

PROSTITUTION

a workshop and a look at some of the facts

WHY ARE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN PROSTITUTION IN THE UK?

HOW COULD PEOPLE MAKE PROSTITUTION SAFER?

DO YOU THINK PROSTITUTION IS RIGHT OR WRONG?

HOW CAN PROSTITUTION HARM THOSE INVOLVED?

FACTS:

Many women, brought to UK (from Brazil, Russia, China etc) and run by gangs like the Triads. Women told they'd be working as nannies etc, prostituted to 10 to 15 men in 12-hour sessions, six to seven days a week. Passports and documents taken away, high rents charged, very little money made. Had to work to pay back money paid for coming to UK. (European Race Audit Bulletin)

Children as young as 11 are enslaved in prostitution in Bradford. Of 100 girls, under 18, who are in touch with Streets and Lanes Project workers last year, the average age was 14 and the youngest was 11. Older pimps exploit them and lock them up in bedsits and often deny them access to food or a toilet. The law is failing to protect them. (Sarah Walsh, "Shock of 11-year-old children enslaved in prostitution," Telegraph & Argus, 14 July 1998)

Seven prostituted women have been murdered in Glasgow, Scotland since 1991, raising the possibility of a serial murderer. (Lawrence Donegan, "Seventh Killing of Prostitute Raises Fears in Red Light Area," The Guardian, 3 March 1998)

50% of women in prostitution have been coerced into the sex industry while under the age of consent. (Coalition for the Removal of Pimps (CROP) and EXIT, UK)

Women are often more likely to be charged for prostitution offences than the male clients.

Many young girls forced into prostitution in the UK have been charged with criminal offences rather than being treated as young people in need of help, including one 10 year-old girl. In 1996, 281 girls under 14 were charged with prostitution (fact from Barnardos). Hope is this will stop. Bradford is one area where girls are no longer being charged for prostitution. Reading has a high percentage of teenage prostitutes. There are many groups working with prostitutes across the UK to support, advise.