

Prostitution and Paying for sex

Things people say about prostitution

Cards with statement on one side and response on the flip side.

(Facilitator note to create cards; print sheets single sided, then cut, fold over and glue).

It's a choice

A person often gets into prostitution because they have no or limited choices. Maybe because of poverty, homelessness or a history of sexual or physical abuse. They might feel they have limited or no other opportunities. Many girls and boys get into prostitution before they are 18. Does this seem like a choice someone would make freely?

It's a job

People working in prostitution are more likely to experience violence. Research shows that women working in prostitution are between 10 and 40 times more likely than the average worker to be murdered. Between 50 and 75% experience regular physical abuse or rape. Does this sound like a job?

Prostitution is a useful service for lonely men

International research shows that the majority of men who buy sex are married or in a relationship or have lots of other partners. What do you think their partner would think?

Men will always want there to be prostitution

The majority of men do not buy sex. Men can talk about this and agree it is wrong to buy sex. Is it easy for a man to say "I think it's wrong to pay for sex"?

Prostitution has nothing to do with human trafficking

According to European Union research 62% of human trafficking in Europe is for sexual exploitation. Did you know this?

It doesn't do the person any harm

68% of women in prostitution suffer from symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, as if they were tortured or had fought in a war. Did you think a person would be harmed in this way?

Women or men involved in prostitution make a lot of money

Most people who work in prostitution live in poverty. It can be the case that men and criminal gangs can make a lot of money by selling the person (female or male). Why do you think there is this myth that the person working in prostitution would be making a lot of money?

We will never be able to abolish prostitution

It won't be easy to create a society where no-one is a slave or forced into prostitution and where no-one thinks it's okay to buy another person's body. Do you think it is something to work for together?