
Reform Resource Centre for Men,
www.sexhandel.no and efforts to
decrease prostitution in Norway

Elise Skarsaune, advisor
elise@reform.no

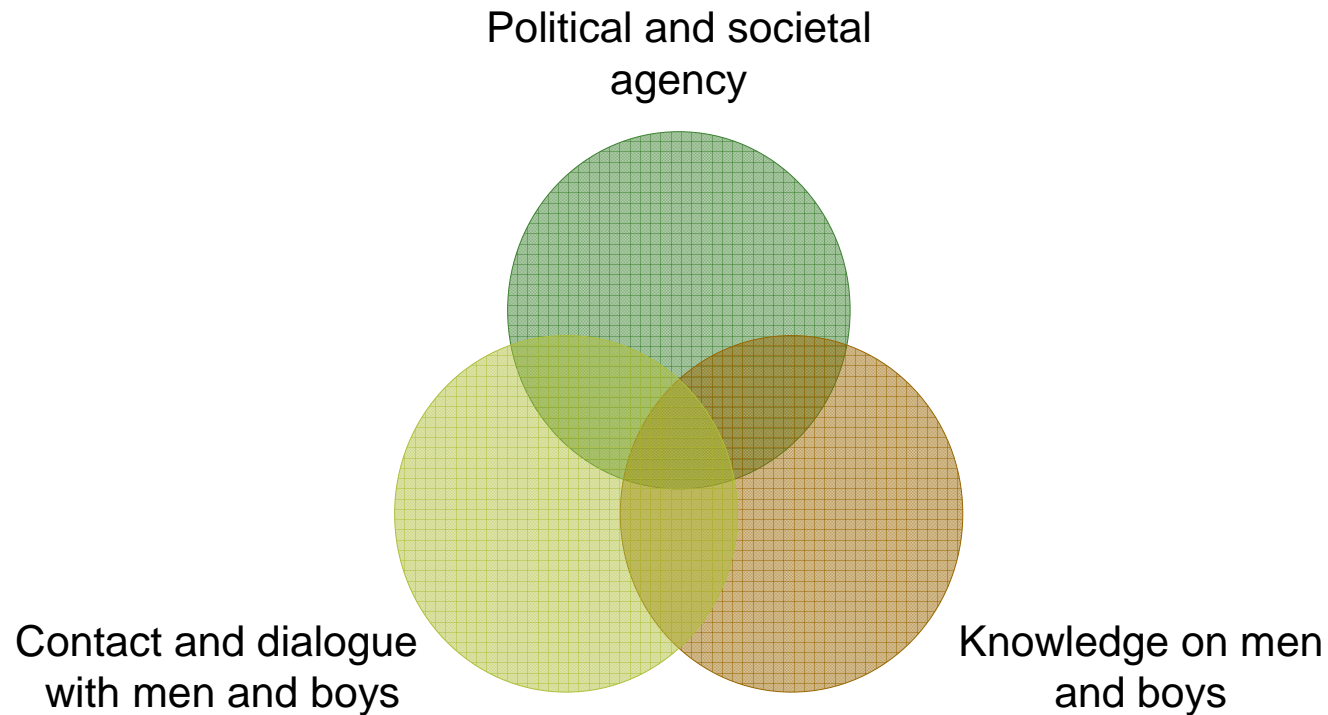
Reform Resource Centre for Men

- A not-for-profit NGO
- National centre for knowledge on men and boys
- Promotes male perspectives in the media, the general public and political arenas
- Initiates and participates in national projects focused on men
- Participates in international projects
- Is funded by the State budget through the Norwegian Ministry of Children, Gender Equality and Inclusion

Reform aims to

- Improve men's and boys' quality of life through gender equality
- Develop, collect and disseminate knowledge on men and boys
- Support men and boys on the local level with relevant services

Reforms unique position as a resource centre for men



Why focus on prostitution and trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation?

- Prostitution is a structural hindrance for gender equality
- Prostitution reproduces stereotypes about men and women that both sexes would be better off without

Focus on clients in prostitution in Norway

– historic backdrop

- 1980's: Guerrilla warfare in the red light district, Norwegian debate looks to Sweden
- 1983: ProSentret established, customer poster campaign 1986, customer project in 1989
- 1997: Phone service for sex clients run by Men's Hotline
- 1999: Criminalization of purchasing sexual services in Sweden, polarization of the field and the debate in Norway
- 2003: First Norwegian action plan against trafficking in persons
- 2006: www.sexhandel.no launched as part of the "Stop Human Trafficking!"-campaign coordinated by the Ministry for Children and Equality. Also interventions in schools and military academies
- 2009: Law criminalizing the purchase of sexual services comes into practice

Statistics indicate

- Approx. 13% of Norwegian men have purchased a sexual service one or more times (National surveys)
 - Most of these have purchased while away from their home environment (80% only abroad)
 - Most of these have purchased from 1 to 3 times (51%)
- Norwegian men's purchase of sex is a globally spanning phenomenon
- The cultural constraints on purchasing sexual services are fairly effective in the local context
- The group of habitual buyers is small
- Buyers are present at all levels of society, no clear-cut "group" or "profile"

Qualitative research indicates

- There is a multitude of reasons for buying sex among customers – customers are not “one group”
- Many (first) purchases take place in all-male contexts (military operations, at sea, travelling with “the boys”)
- Quite a few men who buy sexual services want to talk to someone about it, but don’t know who with or how
- There are different levels of knowledge among buyers about the laws regulating prostitution and about the lives of persons offering sexual services

The advertisement is a vertical rectangle divided into two horizontal sections. The top section has a purple-to-pink gradient background and features a stylized eye graphic in shades of green and blue. The bottom section has a grey background with a faint, larger eye graphic. Text is overlaid on both sections.

sexhandel.no

www.sexhandel.no
– et nettsted om prostitusjon og menneskehandel
TEL +47 924 85 251

reform

RESOURCE CENTRE FOR MEN www.reform.no

The www.sexhandel.no project

- **Sexhandel.no** was financed by the *Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children* enacted by the Government of Norway 2006-2009
- **Sexhandel.no** contains information and facts about prostitution and human trafficking
- **Sexhandel.no** offered the opportunity to participate in discussions
- **Sexhandel.no** offers counselling by telephone and e-mail

The purpose of sexhandel.no is:

- to curtail the demand that creates a market of human trafficking (for sexual exploitation)
- encourage debate
- to draw attention to the link between prostitution and trafficking in persons

- Main target group: Men 18 - 40 years old
 - In particular:
 - Men who buy sex
 - Men who are potential sex buyers

sexhandel.no

glish

v synes jeg det å
e sex er noe dritt,
som jeg ønsker å
gå, men når man
får det gratis, så
man liksom intet
ilg. Å leve uten
kroppskontakt er
i å eksistere for
og mange andre
let gir livet svært
e mindre verdi”

ra forumet på
sexhandel.no)

Velkommen til sexhandel.no

Til nå har

0 5 1

sluttet seg til Reforms opprop om rådgivningstilbud for sexkjøper!

Bli med!



Fra og med 01.01.09 er kjøp av seksuelle tjenester kriminelt og ny § 202 a i Straffeloven av 1902 lyder som følger:

Med bøter eller fengsel inntil 6 måneder eller begge deler straffes den som

- a) skaffer seg eller andre seksuell omgang eller handling ved å yte eller avtale vederlag,
- b) oppnår seksuell omgang eller handling ved at slikt vederlag er avtalt eller ytet av en annen, eller
- c) på den måten som beskrevet i bokstav a eller b får noen til å utføre med seg selv handlinger som svarer til seksuell omgang.

Er den seksuelle omgang eller handling skjedd på en særlig krenkende måte, uten at forholdet straffes etter andre bestemmelser, er straffen fengsel inntil 1

Les aktuelle nyhets-saker om prostitusjon og menneskehandel

Søk etter artikler

Visste du:

...at grov menneskehandel kan straffes med fengsel i inntil ti år?

Kontakt oss ved reform.no

22 34 09 50



9-16 man-fre

Start > [Sexhandel.no](#) > [sexhandel](#)

NYTT EMNE

ABONNERE

Side: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Forum: sexhandel

Tema	Opprettet av	Svar	[Siste innlegg]
"Du er kanskje mye, men først og fremst er du sexkjøper"	Iben	1	15.3.08 9:49 AM av ole45
Prostituerte er lei av å bli stemplet som ofre	ole45	3	9.3.08 2:06 PM av thehumanstain
Her er en av de "frivillige" prostituerte	maja	23	6.3.08 8:41 AM av ole45
Vil humpe ei prostituert	Turisten	1	6.3.08 8:39 AM av ole45
Sannheten som er for tung å svelge for slike som maja	ole45	6	25.2.08 8:23 AM av ole45
Norges internasjonale innsats mot menneskehandel	Administrator	1	22.2.08 10:41 AM av Administrator
Dokumentar om prostitusjon NRK2 lørdag kl. 16.35	Administrator	5	21.2.08 11:54 PM av thehumanstain
Ett moralsk oppgjør	exkunde	24	21.2.08 5:40 PM av
Et par spørsmål	johnniz	3	13.2.08 4:13 PM av Robert
Prostituertes utfordringer i det daglige?	tanita	3	4.2.08 6:29 PM av tanita
Ny artikkel i artikkelarkivet	Administrator	4	17.1.08 8:19 PM av thehumanstain
Tursme og sex	Teron	5	14.1.08 9:38 PM av exkunde
å ha sex	pfaff	0	13.1.08 11:49 PM av pfaff

The discussion forum analyzed: What do men buy when they buy sex?

Synnøve Jahnsen (2008) "På nett med menn som kjøper sex"

- An emergency solution
- A way out of obligations
- A luxury commodity

- Desire for both closeness and distance

- A webforum makes it possible to share stories, but also shapes what stories are told and how

Experiences from sexhandel.no

- Being normative without being moralizing is challenging
- Prostitution is a symbolically charged field where it is important to cooperate with agents you don't agree with
- Sex buyers need someone to talk with and appreciate being addressed and engaged
- Different levels and authority positions of discourse:
 - The structural level of the larger societal “outsider”-debate (sex trafficking as organized crime)
 - The immediate level of the “insider”-debates (I am a good customer, I behave well)

How to bridge the gaps/mediate between these?

Moving forward with lessons learnt

- Criminalizing is not enough!
- *Purchase of Sexual Services - Counseling Service for Clients*
- A social work model, counseling and information about alternatives to buying sex
- Using internet as a contact base
- Normative but non-judgmental approach
- Keeping focus on the buyer – for the buyers' own sake