-one-Page-.pdf>