

From denial to action

An Icelandic model to fight trafficking?



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Grand Hotel 7.6.08

Stigamót and the links between porn and violence



Stigamót

- 300.000 inhabitants, a micro community
- Stigamót: 500 women a year - half of them for 2000 counselling hours and 10-15 closed self-help groups, each year
- Political society work
- Since 1990 incest and rape, later prostitution and trafficking
- The worst consequences of violence, the worst feelings of shame and guilt, the most suicidal thoughts that we meet, come from women in prostitution
- The consequences of prostitution can be fatal, Kristin and others
- The Kristin fond in 2001
- A hotline for women in the porn industry for 7 years
- In 2007, 25 prostitution + 11 because of porn, almost all survivors of incest or rape
- Our people have thought me that the porn industry is a form of sexual violence, and should be dealt with as such.



The feministic work against trafficking at Stigamót

- Seminars, conferences, foreign experts, posters, presentations, media
- Fighting for the Swedish model; criminalizing buyers
- The Kristin fund
- Outreach work – in times of trouble, hotline, contacts
- Co-ordinating an Icelandic network within the Nord/Balt project
 - An emergency unit
 - An ideal plan of action made by the Geysir group and presented to heads of institutions
 - Negotiations with head of police, ministries, ministers, other institutions
 - The working group –writing the plan of action
- International work – ENATW, CATW, Nordic Network against Trafficking, Nordic/Baltic project (EWL) and the important recognition of our work by Equality now!

International networking is essential

- ❑ Trafficking is mainly internationally organized crime. The only way to beat it is to be even better organized.
- ❑ The Nordic/Baltic pilot project – a unique way of cooperation between NGO´s, government agencies and others, between countries of origin and destination –A role model for Europe?
- ❑ International networking is empowering,
 - By securing flow of information
 - Expertise
 - Best practises
 - Research
 - It gives our work credibility
 - It creates political pressure
- ❑ Soroptimists International can do wonders



International conventions by UN and Council of Europe reflect knowledge and understanding

Signed but not ratified by Iceland

- ❑ **UN (Palermo) Protocol, Article 3**
- ❑ *(a) "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.*
- ❑ *Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;*
- ❑ *(b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;*

Unclear difference between trafficking, prostitution and pornography

- ❑ Trafficking includes prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation – strip clubs with “private dancing”
- ❑ Trafficking - with or without the consent, if the traffickers abuse the victim’s vulnerability. The women at the strip clubs often come from poor countries compared to Iceland, sometimes already in prostitution and are vulnerable to offers to what they think will give them a better life.
- ❑ Trafficking - even though women are not transferred over borders, - local women in prostitution
- ❑ Trafficking, even though it is not organized crime, enough that it is a member of family that sells the women
- ❑ Owner of a club has stated that the dancers are not allowed out of their house for 8 hours after work.
- ❑ We have seen illegal contracts – clear cases of trafficking
- ❑ Identification check lists for professionals from Norway, show that in Iceland we have many signs of trafficking
- ❑ Impossible to distinguish between trafficking, prostitution and pornography, therefore we have to fight the whole industry

“Clear case of trafficking”

This contract between XXX and dancer is valid for 30 days or longer. On arrival in Iceland the dancer will deliver her flight ticket as an insurance for her dancing at XXX. (Dancer pays for the flight ticket herself.)

The dancer will work six days a week and choose one day off from Sunday to Wednesday. Working hours are until closing time each evening. The dancer shall be ready at XXX apartment at 19.45 each day. Otherwise the dancer shall be at XXX no later than 20.30. If the dancer has not arrived by 20.30 XX is permitted to withdraw \$100 from the dancers salary. A dancer sells private dance, ladies drink and table dance, besides dancing on stage. XXX is entitled to 5 private dances without payment, exclusively for clients, not members of the staff.

A dancer gets 50% of the fee for private and table dances, and 20% of the fee for ladies drinks. A dancer gets all tips she gets while on stage, but 50% of tips earned in private dancerooms. XXX guarantees dancer work for at least \$3.000.- (ISK 230.000.-) each month. If dancer works for more than \$4.500.- (ISK 345.000.-) each month, XXX will charge the dancer for flight ticket. (XXX will hold 24.96% for government tax of dancers salary.)

The dancer will pay ISK 20.000.- in rent and the apartment is cleaned once every week and dancers can use XXX washing machine.

The dancer will be paid ISK 17.500.- at the close of each week, and the rest when the contract is over. What takes place in XXX or any other place on behalf of XXX is regarded strictly confidential, and is not to be discussed with any other than XXX officials. The same rule applies to customer names and any other information regarding customers.

The dancer is responsible for withholding the appearance of her private lodging. If a dancer seriously breaks the general rule of this contract, XXX is permitted to withhold any unpaid salary, and the dancer will have to pay her fare from Iceland. Minor faults may be fined from \$250-500, depending on its nature. I have read this contract and I am fully aware of what it implies. I have every intention to adhere to it with sincerity.

A flourishing porn industry – ideal circumstances for trafficking



- ❑ In the year 2000, minimum 1000 foreign women at Icelandic strip clubs (Icel. Police). 1 foreign woman/100 Icelandic men. Stayed for 30 days.
- ❑ At that time 13 -14 clubs
- ❑ Mainly “strip clubs” with women from the Baltic States, Eastern Europe, and later other countries.
- ❑ The so-called private dancing was the main income of the clubs.
- ❑ No street prostitution in our micro community
- ❑ Later foreign women at hotels for a short time. From Eastern Europe, and sometimes from S-America. Ads on the internet, a flow of customers.
- ❑ The Snowgathering – more later

Purchase and sale of human beings is a crime against the individual and all humanity. Stop sexual exploitation in all forms - BRUNAR, center against sexual violence.



Public figures and reality



- Without a plan of action, without active outreach work, without training of professionals and common knowledge of how to recognize VOT, without thorough investigations by police and the justice system, without defined protection system and reflection period for VOT there will be no trafficking in Iceland. - No cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation have yet been publicly confirmed
- An informal inter-sectional network created in Iceland through the Nord/Balt network five professions: 3-20 possible vot minimum
- Police has met some foreign women in prostitution at hotels
- Stígamót last year: $12 + 13 + 11 = 36$ because of prostitution and pornography
- From one neighbouring country different figures from NGO's and authorities 8/400. Can be compared to rape cases in Iceland: Average a year 2002-2006: 143 cases at Stigamot, 5 sentences in Municipal courts, 3 in Supreme court (highest numb. 180, 8 and 3)

No trafficking without demand

- Without perpetrators, we wouldn't need Stigamot. Perpetrators are therefore the real employers of us at Stigamot, and therefore they have to be on our agenda
- Without men buying women, there would be no prostitution or trafficking for sex. expl.
- They buyers are responsible, buying of women is a sexual assault and should be dealt with as such
- For every woman seeking help, there are many men that have bought her.
- Soroptimists understand this: "Addressing demand as a major cause of trafficking" 2004 –Moldova

KØBENHAVNS KOMMUNE

FOR PETER ER DET BARE SEX

- for Sanne er det 10. gang i dag

5 ting du bør vide om prostitution

1. Ingen kan holde til at have sex med mange forskellige partnere hver dag - hverken fysisk eller psykisk. Når du køber sex, volder du skade mod den prostituerede

2. Mange prostituerede er handelsobjekter i et kriminelt netværk. Ved at købe sex, er du måske med til at understøtte bagmænds ulovlige handel med mennesker

3. Hver syvende danske mand har købt sex - og mere end hver anden prostitutionskunde har kæreste eller er gift.

4. Dyrker du ubeslyttet sex med en prostitueret, risikerer du at overføre alvorlige kønssygdomme til dig selv, din faste partner og den prostituerede

5. Mænd, der ønsker hjælp til at komme ud af deres prostitutionsmisbrug, kan kontakte telefonrådgivningen hos Kompetencecenter Prostitution på 7241 4644

KØBENHAVN MOD PROSTITUTION

A fight between strong forces!

125 rooms - 150/175 persons
ICELAND
64° 09' N 21° 57' W **Reykjavik**

WIN A LAPTOP
3X DELL INSPIRON
ONE EACH DAY

ALL INCLUSIVE
THE ADULT
BUSINESS EVENT
BUSINESS

CAN BUSINESS GET ANY COOLER?
2007
SNOWGATHERING

March
7th - 11th 2007

Dutch hotty
Sandy Cage

UK Party Animal
Daisy Rock

The poster features a background of a snowy mountain landscape with a blue sky and a map of Iceland in the bottom right corner. It includes several promotional elements: a Dell laptop giveaway, an all-inclusive adult business event, and photos of two featured performers, Sandy Cage and Daisy Rock. The event is set in Reykjavik, Iceland, in March 2007.

Press release from Freeoones.com

PR Adult News @ 5:43 pm.

Zeist, NL (PRADULT) January 27, 2007 —

Freeoones.com announced today the date for the second SnowGathering. It will be held in Reykjavik - Iceland, from the 7th till the 11th of March 2007.

SnowGathering is a chance to conduct business, meet new people and discuss business developments after having had an adventurous day in the winter sun.

According to Maurice, owner of Freeones.com and organizer of the SnowGathering: “After the huge success of the SnowGathering edition in Austria last year, we are doing it again but bigger and better! This year we are aiming for approximately 150 attendees. A quantity large enough to make business opportunities interesting but not too large to loose the intimate feel of last year. We have chosen for Reykjavik because of the possibilities of multiple in- and outdoor activities and its infamous nightlife.”

Some of those responsible.....



The Product:

Often very young girls; and the ideology is often a flirt with incest, rape, prostitution and trafficking. At one website it was shown how to get in touch with Icelandic "sluts".

Examples.....impossible to proof age.....

62 names, links, porn sides



Stigamót's reaction

- ❑ An open letter to the government, to all parliamentarians, all members of the City Council, to the head of police of Iceland and of Reykjavik and of course to media.
- ❑ Reykjavik, the capital city of Iceland, had become their favourite because of "the infamous nightlife"
- ❑ We asked our authorities to look into the websites that our expected guests were representing.
- ❑ We reminded our authorities of the press release and interview with the organiser on radio, that they were going to produce, sell and distribute pornography, which is forbidden in Iceland
- ❑ If this international gathering were to take place in Iceland the business of buying and selling women for sexual exploitation would reach new dimensions in our country.
- ❑ We also reminded them that we have refused unwanted guests such as Hells Angels to enter our country.
- ❑ At last we asked them to join forces and use their power to stop this from happening.

Response from the porn industry

- ❑ Threats to send gorillas,
- ❑ Threats to sue me.....
- ❑ Breaking things outside Stigamót house,
- ❑ Organised hate mail, threats of rape
- ❑ Offered a lot of money to Stigamót, if we would behave
- ❑ Invited to co-operate, dinner and presentation of Stigamót at the SnowGathering

Reactions from the authorities

- ❑ The Mayor of Reykjavik – unwanted guests
- ❑ The City Council – everyone agreed
- ❑ Discussed at a governmental meeting
- ❑ Then all political party's of parliament made statements against this business meeting
- ❑ Other women's organisations reacted
- ❑ Protest was sent to the hotel
- ❑ Bishop of Iceland protested
- ❑ Misguiding media, making it look like an innocent tourist event, and therefore Stigamot looked ridiculous. Many journalists and co-workers of Stigamót felt that we had gone too far, this were too much. Porn was innocent
- ❑ Response from the Farmers Association in Iceland – the owner of the hotel - cancelled the booking
- ❑ And then this:

The Snowgathering 2007 cancelled!

Driebergen - The Netherlands; 22 February 2007

FreeOnes.com is very sad to announce that the SnowGathering 2007 has been cancelled! The organization sees no other option due to major recent developments like the Radisson Sas Saga Hotel revoking today (22 February 2007) its decision to receive the group at the hotel.

Unfortunately the hotel has not been able to cope with the intense media and political pressure and decided to buckle down to the pressure of some groups who share the opinion that choosing your profession is out of the question unless they support this profession.

..... Legal assistance has been sought in this matter since

FreeOnes.com believes the cancellation and the consequent financial losses (both material and time wise) have been carried out without any legitimate or legal grounds.The SnowGathering has been discussed even by the highest authorities in the country and even today the Police Department and the Department of Immigration are trying to look for ways to refuse entrance.....

The stripclubs are closing down!

- ❑ Police regulation – the so called private dance was forbidden in biggest towns
- ❑ Now the strip clubs have been forbidden by law, but with possible exceptions – a unique way?
- ❑ It is forbidden to earn money from nudity of staff
- ❑ The city counsel of Reykjavik has denied exceptions
- ❑ Now only one club of 13 left in Kopavogur, and there is an ongoing fight about its future.
- ❑ Women in prostitution are no longer criminalized, but regrettably neither are the buyers.



NEYTANDI ? NEITANDI
Taktu afstöðu gegn verslun með konur!

Zonta styður Stígandi með sölu rósanakunnar í næsta stómarkaði 7. og 8. mars.

ZONTA


Stígandi


Institutions are awake!

- ❑ In media there have been some important articles on prostitution and trafficking. In almost every case the club owners have sued the journalists – the day before yesterday a club-owner won a case and got compensation almost twice the amount that victims of sex. assault get.
- ❑ The police has invited colleges from Norway to a conference in Iceland for police but also for other coordinating partners
- ❑ The Social services in the capital area are preparing to educate their staff in different ways
- ❑ Now with prostitution practically legal, the police have got the means to investigate trafficking cases thoroughly by change of laws (telephone trapping ex..)
- ❑ The Minister of Social affairs has decided to make a plan of action, and it will be ready in September.

Consciousness raising and training!!

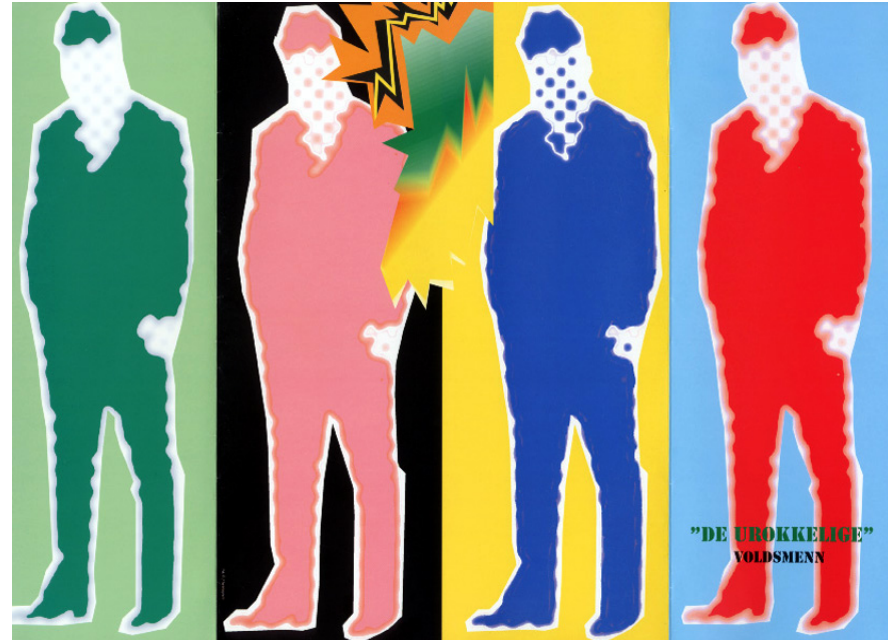
- **A lot of work is still to be done**
- **We need to ratify international conventions**
- **Change laws – criminalize buyers**
- **Protection programmes**
- **Outreach work**
- **Information campaigns most important**
 - **Public**
 - **Buyers**
 - **Women at risk**
 - **Training of professionals, checklists**
- **Involvement of NGO's and others; training, info, support**

An opinion pool from March 30th 07(1210 answers Capacent Gallup)

Otimism and joy!

- Majority in every political party for criminalising the buyers of women
- 83 % of women want to criminalise
- 57% of men
- 70% want to criminalise
- 10% neither for or against
- 12% rather against
- 8% strongly against

Porn is not normalized in Iceland



Let's join forces!

Greetings to all of you from Stigamot

