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Stockholm Police
Prostitution Unit 1KS/SP





Swedish Police Force

- 21 Regional Police Authorities
- 28 000 employees (20 000 police officers)
- 2,5 years training

Prostitution unit Stockholm Police

- 6 police officers + 2 social workers

Trafficking section Stockholm Police

- 25 police officers + 1 social worker

Sex purchase law

“A person who, obtains casual sexual relations in return for payment, shall be convicted of purchasing a sexual service and sentenced to a fine or a prison term of at most 1 year.

The provision of the first paragraph also applies if the payment was promised or given by another person.”

(Swedish Penal Code, chapter 6, section 11)



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Sex purchase law

- Introduced in 1999
- Attempt is illegal
- Helping someone else is illegal
- The payment can be other than money
- The law is gender-neutral
- 50 days of fines



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Background

Perspective 1: Equality

-It is not acceptable that women and children can be bought and sold in a modern, equal society. Buying sex is considered as a part of mens violence against women

Perspective 2: Victim

”...it is unreasonable to also criminalize the one who, at least in most cases, is the weaker party who is exploited by others who want to satisfy their own sexual desires“ (Swedish government proposition 1997/98:55)

Perspective 3: Demand

-Focus on the root cause. With no demand for sexual services there will be no market for sexual services. Sexbuyers are the crucial sponsors of human trafficking



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Short case study

How we work with the law



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Arresting a sexbuyer

- Arrested when leaving
- Cellphone confiscated
- Interrogation on the spot
- Admits: fine
- Denying: possible trial
- DNA sample taken on all persons arrested for buying sex



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Coordination with the Social services

-Working together with the police as a part of the unit.

-1 social worker focused on the victims. Entirely committed to motivate and help people out of prostitution.

I.e. shelter, counseling, practical help, gynecologist/doctor/nurse, debt relief, support in trials.

-1 social worker focused on the buyers of sex. Entirely committed to motivate and help men to stop buy sex.



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Result - 1 day case

- 1 sexbuyer arrested
- 1 pimp arrested
- 1 victim taken to shelter

- The pimp sentenced to 14 months imprisonment and 5 years of deportation

- Surveillance time: 2 hours
- Law enforcement personnel needed: 2 police officers + 1 social worker



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Criticism

- Prostitution will go underground and authorities will not be able to find it
- The violence will increase against women in prostitution
- Women in prostitution will not speak to authorities and they will not dare to report violent clients
- The law refuses men with disabilities the right of having a sexlife



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Criticism

-The sex purchase law will drive sexbuyers to other countries

-Prostitution will not decrease

2013 – 120 persons in street prostitution

2012 – 150 persons in street prostitution

2011 – 163 persons in street prostitution

2010 – 175 persons in street prostitution

2009 – 191 persons in street prostitution

2008 – 200 persons in street prostitution

(Stockholm Social Services 2014)



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Results



 **Socialdemokraterna**

 **Moderaterna**

 **Miljöpartiet**

 **Folkpartiet**

 **Centerpartiet**

 **Sverigedemokraterna**

 **Vänsterpartiet**

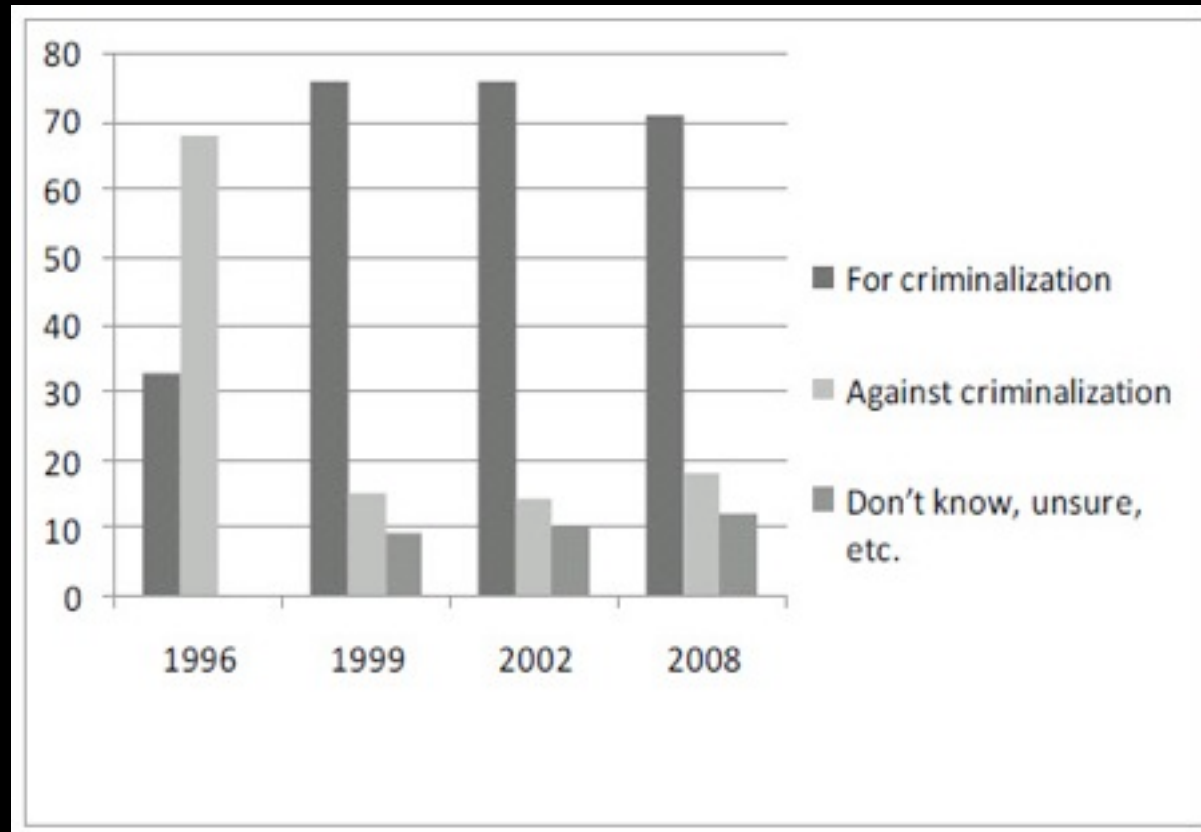
 **Kristdemokraterna**



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Results

Four official opinion polls made since 1996.



(Swedish government commission SOU 2010:49)



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Results

Polls are showing that the support of the law is particularly strong among young people.

1999 poll showed 84% of people aged 15-29 in support of the law

2002 poll showed 87% of people aged 15-29 in support of the law

2008 poll showed 78% of people aged 18-28 in support of the law

(Swedish government commission SOU 2010:49)



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Results

According to academic research, the legislation has a direct impact on Swedish men's prostitution behaviour - the number of Swedish men who have bought someone for the purpose of prostitution has decreased from 13.6 % in 1996 to only 7.9% in 2008.

(Prostitution i Norden, Kuosmanen 2008 & Nordic Gender Institute)



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Results

- Pimps and traffickers consider Sweden as a bad market
- Women in prostitution speak of Sweden as a safer place compared to other countries
- Women in prostitution (both street and indoor) claim that the amount of sexbuyers drastically has decreased the last years since they are afraid of being arrested



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