Decriminalize
world’s oldest profession

Prostitution is a victimless crime

VANESSA LUIS
Editor-in-chief

There is a severe stigma about sex work, in which people have been legally and socially prosecuted for their use of their bodies as a source of income.

Yet, most objections are based on personal morals, religion and just outright disapproval rather than the constitutional rights of the person.

Much of the stigma is based on this idea of a slutty, trashy woman throwing herself onto an innocent, vulnerable family man; this is a damaging idea and is not what sex work is.

First, not all prostitutes are women and not all customers are men. Second, customers often initiate the transactions.

Prostitution is a generally victimless crime, as is the solicitation of sexual services. If anything, making it a crime creates victims.

In 2012, the United Nations Global Commission on HIV and the Law called for the decriminalization of “private and consensual adult sexual behaviours, including same-sex sexual acts and voluntary sex work.”

“Criminalisation, in collusion with social stigma makes sex workers lives more unstable, less safe and far riskier in terms of HIV,” according to the report. “There is no legal protection from discrimination and abuse where sex work is criminalised.”

Amnesty International followed suit last month, calling for the worldwide decriminalization of prostitution.

Sam Campbell's video is damaging

SAM CAMPBELL
Opinions editor

On Sept. 3, YouTube personality Nicole Arbour posted a six-minute video titled “Dear Fat People" with the description “What we've all wanted to say to fat people.”

In the video, she proceeds to tear down every single person struggling with weight issues. She included a disclaimer saying these comments were not aimed at people who were suffering from some kind of medical illness that put them in this situation. Still, her ignorance about this subject truly shines bright.

As TLC star Whitney Way Thore of “My Big Fat Fabulous Life” pointed out in her response video, even if Nicole isn’t directing this to sick people, she is. There is literally no way for Nicole, or anyone else who takes her seriously, to look at an overweight person and determine if it’s due to an illness or not. Since Nicole’s video is pushing all overweight people into one category, any hate that will result because of this video will be directed toward anyone who fits her description.

Nicole begins her video by declaring that fat shaming is not real, and that it is something fat people just made up. But it is real. If you have ever seen someone being made fun of for being overweight, you have witnessed fat shaming. And as we all know, that is very common.

People are always told that they aren’t pretty and they are pushed out of the modeling industry, fashion industry and television, all because they aren’t size-zero models.

Nicole even goes on to bash people who have to buy plus-size clothing (that would be anyone a size 8 or up). Did you know both Kate Upton and Robyn Lawley are plus size? Yet Nicole wouldn’t say anything about them, because they don’t fit her uninformed definition of what it means to be plus size.

Hate from other people is something fat people just have to deal with and determine if it’s due to discrimination, all because they aren’t size-zero models.

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Nicole Arbour’s claim that she cares, and her attempt to show this through satire, is lost amid the crude, demeaning jokes, her comparison of herself to minorities who get stopped for “random” checks in airport security. She cannot stand up for an entire group of people, either fat or fat people.

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Is religion an excuse not to do your job?

(Regarding Kim Davis, a Kentucky county clerk who refused to issue a marriage license to a gay couple)

ANGELA PEREZ
Kinesiology

“You shouldn’t even have a job that is against your religion.”

SHAINAYA SHARMA
Psychology

“She [Kim Davis] does not get to make her own policies.”

JORDYN MORGAN
Music

“No, you should know what you’re signing up for”

DESIREE LEGAT
Philosophy

“I think she (Kim Davis) should have just stayed in jail. I don’t think it’s an excuse”

TRENT TRISKELION
Communication Studies

“No, you got into that job knowing that it may or may not agree with your religion”

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