

Nikola Koziol

Mary Hays

Annotated Bibliography & Research Paper

2 October 2015

Prostitution: Sex trafficking in America despite Human Rights:

An Annotated Bibliography

Working thesis: Despite democracy and laws against sex trade in America, prostitution is prevalent in areas affected by poverty, bad environments, and media exploitation.

I want to research and discover the relation between human rights, human sex trafficking, and prostitution in the United States. Why is prostitution, a form of human sex trafficking, prevalent in the United States despite its people's human rights? Some people willingly chose this profession, but most people are forced into this profession despite the laws protecting freedom. I think this choice of employment is related to poverty, lack of education, support, and opportunities. Without an education, humans cannot get high paying jobs and live in safe neighborhoods. Also, without support of a good family and opportunities for success they have a slim chance of getting a stable job. Not to mention, the media tends to exploit sex. People who watch these sources of media may develop a belief that sex is empowering. This may account for the population of people that voluntarily participate in prostitution; however, I want to know why involuntarily prostitutes continually stay in the business. Finding the exact answers to this question is important because humans in many second and third world countries are forced into sex trafficking. Some slaves do not have an opportunity to escape because they die from constant physical abuse. Meanwhile, in America, humans wait their turn to be taken away in a car by a

stranger. Prostitutes are paid for their sex trade, but what drives these people into this job while slaves in other countries die trying to get out? Finding the source of these actions in America is important because we need to learn how to prevent prostitution. In doing so, we can protect the human rights we are lucky to have in America.

I mainly plan to use academic journals for my research. I need information from academic journals because they tend to be objective with facts and solutions. To find these sources, I will use EBSCO to type key words, such as, "Prostitution," and "United States." I will add key words, such as, "poor neighborhoods," "low unemployment," and "low graduation rates" to get information on the cause of prostitution. I hope to connect all these articles and find a correlation between poverty, the resulting problems of poverty, and prostitution.

Since prostitution is illegal, I will not be able to obtain information on every aspect of prostitution. Prostitutes know they will suffer consequences for prostitution, thus they limit their contact with police. Nevertheless, these stories do exist. Most likely, the information I will find will be about prostitutes that got caught or events where prostitutes were found dead or beaten. Ultimately, if the correlation exists between poverty rates and prostitution, there will be a significant difference between the numbers of stories in impoverished versus rich areas.

Best, Joel, and Kathleen A. Bogle. *Too Sexual Too Soon: Why Believe the Hype? Kids Gone*

*Wild: From Rainbow Parties to Sexting, Understanding the Hype over Teen Sex.* New York: New York UP, 2014. 123-44. Print.

The authors believe media claims suggesting that all teenagers are engaging in dangerous, anonymous sex at early ages is an exaggeration created for ratings and money. They infer this because media outlets typically sell stories that catch a reader's attention. The thesis is supported by explaining teenagers' actions as a direct result of America's social changes, not a nationwide increase in sexual activity. For example, every generation uses different outlets to express sexuality that may seem alarming because they are new. Sexting is ambiguous to the romantic movies that first aired in the twentieth century. In addition, relationship expectations change as well. In the twentieth century, men and women were married between the ages of 20 to 22. Now, people wait up until the ages of 26 to 29 to get married. This results in teenagers waiting longer to have sex. The people with a few more partners than usual are in this situation because they do not have a permanent partner for a longer period of time. The conclusion states that although sexual tendencies are not collectively rising in society, they are more prominent in impoverished and African American communities at extremely young ages. These tendencies should not be representing teen culture as a whole in media.

This chapter is taken from a book source from the undergraduate library in Urbana. The book is a scholarly source because it includes citations from primary sources. The book was published in 2014, thus the statistics on teen sexual activity, and rates of sexual activity in specific races are relevant. I would use this article as support that prostitution is not increasing due to the increasing prevalence of sex topics in most American lives. This support can further eliminate ideas that suggest more and more prostitutes are voluntarily choosing this job. This does not support my belief that media exploitation of sex has contributed to the expansion of prostitution. I say this because the

current generation of teens is faced with the most amount of sexual idols, images, and news, yet sexual activity is decreasing. Although teenagers are more comfortable with sex topics, people cannot assume they will feel more comfortable and willing to participate in sexual activity. I believe this comfort exists because of the large amount of media outlet discussing sex daily. I will consider changing “media exploitation” to “technological advancements.” Although explicit sex information does not have an effect on society, advanced technology is allowing prostitution to spread. This idea is discussed by Kristof in “Financiers And Sex Trafficking,” a separate source for this paper.

Brewer, Devon D., et al. "Extent, Trends, And Perpetrators Of Prostitution-Related Homicide In The United States." *Journal Of Forensic Sciences* (Wiley-Blackwell) 51.5 (2006): 1101-1108. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 2 Oct. 2015.

The author in this academic journal is researching the, “extent, trends, and perpetrators of prostitution-related heterosexual homicides” (Brewer). This was done because there was no research on the topic in the United States. The article is organized in a lab report fashion. The data was found in media outlets, criminal justice reports, and statistic agencies. Individual graphs showed, “the percentage of female homicide victims who were prostitutes, the frequencies of prostitution-related prostitute homicides over time for the three national samples, relationships between perpetrators and victims in prostitution-related homicide in Chicago (1965–1995), and percentage of perpetrators and victims in prostitution-related prostitute homicide who were under the influence of cocaine at the time of the homicide.”(Brewer). The third type of graph had multiple variations based on the location and sources used to find the information. Readers can interpret the trends from the data graphs. The authors concluded since the 1980’s

prostitution has been increasing along with homicides. Most murders occur in urban cities due to an increase of drug use, such as, cocaine, and a decrease of pimp organization.

This article is scholarly because it is from an academic journal that provides secondary information from other academic journals and official documentation. This academic journal is not peer reviewed. This experiment is reliable because the conclusion is data based without personal assumptions. A source with no bias is a valuable tool because a reader can interpret the data without side comments. The information is extremely detailed in order to show how they reached the conclusion. Unfortunately, the article was published on August 7, 2006, thus I cannot use the information. Although the conclusions are proven correct, the exact percentages are not useable because the numbers could be different due to the growing number of prostitutes in since 2006. These old numbers could present prostitution as less exigent than the wide extent of the prostitution population today.

Carrasquillo, Tesla. "Understanding Prostitution And The Need For Reform." *Touro Law Review* 30.3 (2014): 697-721. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 1 Oct. 2015.

The author believes that the illegality of prostitution creates more harmful effects than benefits in our society. He explains how prostitution began in the United States. In the 1800s, a lot of male immigrants coming to America and the demand for sexual endeavors grew because of the low amount of women. This market became highly industrialized until STDs became wide spread. The author provides support for his argument by comparing states with legal prostitution to the states with illegal prostitution.

Ultimately, states with legal prostitution had less crime rates, violence, and money spent on enforcement. The industry was controlled with licenses, rules, and constant tests for STDs. Also, the state did not spend money on incarcerating prostitutes. In general, women had the freedom to report crimes while at work, thus prostitution did not have a negative impact on society.

This article is a scholarly academic journal with no peer review. Due to the recent publication on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, I infer that the author has a modern understanding of prostitution. In addition, this date means the statistics from the police departments are updated regarding incarcerations, killings, and beatings. Overall, the author provides factual support for less violence, disease, and money spent with statistics and historical occurrences. This article has an opposing viewpoint regarding my opinion and will be a great place to find ideas for opposing arguments. I do not agree with many points, such as, believing that testing prostitutes in legal brothels will stop the spread of STDs. I believe sexual intercourse with many partners causes STDs, so unless that is stopped STDs will continue to spread.

Hard Truths About Prostitution. *National Catholic Reporter* 43.17 (2007): 12-13. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 1 Oct. 2015.

The author believes that prostitution is a direct result of a bad environment. He stresses that unconditional help should be provided for all women involved in prostitution. The writer informs readers on his beliefs by reporting the interviews he held with four former prostitutes. The four women's choice to engage in prostitution was influenced by alcoholism, drug abuse, childhood molestation, rape, teenage pregnancy

and parenthood, abusive relationships, homelessness, no income, and lack of parental support. Prostitution was an act of desperation, not a chosen form of employment. The author further explains he wants to fix this problem by reporting the women's stories about recovery. The women were given unconditional love at the Genesis House. The solution is to give prostitutes a safe, free home, rehabilitation for alcohol and drug abuse, and support from former prostitutes that are going through the same problems.

This newspaper article is a popular source; however, the article is reliable because it includes interviews with women that have first-hand experience with prostitution and recovery. Bias may exist because this article is from the National Catholic Reporter. Typically, Catholics believe all women must refrain from sex until marriage. Although this article was published February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007, this article is relevant because the reasons behind prostitution have not changed over the years. I can use this information to show poverty determines a women's involvement in prostitution.

Kristof, Nicholas D. "Financiers and Sex Trafficking." *New York Times* (1923-Current file): 1.

Apr 01 2012. *ProQuest*. Web. 10 Oct. 2015.

The author argues that the use of web sites by traffickers is a major contributor to the growing sex trafficking market. The author specifically investigates Backpage.com, the biggest sex trafficking site for under-age and forced prostitution. The site equally includes advertisements for under-age prostitutes as much as advertisements posted by adults with consent. After investigating, the author discovered that many influential companies, such as, Goldman Sachs, had investments in the online prostitution site. Soon after, Goldman Sachs tried to quickly sell their shares to avoid accusations of supporting

sex trafficking. The publication of the article prompted U.S. senators to ask major companies to stop financially supporting prostitution websites. In addition, the governor in Washington State signed a bill to reveal the identities of any people posting ads with under-age prostitutes. Although the author is not sure about the constitutionality of this bill, he supports the actions taken to rid of web sites which advertise involuntary prostitution.

This article is a popular source. By reporting the expansion of prostitution to commercial websites, this source provides more reasons as to why prostitution is growing. Readers can infer that fastert and easier connections are allowing the expansion of this market. For example, prostitution can open to new groups of people. People, which usually would not have connections or involvement with pimps, have a safe and easy way to purchase sex. Although this article was published on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, the information is relevant because many websites exist continually. Not to mention, technology has advanced and expanded into more house holds in the past four years. Also, technology allows companies to easily make profits as well. The prostitution market, which was once dangerously controlled by pimps and gangs, is available to any interested companies. Although these companies are trying to expand their businesses, they are ultimately supporting the pimps that are forcefully advertising prostitutes for sex.

Liberto, Hallie Rose. "Normalizing Prostitution Versus Normalizing The Alienability Of Sexual Rights: A Response To Scott A. Anderson." *Ethics* 120.1 (2009): 138-145. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 1 Oct. 2015.



In this academic journal article, the author argues for a compromise in legalizing prostitution. The author refers to a different writer's radical plea to completely rid of prostitution. After these references, the author explains how a compromise can be reached from the radical ideas. The author believes a clear distinction exists between legalizing prostitution and legalizing the ability to sell one's sexual rights. In other words, if only prostitution is legalized, then women have the right to stop the trade at any time; however, if the government legalizes the selling of one's sexual rights, then prostitutes lose the ability to stop the sexual trade. A person would lose their sexual rights would if prostitution became legally industrialized and prostitutes signed contracts that required them to perform sexual acts. Under the law, prostitution would be a job title. The government would need to enforce these contracts. If the government solely legalizes prostitution, then women who are forced into slavery due to their environment can freely seek help and safety. Not to mention, the small amount of women that willingly choose prostitution as a favorable job, can do so freely.

This source is a scholarly academic journal with no peer review. The article was published on October 1st, 2009, thus the information is no longer recent. Nevertheless, the article is valuable because it does not rely on statistical data. The article focuses on providing a solution for prostitution with a plan based on ideal assumptions. The plan is good; however, it necessitates real life support. On the other hand, real life support cannot be given until the government tries to legalize prostitution. By focusing on a solution that suits both sides, the author avoids writing an article based on a radical opinion. This article is one of the most interesting and complex articles due to its unique outlook on legalizing prostitution.

Wolff, Michael. "Media steams, public shrugs." USA Today n.d.: *Academic Search Complete*.

Web. 11 Oct. 2015.

The author argues that sexual scandals reported by media outlets are more prominent and socially acceptable. Historically, sex scandals are known for ending the careers of many politicians. Recently, media audiences have reacted to sex scandals as simply another fact about the politician. The author supports this claim with stories of politicians in New York, such as, Eliot Spitzer, who rose in the rankings after reports of a sex scandal with a prostitute. Viewers were not affected by the negative connotations regarding sex scandals.

This article is a popular source. The article shows the current view of sex in our society. This does not support my belief that media exploitation is expanding prostitution. The public's reaction is subtle because they do not believe a sex scandal should decide a politician's future in office. If these peoples' votes are not affected by increasing amount of sex in media, then I do not think it would affect peoples' choice to participate in prostitution. I infer this because a chapter from *Kids Gone Wild* by Best and Bogle has support that shows sexual activity is decreasing despite increasing amounts of sex in media. As a result, I believe the people watching the political sex scandals would not be influenced as well. I infer this because groups from both sources are from the same American culture.

Potocky, Miriam. "The Travesty Of Human Trafficking: A Decade Of Failed U.S. Policy."

*Social Work* 55.4 (2010): 373-375. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 10 Oct. 2015.

The author argues prostitution exists because laws designed for anti-slavery have been distorted into anti-prostitution laws due to political and ideological biases, lack of clarity and accountability, and failures of prevention, protection, and prosecution. Prior to these distortions, the Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) protected immigrants sold into sex trafficking. Now, this law is wasting resources to punish prostitutes. As a result, victims are not using their right to receive rehabilitation help from the Department of Justice. Radical, Catholic feminists believe protecting prostitution degrades women. Business companies most likely participate in human labor and do not want their profits to decrease. As a result, these bias developed the punishments for prostitutes. Currently, this problem cannot be fixed because prostitutes are avoiding the authorities. As a result, data is minimal. The data that exists is only posted by the government once a year. This data is vague regarding numbers of victims and identities, thus prevention efforts are not possible. Sex trafficking has become so prevalent that 60 percent of prosecutions must be dismissed. Overall, prostitution is prevalent due to the distortions of the law by society in the United States.

This secondary source is a scholarly academic article. Claiming prostitution is a direct result of government corruption is an opinion, but many statistics and reported incidents support the author's claims. When the TPVA started punishing prostitution, discrepancies drastically arose in government records regarding the number of victims, availability of rehabilitation, and convictions of owners forcing victims into prostitution. I find it interesting that this law was initially made for immigrants. Historically, immigrants came to America with little money and resources in hope of a higher quality of life. This is a possible correlation between prostitution rates and poverty. Since this

was published on October 1st, 2010, I cannot use the statistical information on prostitution rates. I can only use the information to explain on the history of prostitution. This information is valuable because readers need to understand the origin of prostitution to understand why it continues to be prevalent.