Legalize prostitution, continue ban on trafficking, pimping

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Sex workers and Johns/janes have the basic human right of bodily autonomy; meaning they should be able to engage in whatever activities they’d like with their own body.

Some people grow up in poverty and are unable to thrive in the educational system; other people hold strong to the fact that their bodies are their greatest assets. Regardless of the reason behind a sexworker’s career choice, they should not be punished for making a living in a way that is not agreeable to societal standards.

I am calling for legalization of all sex work with regulation. However, human trafficking (the sale of a person against their will) and street pimping should remain extremely illegal.

I believe that with regulation of prostitution, we can make the process safe for all involved parties. Legalization will reduce the risk of STDs, rape, exploitation of sex workers, etc. and funnel more tax money into our communities.

Manisha Shah of the University of California, Los Angeles, and Scott Cunningham of Baylor University examined data from a seven-year period after the Rhode Island legislature inadvertently decriminalized indoor prostitution in the state.

“Not surprisingly, we find that decriminalization increased the size of the indoor market,” the authors said in their 2014 study, “Decriminalizing Indoor Prostitution: Implications for Sexual Violence and Public Health.”

“However, we also find that decriminalization caused both forcible rape offenses and gonorrhea incidence to decline for the overall population. Our synthetic control model finds 824 fewer reported rape offenses (31 percent decrease) and 1,035 fewer cases of female gonorrhea (39 percent decrease) from 2004 to 2009.”

Sex workers should function as individual contractors with a license to work. They would receive all the benefits of a normal job (401k, health insurance, union, etc.) without the same requirements.

With the legalization of prostitution, along with regulations such as testing for STDs, drug testing, and proper education about protection, it is likely that rates of STDs, rates of homelessness, rates of crime, and rates of violence against sex workers will decrease immensely.

Tweet me @VanessaMLuis

Don’t listen to Arbour’s message

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then stop to say, “Big, sassy black women in church dresses are my favorite thing,” like this subgroup is a token. Nicole’s idea of love and care is one that is damaging.

This is something that should upset you. This cannot be some Internet fad that comes and goes in a week. Thousands of people saw that video in a matter of days, and thousands of people were just told that they are not good enough. Make sure your friends know they are perfect and loved. You are perfect and loved.

Do the world a favor and don’t listen to Nicole Arbour. Satire is not the way to spread love and support.

And if a stranger’s weight really does bother you, keep it to yourself. It’s none of your damn business.

Tweet me @SamCamp08

Fiorina stands out in GOP debate

BRIANNE O’SULLIVAN
News editor

The Iran nuclear deal and Russia’s support of the Assad regime in Syria were two major foreign policy subjects during the Republican presidential debate Wednesday night.

In regards to the Syrian crisis, candidates were quick to point fingers at President Barack Obama, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and one another.

When it comes to the Iran nuclear deal, Republican candidates appear to fall into one of two camps: nullify it completely and immediately or cautiously proceed with the situation and U.S.-Iran relationship.

The topic of immigration sparked some interesting debate. Multiple candidates, most notably Ben Carson and Chris Christie, called Donald Trump’s plan to immediately deport 11 million to 12 million undocumented workers impossible and financially damaging. Bush, Carson and others argued for an immigration policy that allows for pathways to citizenship and opportunities to obtain work visas. Personal jobs at candidates’ families members were not off limits. At one point, Bush demanded Trump apologize to his wife for previous comments he made during an interview. “I won’t do that because I said nothing wrong, but I do hear she’s a lovely woman,” Trump said.

Throughout the debate, Carly Fiorina impressed with her articulate and passionate speech. As many of the contenders debated the merits of launching the Iraq War, Fiorina insisted on talking about how she would secure our national security by expanding our military prowess.

Recently, in an interview with Rolling Stone, Donald Trump, when shown a picture of Fiorina, said, “Look at that face! Would anyone vote for that? Can you imagine that, the face of our next president?”

The mediator gave Fiorina a chance to respond to Trump’s comment, which he claimed was about her persona and not her looks. Fiorina, the only woman on stage, firmly responded: “Women all over this country heard very clearly what Mr. Trump said.”

And while Fiorina stood out in the debate, her rocky past as CEO of Hewlett-Packard, which included thousands of layoffs and ended in a forced resignation, will be sure to haunt her on the campaign trail.

Want to talk shop? Tweet me @bri_o’sullivan

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