



## Crime & Policing Bill - Written evidence by the Mouvement du Nid

## About the Mouvement du Nid



The Mouvement du Nid is a grassroots organization created in 1946. The aim of the organization is to support the persons in prostitution and to fight the sexual exploitation of women and children by arguing for the criminalization of pimps and johns. The organization is implemented in 26 French territories. It supports 1800 persons per year by offering juridic and administrative support, but most of all, by offering a feminist accompaniment based on the rebuilt of self-estim, the denormalization of violence in relationship and sexual intercourses, the development of healthy social relations and the reappropriation of their bodies and their voices.

## Summary

The Mouvement du Nid supports three amendments tabled to the Crime and Policy Bill to end trafficking for sexual exploitation and protect its victims:

- NC1: criminalization of pimping online and offline

This provision is crucial to protect victims and fight the impunity of traffickers and pimps in the digital sphere.

- NC2: criminalization of the purchase of sexual acts

This provision is essential to discourage the demand that fosters sexual exploitation, to hold perpetrators of male violence accountable, to challenge the attitudes of men buying sexual acts and to better protect victims and prevent victimisation.

- NC3: decriminalization of victims of sexual exploitation and prostitution

This provision is crucial to shift the criminal burden from victims to perpetrators, end the stigmatisation and marginalisation of victims of sexual exploitation and prostitution, secure access to their fundamental rights, exit pathways and comprehensive support.

## NC1: Outlaw pimping websites

Nowadays, online prostitution represents 62% of the global prostitution in France<sup>1</sup>. The online prostitution websites play different roles that can be directly related to the international definition of pimping:

- The advisement promising young women they can earn huge sums of money without working hard, the efforts to glamourize prostitution by inventing news terms like “sugar babies”, “girlfriends experience”, “escorting” are encouraging young women, often minors to try prostitution. This online recruitment cannot be called other than pimping.

- The organization of the prostitution offered by the websites is obviously pimping too. These websites offer to promote the women announces, to put them in contact with men, and even to join “VIP list” where women are warned if the john they are talking with has been denounced by other women as dangerous (the women that cannot pay the VIP subscription are kept in the dark)<sup>2</sup>. Regarding the johns, everything is done to facilitate the buying of women: comments, rates, criteria of research, filters. The booking of places for prostitution is also facilitated by specialized online platforms, as well as for the booking of train tickets or

taxis on platforms. Digitisation thus simplifies the phases of transport, transfer and accommodation of victims, especially in the context of human trafficking for sexual exploitation. What the “traditional” pimps do by the phone or at the entrance of the brothel is offered on these websites. But easier, wider and hidden.<sup>3</sup>

**I am an escort**

Are you looking for real good advertising?  
Register **for free** to the largest Libertines directory.  
Start using our popularity to promote yourself.  
IT'S FREE!

- Easy installation
- Target users of our network
- Realtime audio-videochat
- Chat with members
- Free registration

**SUBSCRIBE**

OU

**I am a MEMBER**

Are you looking for hot girls?  
Registration is **entirely free** and has many benefits.

- Add comments to Libertines profiles
- Manage favorites Libertines list
- Realtime audio-videochat
- Chat with Libertines
- Advanced search
- Rate photos

**SUBSCRIBE**

<sup>1</sup> Mouvement du Nid et Psytel, Etude « PROSTCOST – Estimation du coût économique et social de la prostitution en France », 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Je paye pour assurer ma sécurité” : les dessous de Sexmodel.com, un site de prostitution en ligne, Shorthand

<sup>3</sup> Both screenshots are from the website Sexmodel

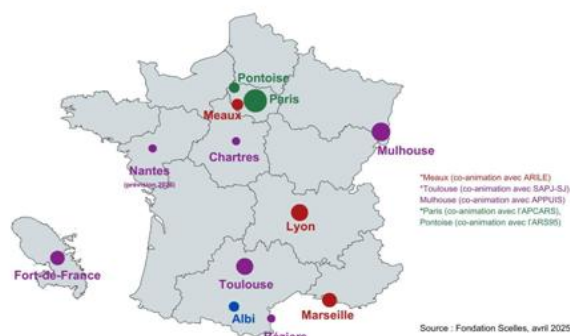
- Finally, these websites take a huge benefice from women and children prostitution online. For example, the famous platform Onlyfans, where 98% of the content is sexually explicit<sup>4</sup>, has made 3 billions of dollars in 2024, and the owner of the website takes 20% of the amount. Indeed, online pimping is a wealthy business. The platform make money with the subscriptions paid by johns to access women, and also with the fees and taxes from the persons in prostitution to create an account, make the announces visible, be able to publish in other cities, and the money lost in case of missed notification (20 cents lost per missed notification on the site Wannonce, for example). Parallely, the remuneration of persons in prostitution is extremely low: on the site Wannonce, 70 cents for 10 minutes of "sexting", 2 € for 10 minutes of live video. The people we accompany are often in debt after an experience in online prostitution.

All the boxes of pimping are checked by the prostitution websites: Recruitment, organization, contacting, benefices... In consequence, the Mouvement du Nid support the project to modernize anti-pimping laws in England and Wales and combat the pimping websites fuelling sex trafficking.

## NC2: End impunity for paying for sex

The equation is simple: no demand, no prostitution. It is the prostitute “customer” who brings money into the prostitional system, who enriches it, while perpetuating the sexist and sexual violence that prostitution engenders. How can we seriously consider reducing the financial motivations of pimps without drying up their main source of profit?

Beyond the fight against pimping by penalizing the demand for prostitution, there is also the challenge of educating the men of today and tomorrow about egalitarian sexuality, in a world where consent cannot be bought.

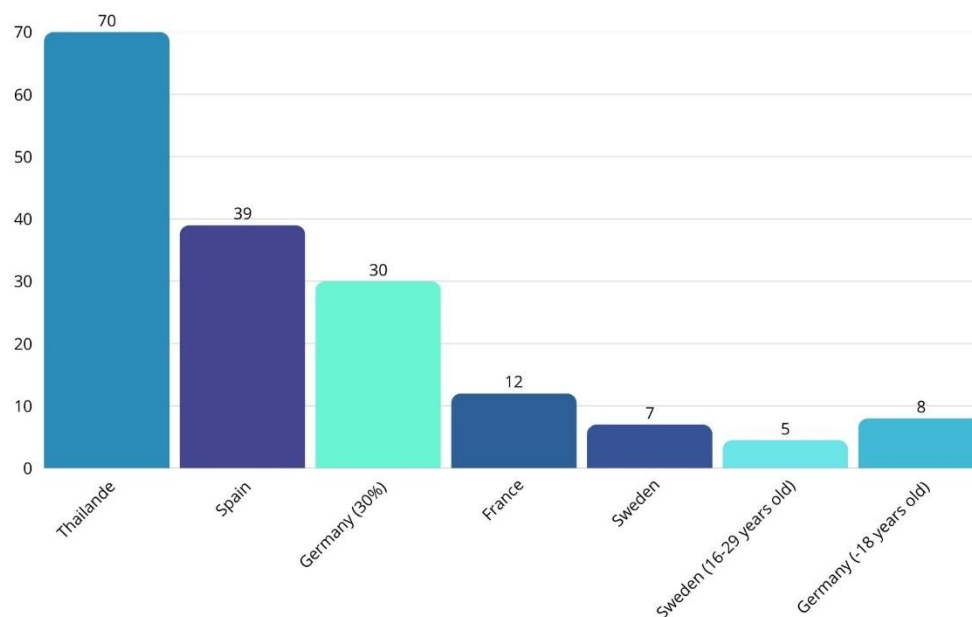


In France, clients of prostitution are fined, but they are also required to take part in awareness-raising courses on sexual equality between men and women. In 2024, 20 French courts have introduced such courses, with the aim of ensuring that education goes hand in hand with concrete sanctions. In Paris, 139 awareness-raising courses have been held, involving 1,118 men since 2016.

Furthermore, we cannot ignore that the criminalization of sex buying leads to a new mindset in a society. Where men are educated to respect women consent and have been told since their childhood that this consent cannot be bought, the rate of acceptability of prostitution is far inferior to countries where buying a women

<sup>4</sup> Mariana Branco, researcher at the Portuguese platform for women's rights at the Strasbourg conference about sexual exploitation online.

on catalogue or in a vitrine is normal and culturally encouraged. The sociological surveys about johns highlights that fact:



*% of men having bought sexual intercourse in their life<sup>5678</sup>*

Moreover, the fight against sex purchase contribute to reduce the number of victims. In 2008, Kajsa Wahlberg, of the human trafficking unit at Sweden's national police board, conceded that accurate statistics are hard to obtain, but estimated that the number of prostitutes in Sweden dropped 40% from 2,500 in 1998 to 1,500 in 2003<sup>9</sup>.

### • NC3: Support rather than sanction victims

The sociological figures about persons in prostitution inform us that violences during childhood, discrimination, poverty, homelessness, migration and trafficking are the common factors of persons in prostitution.

- In France, between 85%<sup>10</sup> and 94%<sup>11</sup> of persons in prostitution are cis-gender women.
- In France, trans women represent around 5% of persons in prostitution<sup>12</sup>, while transgender people represent between 0.03 and 0.09% of the French population, according to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Espagne. Premier client de la prostitution, *Courrier International*, 28 octobre 2011

<sup>6</sup> Les clients de la prostitution : l'enquête, Saïd Bouamama et Claudine Legardinier, 2004

<sup>7</sup> Prostitution : qui sont les clients?, *Le journal du dimanche*, Anne-Laure Barret, 2013

<sup>8</sup> *International Encyclopedia of Sexuality - Germany, 1997–2001* Rüdiger Lautmann, Ph.D., and Kurt Starke, Ph.D.

<sup>9</sup> Kriminalisera prostitution!, *Newsmill* 24 May 2010

<sup>10</sup> Observatoire national des violences faites aux femmes, Lettre n° 7 "Prostitution en France : ampleur du phénomène et impact sur les personnes prostituées", 2015

<sup>11</sup> Service statistique ministériel de la sécurité intérieure (SSMSI) – Base des victimes de crimes et délits 2023

<sup>12</sup> Observatoire national des violences faites aux femmes, Lettre n° 7 "Prostitution en France : ampleur du phénomène et impact sur les personnes prostituées", 2015

<sup>13</sup> *Rapport relatif à la santé et aux parcours de soins des personnes trans*, sur *vie-publique.fr*, 15 janvier 2022

- Between 85 and 95% of persons in prostitution are trafficked.<sup>14</sup>
- Between 7,000 and 10,000 minors are involved in prostitution in France (between 20% and 30% of the global prostitution)<sup>15</sup>. The average age at which these minors enter prostitution in France is 14 years old<sup>16</sup>.
- Prostitution represents between 80%<sup>17</sup> and 92%<sup>11</sup> of human trafficking in France.
- In France, migrants represent 93% of the persons in prostitution that are more than 18 years old<sup>18</sup>. The same is true internationally: In 2012, a special report on prostitution in Ireland, entitled “Profiting from prostitution”, revealed that out of 8,800 female prostitutes, 97, or 1.1% of the total number, were Irish, while 283, or 3.2%, were British citizens. The vast majority, 95.69%, were foreign nationals. In Sweden, in 2018, 80% of online prostitution ads referred to people of foreign origin. In the Netherlands, where prostitution is legal, 80% of prostitutes are of foreign origin, and 70% are undocumented. In Italy, Nigerian women alone account for 80% of prostitutes<sup>19</sup>. In the Netherlands, where prostitution is legal, 80% of prostitutes are of foreign origin, and 70% doesn’t have legal documents<sup>20</sup>. In Italy, Nigerian women alone account for 80% of the global prostitution<sup>24</sup>.
- All over the world, homelessness is closely linked to prostitution: a study carried out on 854 female prostitutes in 9 countries revealed that 75% of the women questioned knew or had known homelessness<sup>21</sup>. In France, students are also forced into prostitution to keep or find accommodation. In Montpellier, a study conducted by the Université Paul Valérie in conjunction with the Amicale du Nid association revealed that 4% of students surveyed had already prostituted themselves to pay for accommodation. What's more, “15.9% of students said they might consider turning to prostitution in a very precarious situation”<sup>22</sup>.
- The association Contre la violence sur les mineur.e.s (Against Violence toward minors), author of a major report on the prostitution of minors published in 2022, describes prostitution as “the culmination of a traumatic past”<sup>23</sup>. The association Mémoire Traumatique et Victimologie (Traumatic Memory and Victimology) points out that “prostitutes, the vast majority of whom have previously experienced sexual violence and have therefore developed a traumatic memory, are unconsciously exposed once again in a prostitution situation to the repetition of sexual violence, which will recharge this traumatic memory, generating a never-ending circle”. According to the same association, the rate of prostitutes having suffered sexual violence before entering

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<sup>14</sup> Poulin, Richard, *La Mondialisation des Industries du Sexe*, 2005 ; l’OCRTEH (Office Central de Répression de la Traite des Êtres Humains); Claudine Blasco, et coll., “Mondialisation de la Prostitution”, Document présenté par la Commission Genre pour introduire le débat au Conseil scientifique, 2007.

<sup>15</sup> LANCEMENT DU PREMIER PLAN NATIONAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PROSTITUTION DES MINEURS, DOSSIER DE PRESSE du Gouvernement 15 NOVEMBRE 2021

<sup>16</sup> Observatoire des violences envers les femmes de Seine Saint Denis, 2020, chiffre confirmé par le Parquet de Bobigny, l’Amicale du Nid et l’ANRS

<sup>17</sup> La traite et l’exploitation des êtres humains en 2022 : une approche par les données administratives - Interstats Analyse n°63

<sup>18</sup> Observatoire national des violences faites aux femmes, Lettre n° 7 “Prostitution en France : ampleur du phénomène et impact sur les personnes prostituées”, 2015

<sup>19</sup> “Système prostitutionnel : nouveaux défis, nouvelles réponses”, 5ème rapport mondiale de la Fondation Scelles, 2019

<sup>20</sup> Melissa Farly, *Prostitution and Trafficking in Nevada*, San Francisco, PRE, 2007; Mary L. Sullivan, *Making Sex Work : A Failed Experiment with Legalised Prostitution*, North Melbourne, Spinifex, 2007.

<sup>21</sup> Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries, Melissa Farley, 2004

<sup>22</sup> Synthèse du rapport d’enquête sur la prostitution des étudiant-e-s, Université Paul Valérie et Amicale du Nid, 2011-2012

<sup>23</sup> Recherche-action sur la prostitution des mineurs PROMIFrance, Contre la violence aux mineurs, 2022

prostitution: between 80 and 85% (37% incest, 33% sexual violence and 60% rape)<sup>24</sup>. All studies on violence suffered before entering prostitution confirm this causal link: in 2010, the Collectif féministe contre le viol (Feminist Collective against Rape), in a study of 187 calls from prostitutes received at the Viols femmes-infos hotline between 1998 and 2007, revealed that 100% had been sexually assaulted before being exposed to prostitution. The same is true internationally, since Melissa Farley, in her survey of 9 countries (854 women interviewed), came to the following conclusion: 59% of the 850 prostituted women interviewed were battered children, and 64% had been raped as children<sup>25</sup>.

These figures shed light on the fact that persons in prostitution are victims of violence, poverty or discrimination before prostitution, and these vulnerabilities are used by traffickers and johns to exploit them.

The violence is also omnipresent into prostitution. Prostitution is violence in itself. The repeated unwanted sexual intercourses and humiliation that people in prostitution can experience have serious effects on their self-confidence and their relationship with their bodies. Yolande Geadah, a member of the Institute for Feminist Studies and Research at UQAM, reports: “Even in the absence of physical violence, research shows that repeated impersonal sex, devoid of feelings and desire, leads to a desensitization of the body and emotions, a schizophrenic phenomenon that promotes depression and suicidal ideation”<sup>26</sup>. Forensic pathologist Judith Trinquart confirms: “Having unwanted sexual act in exchange for money is tantamount to what we call a medical term, a ‘sexual bodily intrusion’ which, in fact, is the equivalent of and has the same consequences as rape, whether on children, adolescents or adults.”

In addition to this structural violence, there are recurrent additional forms of violence: Beatings, humiliation, gang rapes, revenge-porn, forced sexual practices, condom withdrawal and non-payment are all forms of violence widely found in prostitution. For example: The average number of murders of prostitutes is 40 times higher than the national average<sup>27</sup>. In France, the life expectancy of prostitutes is 40 years<sup>28</sup>.

In conclusion, persons in prostitution are victims entitled to protection and support. The decriminalization of persons in prostitution combined to criminalization of sex purchase is an empowering tool for persons in prostitution that have now the justice on their side and can denounce the violence they suffer from the johns. Furthermore, persons in prostitution can be helped to quit prostitution thanks to public policies of support such as the “exit pathway” which benefited to 1747 persons since 2016. At the end of these courses, over 90% of people were in employment, 45% had obtained a residence permit and 49% were waiting one, and 71% had a

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<sup>24</sup> Conséquences psychiques et physiques de la prostitution sur les personnes qui la vivent, Association Mémoire Traumatique et Victimologie

<sup>25</sup> Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries, Melissa Farley, 2004

<sup>26</sup> *La prostitution, un métier comme un autre ?*, Yolande Geadah, 2014

<sup>27</sup> “Quand « la peur devient une existence » : Sur la place de la violence dans le monde de la prostitution”, Lilian Mathieu, *L’Homme et la Société*, 2022 (n° 143-144), pages 47 à 63

<sup>28</sup> Conséquences psychiques et physiques de la prostitution sur les personnes qui la vivent, Association Mémoire Traumatique et Victimologie

good command of French<sup>29</sup>. The exit pathway is therefore an effective and essential tool for protection and integration.

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<sup>29</sup> Amicale du Nid, *Rapport d'activités 2023*.