

2011-03-12 – Comment – Prostitution

Prostitution

Prostitution is, as they say, the oldest profession on Earth. Despite all sorts of various efforts, it's not about to stop.

Some argue, and I agree, that laws that criminalize it make the work even more dangerous for those engaged in it, by pushing it inside, underground, hidden—to the detriment of the very people the laws were, with all best intentions, intended to help.

The Harper government's answer seems to be to criminalize everything, and to put more people in jail, for longer. That's no answer to the challenges of prostitution.

I do not support the criminalization of prostitution. I would rather see it treated like a business activity, regulated like all other business activities, so that we can regulate employee rights, health and safety, neighbourhood zoning prohibitions, etc. With it fully legal, those who are unwilling participants or otherwise abused, or unable otherwise to help themselves, are able to seek help and redress.

I hope that we as legislators can engage in an open, honest discussion, free of moral judgement, about how to (i) ensure the safety and health of those engaged in these activities who do so willingly; and (ii) prevent any trafficking and/or other coercion that forces anyone to engage in this activity against their will.

(MHF quoted in Maclean's magazine October 14, 2010:
<http://www2.macleans.ca/tag/prostitution-laws/>)