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EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

## 'Be a sport. Keep it fair... Say NO to prostitution' No excuse for prostitution at sporting events

**Summary of the briefing (supporting facts and figures in the following pages):**

**The European Women's Lobby believes that a Europe free from prostitution is possible and that there is no excuse, reason or right for the violation of women's rights and dignity.**

- *'Women in prostitution face regular violence and rape, as well as lower life expectancy and serious mental and physical damage. To get a Europe free from violence against women, we need to abolish the system of prostitution and protect all women from men's control and abuse of their sexuality and body.'* Cécile Gréboval, Secretary General of the EWL.
- *'The concept that sporting events are some kind of "testosterone fest" where "boys will be boys" is based on an outdated, macho vision of masculinity. Sponsored sporting events should be the venue to encourage positive and respectful relationships of all kinds, including between women and men.'* Viviane Teitelbaum, Vice-President of the EWL.

**Already in 2006, the European Parliament highlighted the issue of prostitution at sporting events:** 'Experience has shown that any major sporting event at which large numbers of people congregate results in a temporary and spectacular increase in the demand for sexual services'.<sup>1</sup>

In light of the **UEFA Euro 2012 in Poland and Ukraine**, the link between sporting events and an increase in demand for prostitution is being highlighted and trivialized by the media: 'Many are expecting a boom in the sex industry, when thousands of alcohol- and testosterone-fueled fans hit the country in June.'<sup>2</sup> Research carried out in 2009 in London found that there are already some signs of increases in the levels of on and off-street prostitution within the host boroughs of the **2012 London Olympic Games**.<sup>3</sup>

### **The EWL calls on:**

- All EU Member States to ratify and implement the UN 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.<sup>4</sup>
- The European Commission to include prostitution in its forthcoming campaign to end violence against women.
- The International Olympic Committee and the UEFA to distribute a welcome pack to athletes, fans, officials organising the event and journalists, encouraging them not to buy sex.
- The organising committees of the Olympic Games and other major sporting events to award the events to countries which consider prostitution to be a form of violence against women.
- All EU Member States to develop awareness raising campaigns promoting equal and respectful representations of women and men and denouncing all forms of prostitution as violations of human rights.

**22 MEPs support the EWL campaign and have signed the EWL pledge for a Europe free from prostitution.**

<sup>1</sup> European Parliament, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+TA+P6-TA-2006-0086+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Kyiv Post, [http://www.kyivpost.com/news/euro2012/fan\\_guide/detail/126317/#ixzz1vEK4QkGz](http://www.kyivpost.com/news/euro2012/fan_guide/detail/126317/#ixzz1vEK4QkGz)

<sup>3</sup> *Insight into the current state of prostitution and the potential impact of the Olympics in the host five boroughs*, Kristen Neumann, Toynbee Hall and Safe Exit, May-July 2009.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/trafficpersons.htm>, 1949.



**Prostitution is a form of violence against women and an obstacle to equality between women and men**

***Prostitution is part of the historical continuum of male violence against women; incest, rape, and marital rape are outlawed thanks to women's NGOs. The abolition of the system of prostitution must be the next step to stop men's control and use of women's and girls' bodies and sexuality.***

- Between 80 and 95% of persons in prostitution have suffered some form of violence before entering the system of prostitution (rape, incest, pedophilia).<sup>5</sup>
- 62% of women in prostitution report having been raped.<sup>6</sup>
- 68% of women in prostitution meet the criteria for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder like victims of torture.<sup>7</sup>
- 9 out of 10 women in prostitution would like to exit the system of prostitution but feel unable to do so.<sup>8</sup>

***The system of prostitution perpetuates patriarchal views on women's sexuality and legitimates male domination in society. As long as it is tolerated, it is an obstacle to equality between women and men; what are we waiting for?***

- For 25% of men, the concept of 'rape' for women in prostitution is 'ridiculous'.<sup>9</sup>
- Around 50% of buyers have paid for sex in other countries. They cite a variety of reasons for traveling to other countries for prostitution, including price, variety and exoticism.<sup>10</sup>
- 47% of buyers pursued the transaction even after explicit warnings that the girl was likely to be under 18.<sup>11</sup>
- Nevada, where procuring is decriminalised, sees the highest rates of rape compared to all US states.<sup>12</sup>
- For 10% of girls and 37% of boys interviewed in Denmark, it is normal to receive money or gifts in exchange of a blow job.<sup>13</sup>
- 'She gave up her rights when she accepted my money'.<sup>14</sup>

***Prostitution is about a conservative and outdated vision of masculinity. We need to build new forms of masculinities which respect women's rights and dignity and foster equality between women and men.***

*'The demand side, however, that is the motivations of actors related to men's purchasing of sex has long been invisible or ignored. Nonetheless, we know that stereotypes about masculinity and men's sexuality have often reinforced or perpetuated norms that lend to the broader social rationalization of men's purchase of sex, and in some cases, support or encourage compliance for these behaviors.'*<sup>15</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Melissa Farley et al., 'Prostitution in five countries: violence and post traumatic stress disorder', *Feminism and Psychology*, 8, 1998.

<sup>6</sup> Melissa Farley et al., 'Prostitution in five countries: violence and post traumatic stress disorder', *Feminism and Psychology*, 8, 1998.

<sup>7</sup> Melissa Farley et al., 'Prostitution in five countries: violence and post traumatic stress disorder', *Feminism and Psychology*, 8, 1998.

<sup>8</sup> Home Office, *Paying the price*, 2004, UK.

<sup>9</sup> Melissa Farley, Julie Bindel and Jacqueline M. Golding, 'Men who buy sex. Who they buy and what they know. A research study of 103 men who describe their use of trafficked and non-trafficked women in prostitution, and their awareness of coercion and violence', *Prostitution Research and Education and Eaves*, 2009.

<sup>10</sup> Melissa Farley, Julie Bindel and Jacqueline M. Golding, 2009, Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Shapiro Group., *Men who buy sex with adolescent girls: A scientific research study*. Atlanta: The Shapiro Group.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.prostitutionetsociete.fr/politiques-publiques/legislations-nationales/nevada-les-bordels-exemplaires-d>.

<sup>13</sup> Danish social services, 2008.

<sup>14</sup> Durschlag, R., & Goswami, S., *Deconstructing the demand for prostitution: Preliminary insights from interviews with Chicago men, who purchase sex*. Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, 2008, USA.

<sup>15</sup> Jõe-Canon 2006, in *Men, Masculinities, Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Violence. A Literature Review and Call for Action*. Christine Ricardo and Gary Barker, November 2008, MenEngage & ProMundo.



## A confirmed increase of prostitution and sexual exploitation of women and girls ahead of and during sporting events

**NGOs regularly raise awareness of the increase of prostitution at sporting events.**

### **Past sporting events:**

- During the **2011 World Cup in South Africa**, Cape Town's Vice Squad found that in the year leading to the World Cup, there was a 'huge' increase in the sex trade, with the number of women and girls involved in prostitution, as well as the number of brothels, doubling.<sup>16</sup> New Agencies selling women opened just for the world cup and many young girls state their recent arrival to South Africa to work as prostitutes before the world cup.<sup>17</sup>
- Authorities in Germany noticed an increase in the number of prostitutes at Games venues during the **2006 World Cup in Germany**.<sup>18</sup>

### **2012 Euro UEFA in Poland and Ukraine:**

- The police is planning to activate counter-work against trading in prostitution and will inspect the 'nests of vice'. [...] The possible spread of HIV during Euro 2012 was noted by experts working for tournament organizer UEFA in a December 2010 report.<sup>19</sup>
- 'As UEFA Euro 2012 approaches, FEMEN are vehemently making it known that they are against any form of prostitution in Ukraine. Historically, whenever such large events take place, prostitution runs rampant throughout the country [...]. As an example, FEMEN brought up the Summer Olympics held in Greece back in 2004 where the prostitutes couldn't keep up with demand. Afterwards, the AIDS rate jumped within the country with all the Johns safely back at home.'<sup>20</sup>
- 'Westerners can expect to find one thing for sure: a thriving, underground sex industry in Poland fueled by the trafficking of tens of thousands of women and girls from across Eastern Europe. With the demand for commercial sex predicted to peak during the 2012 games, Poland will likely face the highest surge in sex trafficking in its history.'<sup>21</sup>
- 'Balakireva, who has researched the sex business as a social phenomenon [...] said psychological and physical vulnerability is common for them [the prostitutes in Ukraine], as half of them has experienced sexual assault in childhood or adolescence and the same number are the bread winners for their families. About 30 percent of sex workers are addicted to drugs.'<sup>22</sup>

### **2012 London Olympics:**

- 'Kit Malthouse, Deputy Major of London, said at the Toynbee Hall 'Prostitution and Olympic Summit': 'there is need for a response to an increase in prostitution which will occur.'<sup>23</sup>
- 'With respect to large sporting events in the past, there is clear evidence that due to an influx in tourists, entertainment of corporate clients from around the world and a testosterone filled atmosphere there has been an increase in women being trafficked to fulfill an increase in demand for prostitution.'<sup>24</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Interview with Councillor Jean Pierre Smith, Cape Town Mayoral Committee for Safety and Security, 02.09.10, in *The 2012 Games and human trafficking. Identifying possible risks and relevant good practices from other cities*, January 2011, London Councils

<sup>17</sup> ESPN: The Worldwide Leader In Sports, <http://espn.go.com/video/clip?id=5253283>, 2010.

<sup>18</sup> The German Delegation, Experience Report in Human trafficking for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation and Forced Prostitution in Connection with the 2006 Football World Cup in Germany, p.4, in *The 2012 Games and human trafficking. Identifying possible risks and relevant good practices from other cities*, January 2011, London Councils

<sup>19</sup> Kyiv Post, [http://www.kyivpost.com/news/euro2012/fan\\_guide/detail/126317/#ixzz1vEK4QkGz](http://www.kyivpost.com/news/euro2012/fan_guide/detail/126317/#ixzz1vEK4QkGz), 2012.

<sup>20</sup> FEMEN, <http://www.mizozo.com/sports/09/2011/16/femen-s-warsaw-pact-protecting-prostitution-for-ue...html>, 2011.

<sup>21</sup> Humanity in Action, <http://www.humanityinaction.org/knowledgebase/161-more-than-a-beautiful-game-soccer-sex-trafficking-and-euro-2012-poland-ukraine>.

<sup>22</sup> Kyiv Post, [http://www.kyivpost.com/news/euro2012/fan\\_guide/detail/126317/#ixzz1vEK4QkGz](http://www.kyivpost.com/news/euro2012/fan_guide/detail/126317/#ixzz1vEK4QkGz), 2012.

<sup>23</sup> Amnesty Bristol University, <http://bristoluniversityamnesty.blogspot.com/2011/11/sex-trafficking-and-2012-london.html>, 2011.

<sup>24</sup> Amnesty Bristol University, <http://bristoluniversityamnesty.blogspot.com/2011/11/sex-trafficking-and-2012-london.html>, 2011.



## Statements by Members of the European Parliament

- **Anna Hedh, Sweden, S&D:** 'Prostitution constitutes a fundamental violation of women's human rights and is a form of male violence against women. Thousands of young girls and women are at risk of sexual exploitation and human trafficking to satisfy the demand for prostitution during Olympic Games and the UEFA Euro 2012. Sporting events can never be used as an excuse to tolerate sexual exploitation. A zero tolerance for prostitution, where the purchase of the bodies of women and girls are not accepted, is the only way forward for achieving a society with equality between women and men.'
- **Mikael Gustafsson, Sweden, GUE:** 'Any big gathering, such as the Olympic Games, is a golden opportunity for exploiters and pimps. In such a moment it is even more important that we as politicians stand up for women's rights and equality, for sexual freedom and choice for all women, and send a clear political signal that men should not have the right to buy access to women's bodies for sex - that this is simply not compatible with fair play and equality.'
- **Nicole Kiil-Nielsen, France, Greens:** 'Prostitution is a form of violence, and doesn't belong to a society which aspires to equality between women and men. As a feminist, I defend an ideal of society where sex doesn't determine people's life.' / *'En tant que féministe, je défends un idéal de société où le sexe ne détermine plus la vie des individus. La prostitution est une violence, et elle n'a pas sa place dans une société qui aspire à l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes.'*
- **Sophie Auconie, France, PPE:** 'En tant que Présidente de l'intergroupe informel « les Amis du Sport » au Parlement européen et membre de la Conférence Nationale du Sport (CNS) au nom des députés européens français, je défends les valeurs propres au sport : le respect, la solidarité, l'effort et la maîtrise de soi. La prostitution représente l'inverse de ces valeurs : c'est avant tout une violence ! Présidente de l'association Femmes au Centre, je ne peux que m'indigner contre cette atteinte aux droits des femmes et aux droits de l'Homme. Les événements sportifs européens rassembleurs que sont les JO de Londres et l'Euro 2012 en Pologne et en Ukraine ne doivent pas être la cause de l'augmentation du trafic des êtres humains destinés à la prostitution. C'est pourquoi je soutiens la campagne du Lobby européen des femmes et « donne un carton rouge à la prostitution lors des événements sportifs ».'
- **Ana Gomes, Portugal, S&D:** 'Raising awareness on prostitution at sporting events should be an effective way to fight against this hideous form of violence against women. I thus support EWL-sponsored 30th May event. Me, too, I consider prostitution as an obstacle to gender equality. Let's never forget the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights state that European societies should be characterized by equality between women and men. On the contrary, Europe remains a place where one in ten women is a victim of sexual violence. So the European Union, together with civil society, must do more to change this scandal. Systematic public campaigns such as EWL's are one great way of dealing with this subject in a comprehensive, lively and appealing way.'
- **Britta Thomsen, Denmark, S&D:** 'It is crucial to raise awareness about the fact that prostitution and trafficking goes hand in hand especially at the big sporting events. Europe must no longer close its eyes to this problem. I urge the European Community to take action on this matter and actively condemn this horrible violation of women.'
- **Emilie Turunen, Denmark, Greens:** 'Prostitution is a violation of women's rights and health and we need to send a strong signal that we do not accept it.'



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S  
LOBBY  
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

# PRESS BRIEFING

## Initiatives against prostitution at sporting events

Find out more about the EWL campaign 'Together for a Europe free from prostitution' on EWL website [www.womenlobby.org](http://www.womenlobby.org).

- Watch and dissemination EWL video clip 'Sport, Sex and Fun'
- Take EWL pledge
- Send a photo of yourself brandishing a red card to [pape@womenlobby.org](mailto:pape@womenlobby.org)



### International network ZéroMacho:

'We the undersigned signers of this manifesto, men of all ages, origins, professions and social status, refuse to reduce our sexuality to a financial transaction. For us, sexuality is first and foremost a human relationship, lived out within a context of equality and respect for the other person's freedom and desire.' – [www.zeromacho.eu](http://www.zeromacho.eu)

Video clip of the French Ministry for Youth and Sport, FFF and LFP 'Ne soyons pas complices' with famous French athletes: [http://www.adforum.com/creative-work/ad/player/6689468/\\_tstck](http://www.adforum.com/creative-work/ad/player/6689468/_tstck)

CATW's campaign 'Buying sex is not a sport' – <http://action.web.ca/home/catw/readingroom.shtml?x=92305>

Safety for Women 2012, Poland – [www.safetyforwomen2012.info](http://www.safetyforwomen2012.info)

Caritas Lithuania's campaign 'Real man does not buy sex'.

