

# Making the links

Commercial sexual exploitation & VAWG  
Linda Thompson

National Co-ordinator  
Commercial sexual exploitation  
&  
Encompass Network

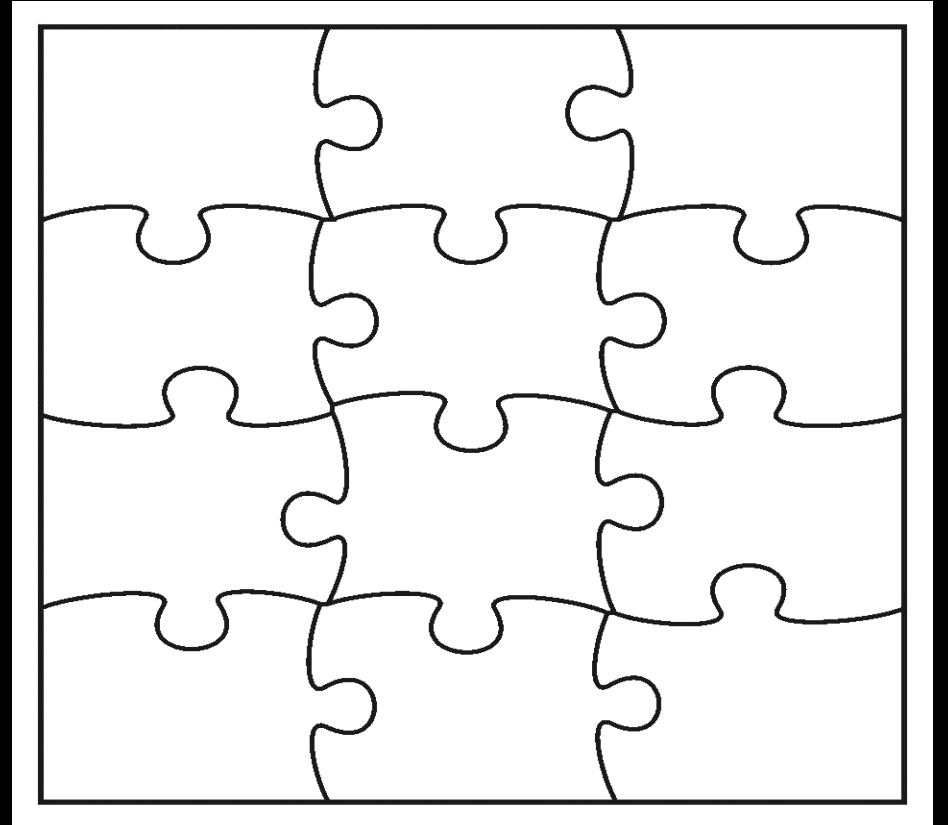


## Women's Support Project

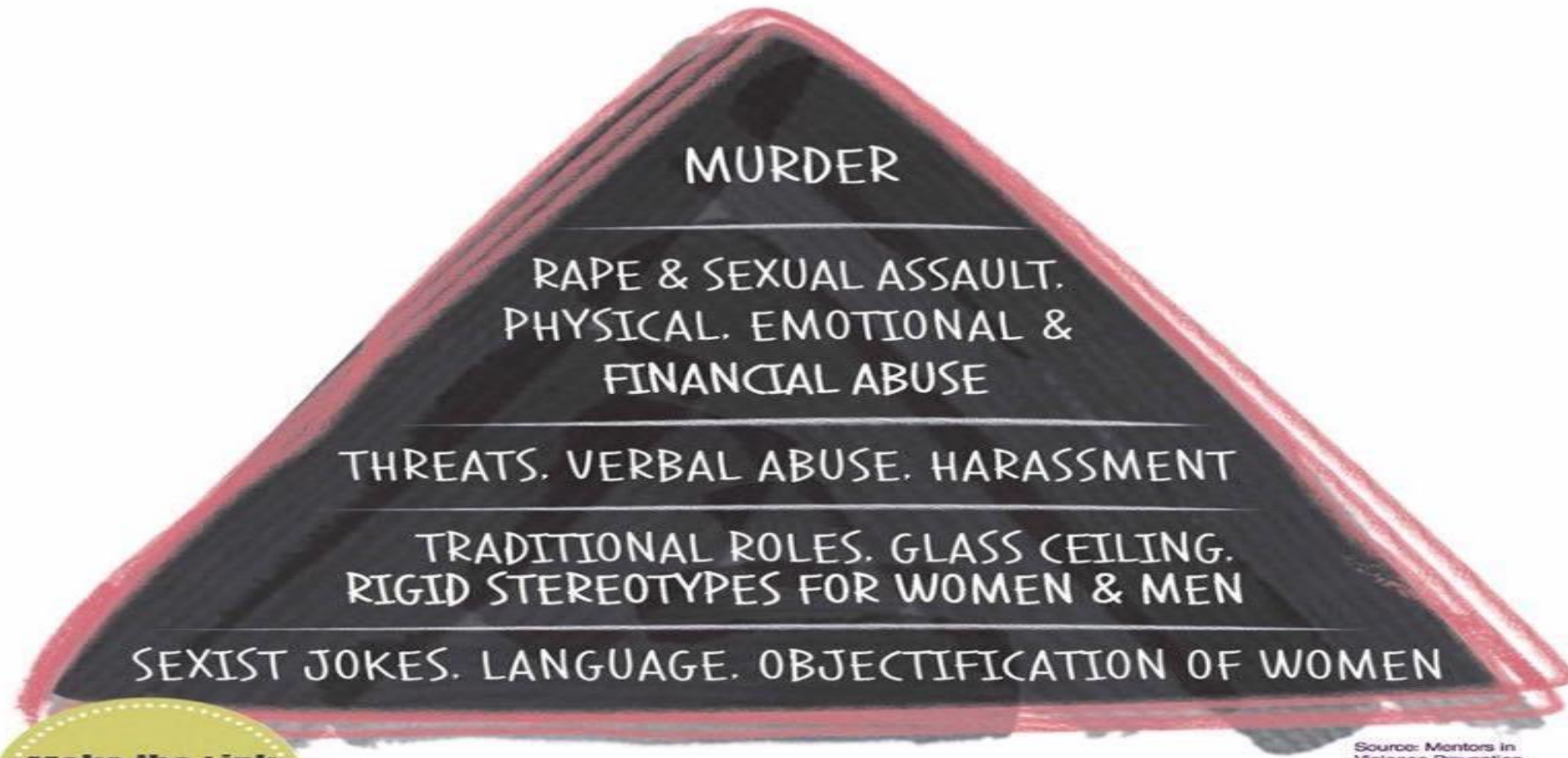
Broad range of issues, including; child sexual abuse and incest, rape and sexual assault, domestic violence, prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation.

Developing understanding of the links between different forms of male violence, and promoting interagency responses.

- Links between different strategies
- Need to prevent and eradicate
- Needs of those involved
- A way ahead?



To end men's violence against women we need to challenge the foundations of violence.



Source: Mentors in Violence Prevention

**Make the Link**

Gender equality  
prevents men's violence  
against women



For more information of how to prevent  
men's violence against women visit  
[www.makethelink.org.au](http://www.makethelink.org.au)

- Real experiences
- Explicit language and content
- Sexual violence and abuse
- Personal experiences







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The  
**FUTURES**  
Channel

Contested area

Exploitation vs employment

Choice vs control

Consent vs coercion

“While philosophical positions on prostitution are incompatible, there are layers of consensus, in research and practice, that are too rarely acknowledged.”

4 Kelly, L., Coy, M., and R. Davenport (2009) *Shifting Sands; A Comparison of Prostitution Regimes Across Nine Countries* CWASU, London Metropolitan University





Women's Support Project

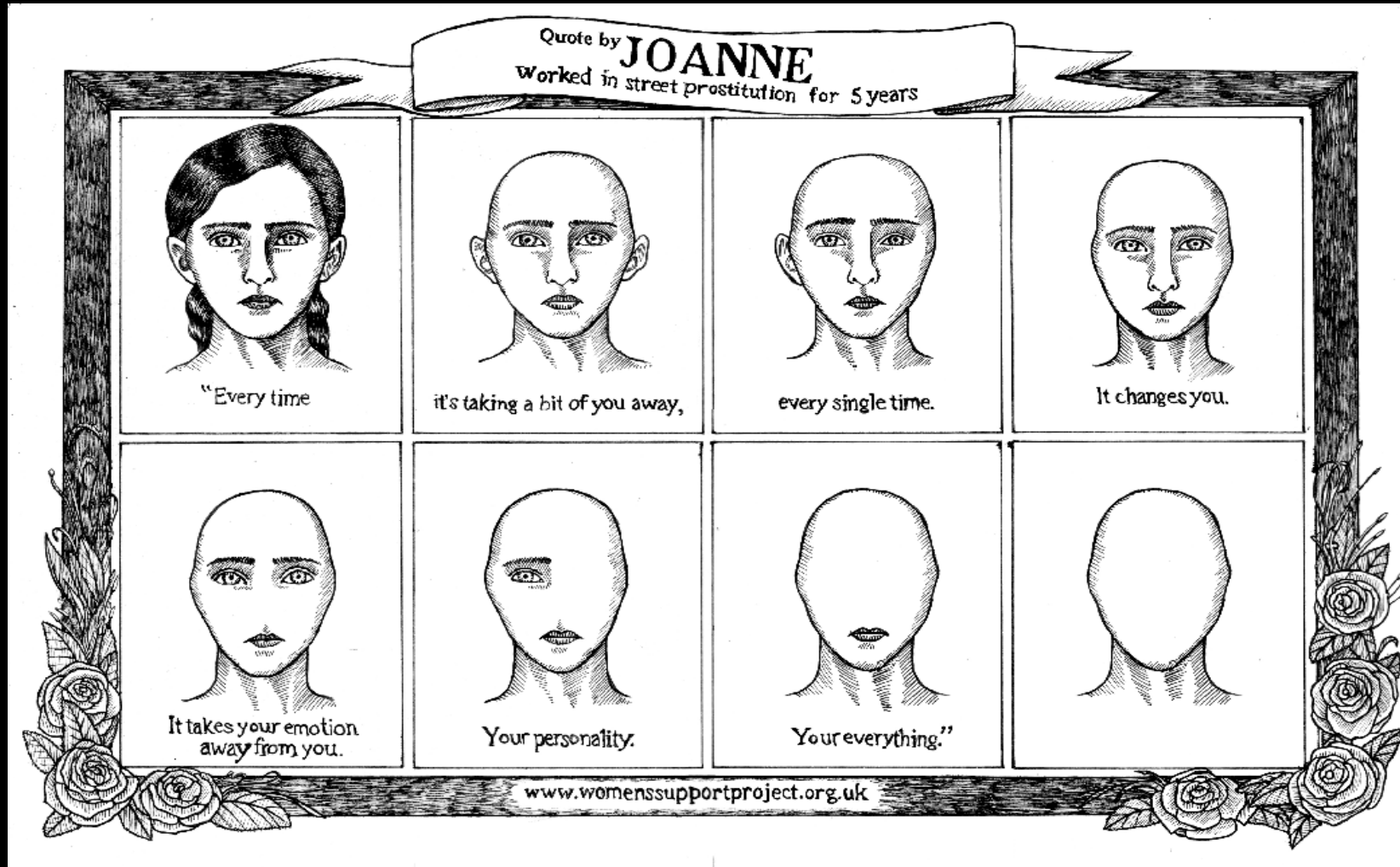
Hurt to Hope  
Blame and shame to  
understanding

Voices of women affected



"The biggest mistake of my life"  
Katy's Story

# Ground hog day







## “Gagged”

People are supposed to be able to deal with this kinda thing but they're shuttin' down and tryin' to get you t'discuss other stuff that has no significance whatsoever to where you are. They don't wanna know it. You see the look in their eyes, it just makes 'em so uncomfortable, you can see that they think it's dirty, it's appalling, it's disgraceful. It's *filthy* and it's wrong.

That silencing is like a gag.





**CRUMBLING**  
UNDERNEATH

## Crumbling Underneath

“I think I was putting mask on to make other people think, “Eh look she's fine she's looking fine she's doing good.” But inside I really wasnae fine. Far fae fine. Crumbling Underneath.”

Levi

What is the strategic situation in Scotland?

Our overarching vision for a fairer Scotland is that, by 2030, Scotland will be a place where people are healthier, happier and treated with respect, and where opportunities, wealth and power are spread more equally

## Equally Safe (pg 8)

Scotland's strategy to **prevent and eradicate** *all* forms of VAWG

- domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault;
- sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in public; stalking;
- **commercial sexual exploitation such as prostitution, pornography and human trafficking;**
- dowry-related violence; female genital mutilation
- (FGM); forced marriage; and so-called 'honour' based violence.

“Any form of payment where sexual acts are exchanged, this may be in the form of money, accommodation, drugs, food or alcohol and is a form of violence against women.”

*(Scottish government 2018)*



# What is commercial sexual exploitation?

- *Commercial sexual Exploitation (CSE) Includes a wide range of often linked sexual activities which (typically) men profit from or buy from women and which objectify and harm women.*

- GBV Briefings – Health Scotland

Prostitution represents an  
insidious form of abuse of  
women and men.

On 6 December 2012, Solicitor General Lesley Thomson QC

# Commercial Sexual Exploitation

*“Sexual exploitation is a practice by which person(s) achieve sexual gratification, or financial gain, or advancement through the abuse of a person’s sexuality by abrogating that person’s human right to dignity, equality, autonomy, and physical and mental well-being.”*

# Equally Safe and CSE?

1 / Commission a *mapping of existing specialist support* for those experiencing commercial sexual exploitation, to better understand current coverage and good practice

2 / *Establish a multi-agency group* to:-

- *develop steps designed to reduce the harms associated with this kind of violence,*
- *support women to exit and*
- *tackle holistically the issues that can lead to someone becoming exploited in this way.”*

# Other relevant strategies

- Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy
- Serious and Organised Crime strategy
- Child Sexual Exploitation strategy
- Sexual Health / BBV strategy
- *All Together Now: strategy to address the harms of alcohol and drugs* ‘
- Homelessness Housing -

*Equalities* – [Fairer Scotland Duty](#) on particular public bodies in Scotland to actively consider how they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions.

- [New Scots strategy](#) refugees and asylum seekers



**Key strategies, plans and policies**

[Anti-Poverty Strategy](#)

[Children's Services Plan](#)

[Equality Outcomes](#)

[Health and Social Care Strategic Plan](#)

[Regional Economic Strategy](#)

**Supporting strategies, policies and plans**

[Active Travel Strategy](#)

[Advocating and Lobbying](#)

[Antisocial Behaviour Strategy](#)

[CLD Partners Strategic Plan](#)

[Community Participation and Engagement](#)

[Community Justice Outcomes](#)

[Improvement Plan 2](#)

[Digital and ICT Strategy](#)

[Education Authority Annual Plan](#)

[Financial Strategy](#)

[Housing Options and Homeless Strategy](#)

[Local Development Plan](#)

[Local Housing Strategy](#)

[Major Festivals and Events Strategy](#)

[Modern Slavery Statement](#)

[Parental Involvement](#)

[Procurement Strategy](#)

[Regional Tourism Strategy](#)

[Unacceptable Actions Policy](#)

[Volunteer Strategy](#)

[Workforce Strategy](#)

# Prostitution and cultural impact – gender equality

“We need to engage with individual women’s experiences of selling sex, but also prostitution as a **gendered system**.“

Engender – response to Jean Urquhart’s Prostitution Reform Act proposals 2015

Prostitution is both a **cause and a consequence of gender inequality**, and that attempts to legitimise the purchase of sex effectively sanctions the bodies of women as acceptable commodities to be bought for sexual purposes, whilst institutionalising the rights of men as purchasers of these bodies.

This in turn merely serves to perpetuate hierarchical relations between the genders at the societal level, and in doing so further widens the inequality gap between *all* men and women in that state.

*European Parliament resolution of 26 February 2014 on sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on gender equality (2013/2103(INI)). Available at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A7-2014-0071+0+DOC+PDF+V0>*

It is impossible to de-gender prostitution, because it sits at the nexus of a host of gendered structural inequalities.

Various parts of the prostitution system depend on:

- the relative impunity with which men can abuse and control women and girls,
- an economy-wide lack of good quality flexible or part-time work,
- occupational segregation,
- women's unequal responsibilities for unpaid care,
- a system of social security that is increasingly failing to provide a safety net for women, and
- a cultural acceptance of the centrality of men's sexual desires and expectations.

Engender (2015) *A Widening Gap: Women and Welfare Reform*



*“The debate takes place in a society with unbalanced power relations between men and women, notably regarding financial and economic resources. These power relations continue to affect men and women’s sexuality and perpetuate images of men buying sex from women.*

*Prostitution is therefore not only perceived as reinforcing gender stereotypes but also as an expression of the idea of men’s unlimited access to women’s bodies and sexuality in accordance with their economic power.”*

De Miguel, A. (2012)

Power

# Power

- Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.
- In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have **power** over them by virtue of their **age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources**.
- Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

Does that change once a person turns 18?

**power** over them by virtue of their **age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.**

limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability

1/3 women enter prostitution before the age of 18  
50% are coerced into it  
73% experienced some form of childhood violence  
before entering prostitution,  
1/2 involved in prostitution also hold a criminal record for  
related offences.

Eaves' 2013 reports "Capital Exploits" and  
2012 report "Breaking Down the Barriers".



# Doll

*“She was just a bag of bones, just bein’ used in a doorway....her eyes met mine. She looked fucking dead inside, like she had so given up.*

*While he was doing what he was doing to her there was nothin’ absolutely nothin’ there. Nothin’. She was so young.”*

Wendy

**Levi**

“Tools off the trade”

I was off my head with that first punter. I remember I had boots on... he's asked us to put them on the dashboard.

I remember that. It's funny what sticks in your mind isn't it?

**INSIDE**

**OUTSIDE**



Joanne – a few wee kind  
words

Men think  
they're buying  
your **silence**





“I was very very skinny, very emaciated...

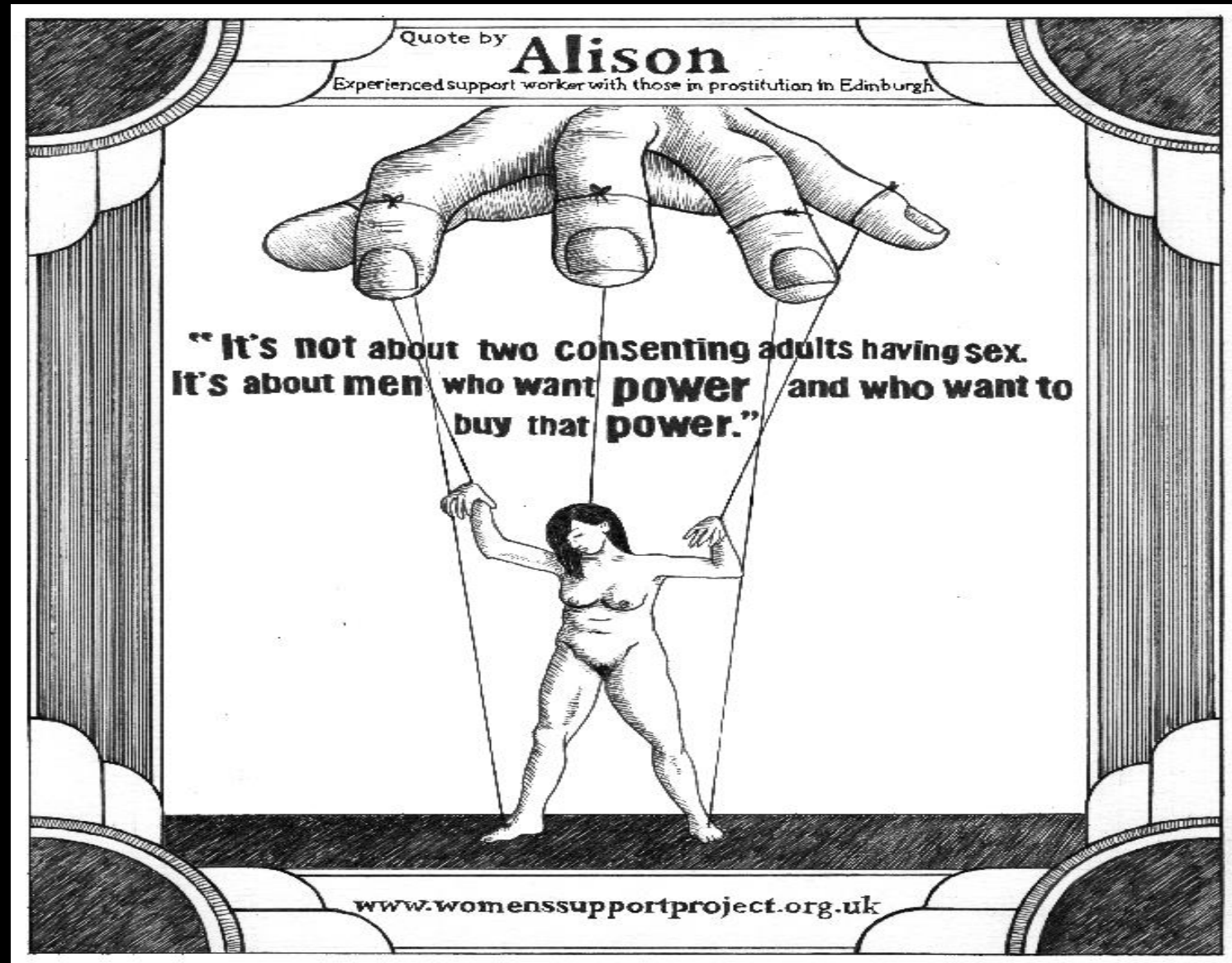
That I couldnae stand up to a man so it was actually a pen and I ended up getting the pen took off me and stabbed myself with the pen.

You soon quickly learn that you've no really got any... any means of protection for yourself.

So you have to just take the abuse. That's the only way to deal with it, is just to take the abuse.”

Joanne

# Puppet on a string



What about in this area?

What happens here?

How many?

- Any vulnerable children / yp?
- Any vulnerable women and men?
  
- Any Alcohol & substance misuse?
- Any mental health issues?
- Any learning disability?
- Any homelessness / housing issues?
- Any Poverty or economic pressures?
- Any unemployment / unstable hours / lack flexibility?
- Any child abuse or any violence against women and girls?

Often the most common responses to the question, 'What causes prostitution?' are 'poverty', 'drug addiction', and 'a history of abuse and violence'.

In fact these are factors that lead or force vulnerable women and men into prostitution, rather than the cause of prostitution itself.

The cause of prostitution is the exploitation of vulnerability and inequality, either by individuals or by the sex industries.

How many?

The world-wide worth of *prostitution* compared with other recreational activities is only second to that of alcohol and addictive drugs,

3 x of the world-wide film industry,

16 x value of entire tourism industry

20 x the value of the *music industry*.

- [Scotland scandals](#)
- [Scottish desire](#)
- [Scotland liaisons](#)
- [Escort Scotland](#)
- [Escort plus](#)
- [Escort list](#)
- [Ideal escorts](#)
- [Intimate escorts](#)
- [Sexy and independent escorts](#)
- [Punter net](#)
- [UK escort search](#)
- [Punter link](#)
- [Escort net](#)
- [Alba ladies](#)
- [Butterfly escorts](#)
- [Pure bizness](#)
- [Escort collection](#)
- [AA bella escorts](#)
- [Girl-directory](#)
- [Escorts Scotland](#)
- [Es](#)



# Escorts in Scotland

## Listings from escorts available today from:

**Aberdeen**, Aberfeldy, Aboyne, Aikwood, Airdrie, Alexandria, Alford, Alloa, Altass, Altnaharra, Alva, Alyth, Annan, Anstruther, Appin, Applecross, Arbroath, Ardfern, Arrochar, Auchterarder, Auchtermuchty, Aviemore, Ayr, Balallan, Ballantrae, Ballater, Balmaha, Balnaboth, Baltasound, Banchory, Banff, Barrhead, Bathgate, Bearsden, Beaully, Beeswing, Beith, Bellshill, Biggar, Birnam, Blackburn (W. Lothian), Blairgowrie, Blantyre, Bonar Bridge, Borge, Bothwell, Braemar, Brechin, Bridge of Allan, Bridge of Cally, Bridge of Weir, Bridgend, Brodick, Brora, Broughty Ferry, Broxburn, Buckie, Bucksburn, Burntisland, Cairnbulg, Callander, Cambuslang, Campbeltown, Cardenden, Cardross, Carluke, Carnoustie, Carrbridge, Castle Douglas, Ceres, Charlestown of Aberlour, Clydebank, Coatbridge, Coldstream, , Cullen, Cumbernauld, Cupar, Dalbeattie, Dalgety Bay, Dalkeith, Dingwall, Dornoch, Dufftown, Dumbarton, Dumfries, Dunbar, Dunbeath, Dunblane, Dundee, Dundonald, Dunfermline, Forfar, Forres, Fort Augustus, **Fort William**, Fraserburgh, Gairloch, Galashiels, Gartocharn, Gaudry, Glasgow, Glencaple, Glencarse, Glendoick, Glenfarg, Glenfinnan, Glenluce, Glenrothes, Gorebridge, Gourrock, Grangemouth, Grantown-on-Spey, Greenock, Gretna, Gullane, Haddington, Inverness, Inveruglas, Inverurie, Irvine, Jedburgh, John o' Groats, Johnstone, Keith, Kelso, Kentallen, Kilbarchan, Kilchoan, Killearn, Killin, Kilmaccolm, Kilmarnock, Kilmun, Kilwinning, Kincaig, Kinghorn, Kinglassie, Kingussie, Kinloch Rannoch, Kinlochewe, Kinloss, Kinross, Kintore, Kirkcaldy, Kirkcudbright, Kirkhill, Kirknewton, Kirkwall, Kirriemuir, Knightswood, Kyle of Lochalsh, Ladybank, Lairg, Lamlash, Lanark, , Letham, Leuchars, Leven, Limekilns, Linlithgow, **Livingston**, Loanhead, Lochailort, Lochcarron, Lochearnhead, Lochgilphead, Lochranza, Lockerbie, Lossiemouth, Lower Largo, Lugton, Markinch, Maybole, Melrose, Milngavie, Milton of Campsie, Moffat, Monifieth, Monikie, Montrose, Motherwell, Muir of Ord, Murthly, Musselburgh, Nairn, Newmachar, Newmains, Newport-on-Tay, Newton Stewart, Newtonmore, North Berwick, North Queensferry, Oban, Oldmeldrum, Onich, Paisley, Peebles, Penicuik, Perth, Peterhead, Pitlochry, Pittenweem, Plockton, Port Bannatyne, Portlethen, Portpatrick, Prestwick, Reston, Rosehall, Rosewell, Roslin, Ross, Rothesay, Roybridge, Rutherglen, Saltcoats, Sandbank, Selkirk, Shots, Skelmorlie, South Queensferry, Spean Bridge, St. Andrews, Stenton, Stirling, Stonehaven, Stornoway, Stranraer, Strathaven, Strathdon, Strathmiglo, Strathpeffer, Tain, Tarbert, Taynuilt, Thornhill (Dumfries and Galloway), Thornton, Thurso, Tillicoultry, Tobermory, Tomintoul, Troon, Turnberry, Tynehead, Ullapool, Uphall, Walkerburn, Wartle, Wemyss Bay, West Linton, Whitebridge, Whiting Bay, Wick, Wigtown, Windygates

Examples of local advertisements for women  
in prostitution in mainstream market



About 283,000 results (0.35 seconds)

### Dumfries & Galloway Escorts & Massages - Independent & Agency ...

<https://www.vivastreet.co.uk/escort/dumfries-galloway>

Dumfries & Galloway escorts online today at Vivastreet! The UK's #1 Dumfries & Galloway escort website. Over 8000 female and male escort adverts posted ...

### 625 Dumfries Escorts, Incall, Outcall Female Escorts - UK Adult Zone

<https://www.ukadultzone.com/dumfries-escorts.html>

Dumfries escorts contact profiles featuring comprehensive Dumfries escort contact details including sexy Dumfries escort girls offering outcall services.

### Dumfries and Galloway Escorts - Tartan Ladies- Scottish Escorts. Find ...

<https://www.tartanladies.com/dumfries-galloway-escorts.html>

Escorts permanently working in Scotland whether you have your own website or not are welcome to advertise on Tartan Ladies for free. If you want to advertise ...

### Dumfries & Galloway Escorts & Erotic Massage | Escort-Scotland.com

<https://www.escort-scotland.com> > ... > All Services > Scotland > Dumfries & Galloway

Looking for an independent companion in Scotland? Dumfries & Galloway escorts are some of the finest. Male, female, TS or TV, they are waiting for you.

### Dumfries and Galloway Escorts – UK Escort Directory

[www.ukescorts.directory](http://www.ukescorts.directory) > Female Escorts > Scotland Escorts

Booking one of our Dumfries and Galloway Escorts is really easy, simply click on your chosen escort below and you will be taken to their Adultwork profile.

### Dumfries and Galloway Escorts Independent & Agency ★ Magic ...

<https://www.escortscotland.net> > Scotland

Dumfries and Galloway escorts & nearby places. Sexy independent female escort & agency call girls for discreet appointments in Scotland.



# Who knows?

Sexual health?

Drugs and alcohol partnerships?

Maternity services?

Police Scotland / criminal justice ?

VAW projects?

Mental Health / trauma?

Child / Adult Support Protection?

Welfare?

Housing / homelessness?

GPs?

Sexual health?

Drugs and alcohol partnerships?

Maternity services?

Police Scotland / criminal justice ?

VAW projects?

Mental Health / trauma?

Child / Adult Support Protection?

Welfare?

Housing / homelessness?

GPs?

What are womens needs?





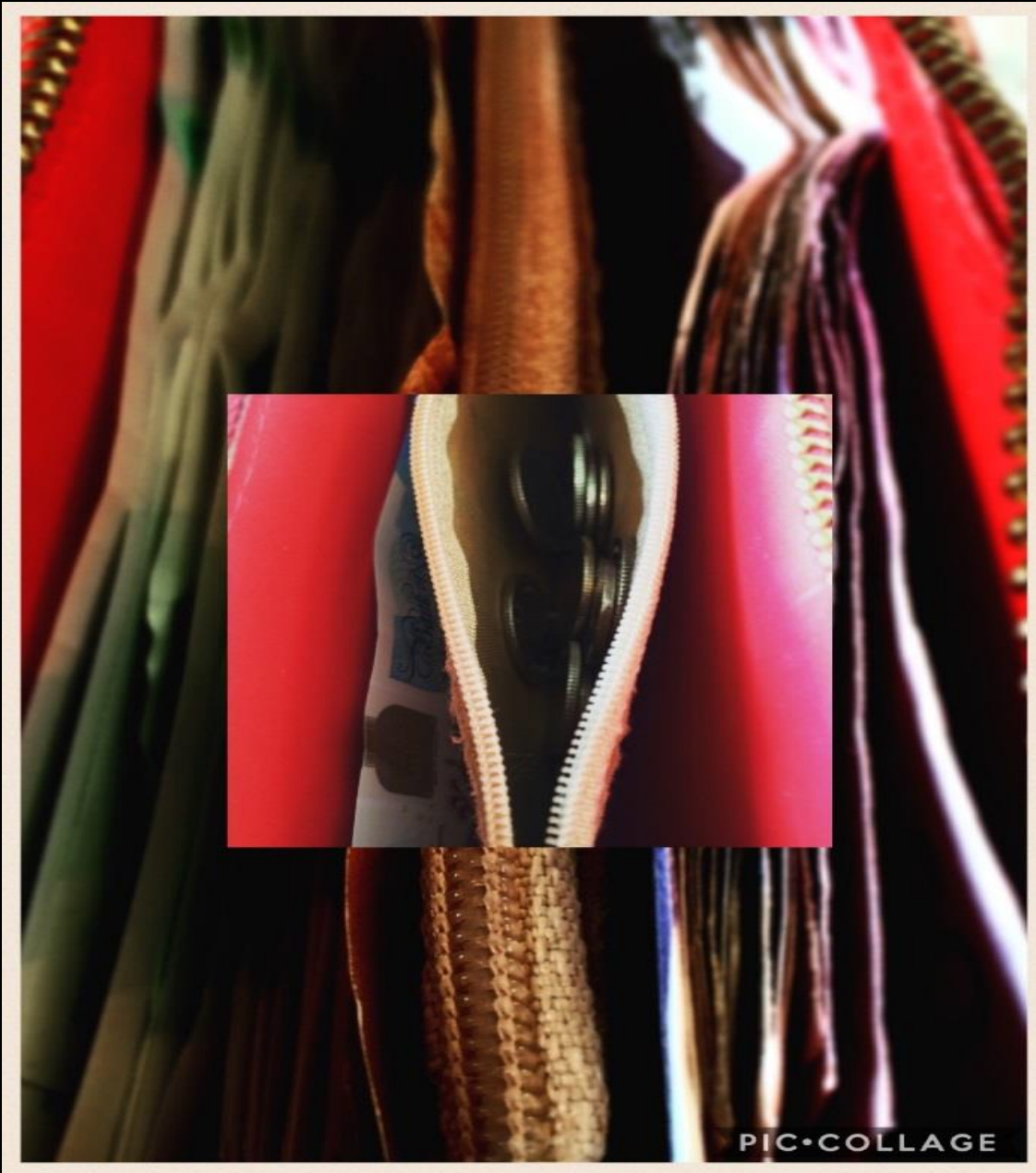
# “Easy money”

The money doesn't last. You can make the money but once you're not new anymore, the money is harder to come by.

Oh when you're new, it's basically like you're fresh meat.

It's something new for a customer to try and once they've tried you, you're not new anymore.

Katie



*“The shifts in the sauna were horrendous, literally you'd start at ten in the morning till eleven in the evening.*

*It was almost like a, like working in a factory you know. Stuff comes down the conveyer belt, you pack it, it goes.*

*It's made out as though you've got choice but actually, you're kind of, not forced but, yeah, you do feel obliged to have to do any client that comes in.”*

*Cassy*



Our experience, which is supported by research evidence, local surveys and service user profiles, strongly supports the view that for this client group, the vast majority have become involved as a result of complex social circumstances including dependent drug use, previous sexual exploitation, mental health problems, poverty and low self-esteem etc.

Most are unhappy with their lifestyle and would not actively choose to be involved.

(Drugs Action, Quay Services) (2012 )

# Encompass Scoping Exercise

## Jan – Mar 2014

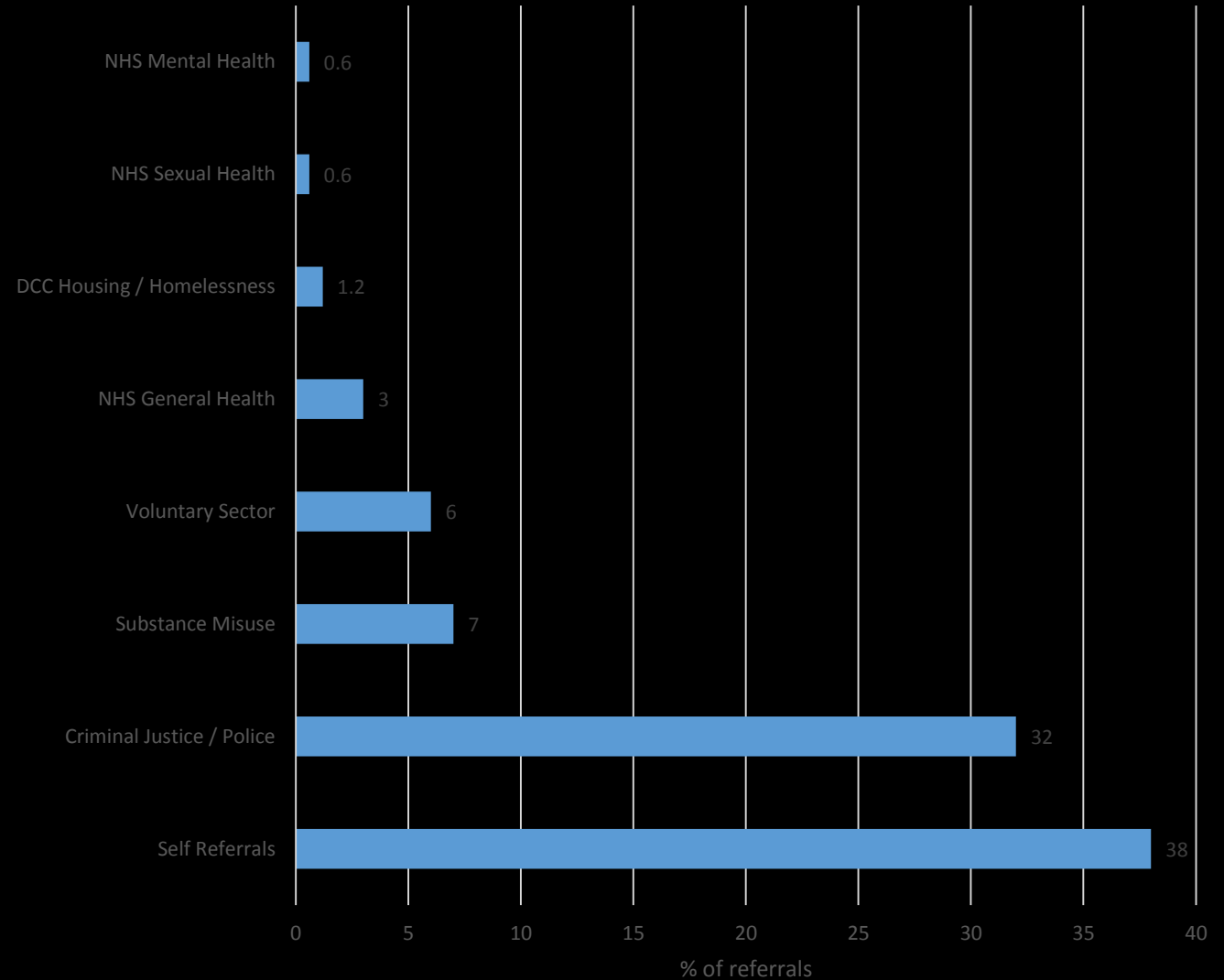
- Financial / Economic pressures
- Employment and realistic alternatives
- Social eg Stable and affordable Housing
- Social capital and social attitudes
- Personal safety
- Mental and emotional health
- Health eg addictions
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Legal concerns and fears
- Loneliness and isolation

# Background

- since 2008 to 170 women
- involved in prostitution and
- at risk of human trafficking
  
- Referrals variety of sources:



Referrals Sources by % over last 5 years



# Womens Clinic Edinburgh 2016 statistics

- 376 consultations with 204 different women
- 54% UK (mostly Scottish)
- 46% nonUK (mostly Romanian)
- 94% currently or prev involved in prostitution

- 51% mental ill-health
- 66% use substances or excess alcohol
- 40% victim of rape or sexual assault
- 75% had experienced childhood abuse

193 female on-street and off-street sex workers in Zurich (5 per cent of all registered sex workers in the city).

The study found high rates of

- anxiety,
- stress
- post-traumatic stress disorder,

Other issues identified - psychosis and schizophrenia.

The researchers claim that the effect of a single year of engagement in sex work is likely to have the same impact on mental health as an entire life of experiences prior to involvement in sex work.

Rossler et al. (2010)

# Baggage

Quote by

**ALISON**

Support worker with those in prostitution in Edinburgh

"I've probably worked with 100 plus women. I've never met a woman yet that has had this glowing, ideal, perfect life that's just decided to turn to selling sex.

There's always, always some kind of trauma in their past."



[WWW.WOMENSSUPPORTPROJECT.ORG.UK](http://WWW.WOMENSSUPPORTPROJECT.ORG.UK)

## “Hidden”

I've realised, “Fuck I canny stop my drugs and still work.” so it's like fuck, the two of them come together. Took me years to notice that the two of them come hand in hand. I canny do one without the other.





“The triangle”

That money – it didn't stay wi'  
you. Nah.

In one hand and into a smack  
dealer's hand, so they were the  
ones that were getting the  
money from it. From the  
punter to me to the dealer.

It never stayed with me.

# What do women need?

- Bespoke service for their individual needs
  - Adaptable – as needs may change
  - Somewhere safe and non judgemental
  - Quality service and to be given time
  - Trauma informed care
  - Someone to listen
  - Multiagency approach
- 
- To be allowed to have a dream and reach for it



## “Angels”

I told her everything.... that made me feel so worthless and so vile about myself. I said “You know you’re just like an angel” and she said to me “We’re all angels darling. It’s just some of us have dirty faces but there’s no face that can’t be cleaned.”



If I had not met my support worker, I would have been dead by now.

She has saved my life on so many occasions. Sometimes just by being at the end of the phone, sometimes by sitting and speaking to me for hours. She kept me certain that I could stop.

She was there for me, when I went off the rails, she stuck by me. She'd still be there for me. There was no judgement there.

She has been the stable relationship for me. Something I never really had before.

# Scottish model

Any approach developed in Scotland should focus on those who are most vulnerable and who have little or no alternative to selling sex. It is only right that the focus of attention should be on the majority of marginalised and vulnerable people selling sex as opposed to ignoring their needs in favour of a smaller minority of more privileged women. This is not an exclusionary position which dismisses the voices of sex workers but one which acknowledges that some women choose to enter into prostitution whilst many do not have the same freedom, flexibility and range of options

WSP response pg 16 <http://www.womenssupportproject.co.uk/>



# Proposed approach



Preventing and eradicating  
prostitution: a proposed  
approach for Scotland



SCOTLAND'S NETWORK SUPPORTING  
THOSE INVOLVED IN THE SEX INDUSTRY





Preventing and eradicating  
prostitution: a proposed  
approach for Scotland



SCOTLAND'S NETWORK SUPPORTING  
THOSE INVOLVED IN THE SEX INDUSTRY

# 7 elements

**Comprehensive primary prevention that supports healthy relationships and sexuality**

**Increased public awareness of the causes and impact of prostitution as a form of gender-based violence**

**Capacity-building so that staff in mainstream services have the right skills to meet the needs of those involved in prostitution**

**Support and harm reduction services for people involved in prostitution**

**Support for people who wish to leave prostitution, and to help them recover from their experiences**

**Decriminalising selling sex in a public place (section 46) and removing such convictions from the record**

**Disrupting prostitution markets and reducing demand by criminalising the purchase of sex**

# Principles for effective service delivery

A coordinated, multi-agency approach: Local agencies should work together, via a shared prostitution strategy, to support women to exit.

Holistic, tailored provision: A holistic package of specialist support should be tailored to the specific needs of each woman.

Long-term: Exiting prostitution can be a lengthy and difficult process. Services should reflect this and work to provide continuity of care.

Name the problem: Local strategies, and the agencies delivering them, should recognise prostitution as violence against women.

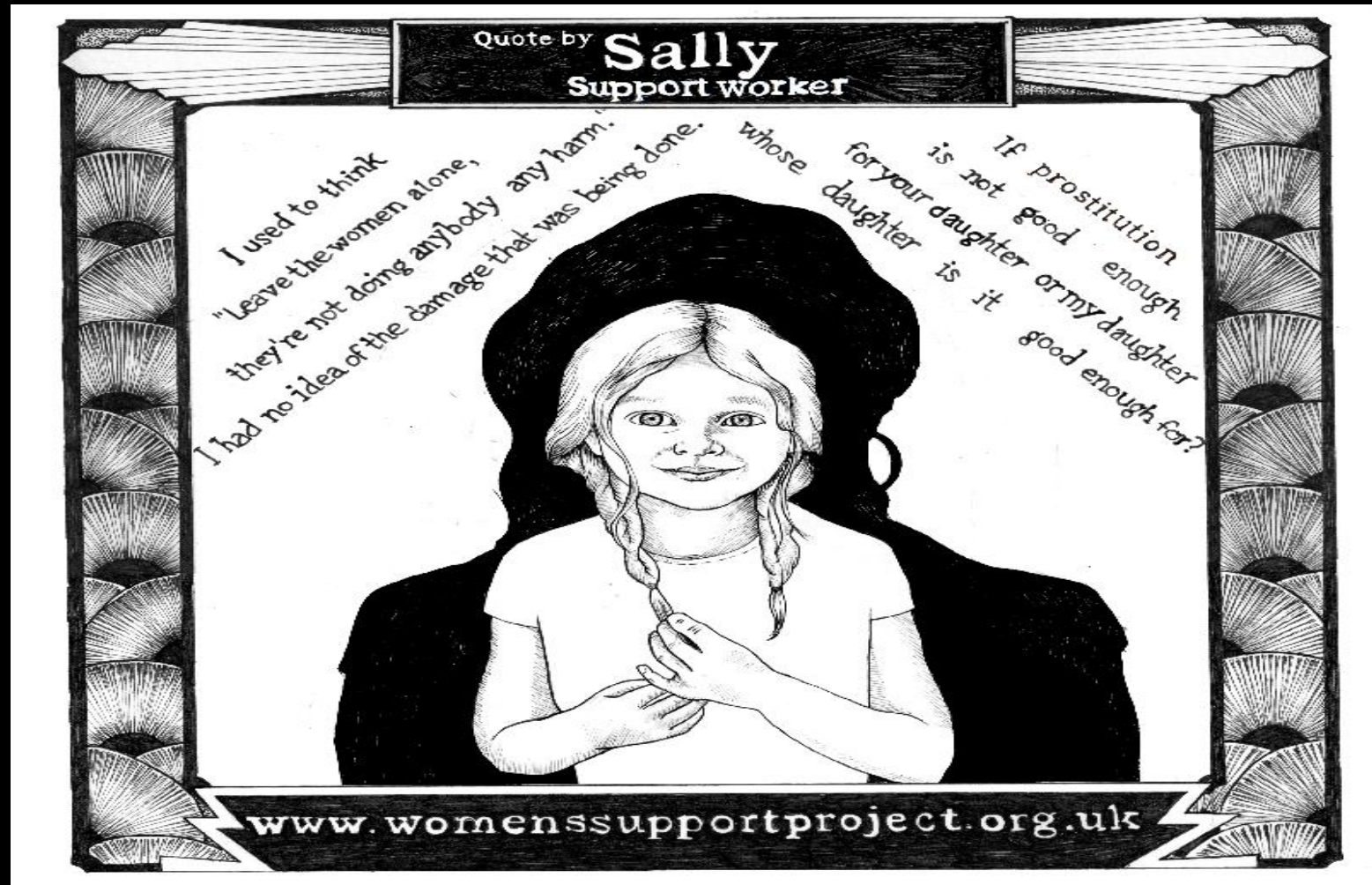
Address on-street and off-street commercial sexual exploitation: Women prostituting in different locations share some common barriers to exiting.

Be flexible and accessible: Services need to be flexible in order to enable women living in chaotic circumstances to engage with them.

Monitor and evaluate: All services should collect monitoring data that supports the ongoing development of the local prostitution strategy and which can be drawn on for evaluation purposes.



# Prevent and eradicate



I didnt choose prostitution

Prostitution choose me

Bridget Perrier: [tgam.ca/TheTrafficked](http://tgam.ca/TheTrafficked)

"A few people's "right" to sell sex doesn't negate the rights of all those who are hurt in this system to not be bought. We can't turn a blind eye to the kids and vulnerable adults who are chewed up and spit out by this industry.

I didn't have a choice. The girls I work with now didn't have a choice. We didn't make a decision; a decision was made for us. That's who we need to protect.

That's who I fight for."

*Audrey Morrissey, Associate Director of My Life My Choice, trafficking survivor*

[://www.demandabolition.org/blog/my-experience-in-the-sex-trade-had-nothing-to-do-with-choice/](https://www.demandabolition.org/blog/my-experience-in-the-sex-trade-had-nothing-to-do-with-choice/)

Thank you

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