

Part III- “Prostitution is like rape...”

Who is **anyone else to make claims of harm, violence or abuse other than the adult individual who is the alleged victim?** Why are ideologically motivated individuals, faith based groups, researchers, academics or government prosecutors- granted more credence regarding a sex worker’s personal experiences than the sex worker who has supposedly been victimized, but who *categorically denies being a victim?*

Why should adult sex workers have to prove we *aren’t* victims or that *we were not forced into sex work?* Shouldn’t those who make the specious arguments that we **are** victims of violence *regardless of consent-* have to prove that we are- case by case, ‘victim’ by ‘victim’? And shouldn’t they have to show the actual harm they believe we have experienced in being paid for sexual services that we could otherwise legally give away to as many men as we wanted, **WITHOUT being considered a victim of anything?**

How could they imagine that the ‘harm’ of accepting payment for providing pleasure to others is *greater than the harm we acknowledge we experience when we are raped/ extorted by cops, threatened with arrest if we don’t comply with their demands of sexual favors; and raped by prison staff when we are arrested and incarcerated?*

When a prostitute is raped by a law enforcement agent, the rapist cop usually goes free or receives minimum punishment, because prosecutors are more concerned that the prostitute victim may have consented in some way to having forced sex with the rapist cop than they are disturbed by the emotional harm done to us knowing that our rapist is free to rape us again and to rape other prostitutes. Apparently we can consent to being raped by a police officer but we cannot consent to having sex for money!

If we do not have the resources to investigate, pursue, apprehend, prosecute and punish the predator rapists whose victims have requested help, why would we squander scarce and valuable resources to arrest, prosecute and punish the non violent, non abusive clients, employers and associates of **sex workers who have not reported being a victim of anything?**

*If a woman can’t be trusted to tell the truth when she says she **wasn’t** raped, then it stands to reason that she won’t be believed when she says she was...*