

### Report Information

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### Suspected Sources

[1] [http://www.wunrn.com/news/2007/12\\_07/12\\_17\\_07/121707\\_prostitution.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2007/12_07/12_17_07/121707_prostitution.htm)

### Paper Text

People are usually pronged to think that they understand the darker parts of human dysfunctions and behaviors because they happen to watch some ridiculous "Lifetime" special on cable about rape or rehabilitation. I used to be one of those people, until I started actually seeing the real thing in Chinatowns mean streets during the hours of the night when all you daytime dwellers sleep. Have you ever seen a girl who looks forty but is really twenty strung out on heroin, trying to pay for her bagel in change? I have, it's not something you think you could ever stomach at four in the mourning. But it isn't about being able to stomach it, or at least it shouldn't be. Your probably thinking about making a twisted face and changing the subject, this essay is for all you people who I used to be. The question that I thought of when given this assignment was not a question with a direct and conclusive answer waiting at the end. I merely wanted to know how broad the research and the awareness of violence in prostitution went, for this is something I see wonder in and out of my work far to often.

The research that I did on prostitution eventually intersected with violence. There were many articles that were related to sexual violence and domestic violence, however none of these problems seemed as extensive and unnoticed as violence in prostitution. I can only conclude that the reason for this is because the subject of prostitution is fairly scandalous, seen as a self-infliction and submission to abuse. The article I read was called "Prostitution Is Sexual Violence" (Clinical Reflections) by Melissa Farley, the article was posted in the Psychiatric Times in October of 2004. Melissa describes prostitution as "paid rape". [ 1; 100% ] "Its harms are made invisible by the idea that prostitution is sex, rather than sexual violence. [ 1; 96% ] Prostitution has much more in common with other kinds of violence against women. What incest is to family, prostitution is to community." (Farley, Psychiatric Times) At night especially in Chinatown, a generally dangerous district of Boston at night, I see many Pimps and call girls come in and out of the Diner to eat and go home after I imagine a very lucrative nights work. Most of them seem fairly well taken care of but worn down. Call girls are a different level of prostitution, a little higher on the food chain. Higher prices, a cleaner healthier "product", and they attract a classier crowd. The lowest on the food chain are the homeless women who don't have a pimp or a "Manager". A much more dangerous and desperate class of women than the call girls, they are even more vulnerable to rape, physical abuse and drug abuse. However no woman involved in the business of selling sex is ever safe from these afflictions.

Melissa uses a very harsh example in her article to get this point across. [ 1; 83% ] "The experience of a woman who prostituted primarily in strip clubs, but also in massage, escort and street prostitution, are typical. [ 1; 100% ] In strip club prostitution, she was sexually harassed and assaulted. [ 1; 100% ] Stripping required her to smilingly accommodate customers' verbal abuse. [ 1; 92% ] Customers grabbed and pinched her legs, arms, breast, buttocks and crotch, sometimes resulting in bruises and scratches. [ 1; 100% ] Customers squeezed her breasts until she was in severe pain, and they humiliated her by ejaculating on her face. [ 1; 100% ] Customers and pimps physically brutalized her. [ 1; 100% ] She was repeatedly beaten on the head with closed fists, sometimes resulting in unconsciousness. [ 1; 100% ] From these beatings, her eardrum was damaged, and her jaw was dislocated and remains so many years later. [ 1; 100% ] She was cut with knives. [ 1; 100% ] She was burned with cigarettes by customers who smoked while raping her. [ 1; 68% ] She was gang-raped and she was also raped individually by at least 20 men at different times in her life." (Farley, Psychiatric Times) Some people are actually very puzzled by this amount of unnecessary violence that a person might submit themselves to. Arguing that after it happened the first time they should have gone to the police. Or they shouldn't have been stripping in the first place. However most women who involve themselves in the business of selling themselves are usually afflicted by a prior experience or overwhelming circumstance that lead them to this point. Either they are uneducated, abused, or desperate. It is hard to believe that a healthy educated female college student with a steady income and a place to live is going to start selling her body on the street. [ 1; 72% ] The woman in the example explained that the damage of prostitution "is internally damaging. You become in your own mind what

these people do and say with you." (Farley, Psychiatric Times) To end the discussion on violence in prostitution and to somehow find some direction in this cluster of unsettling brutality, we must spread the awareness and cease the denial of the reality of harm in prostitution. **[ 1; 83% ]** I believe Melissa says it best in her conclusion of the article " Those of us concerned with human rights must address the social invisibility of prostitution, the massive denial regarding it's harms, it's normalization as an inevitable social evil, and a failure to educate students of psychiatry, psychology and public health. [ 1; 83% ] Prostitution and trafficking can only exist in an atmosphere of public, professional and academic indifference.' (Farley, Psychiatric Times)

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