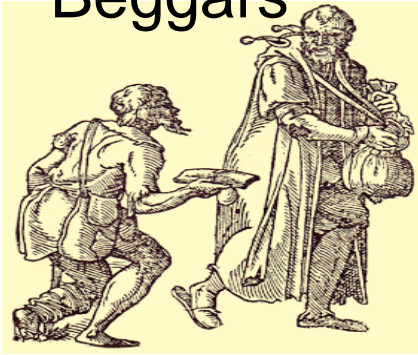


# *The Demand Side of Trafficking? Prostitution and Beyond*

*Julia O'Connell Davidson*



Beggars



Construction workers



Organs

Domestic Workers



**Demand for trafficked persons could be demand for...**

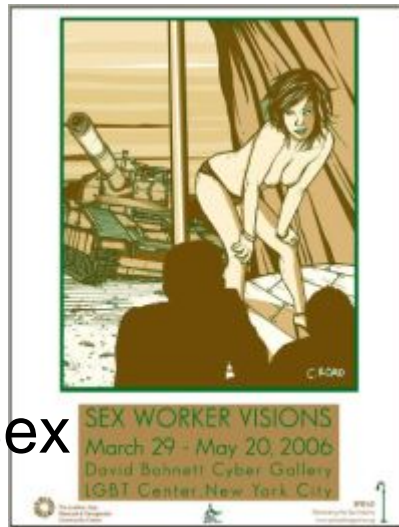
Drug mules



Agricultural Labour



Sex



AT THE MAIL-ORDER BRIDE WAREHOUSE

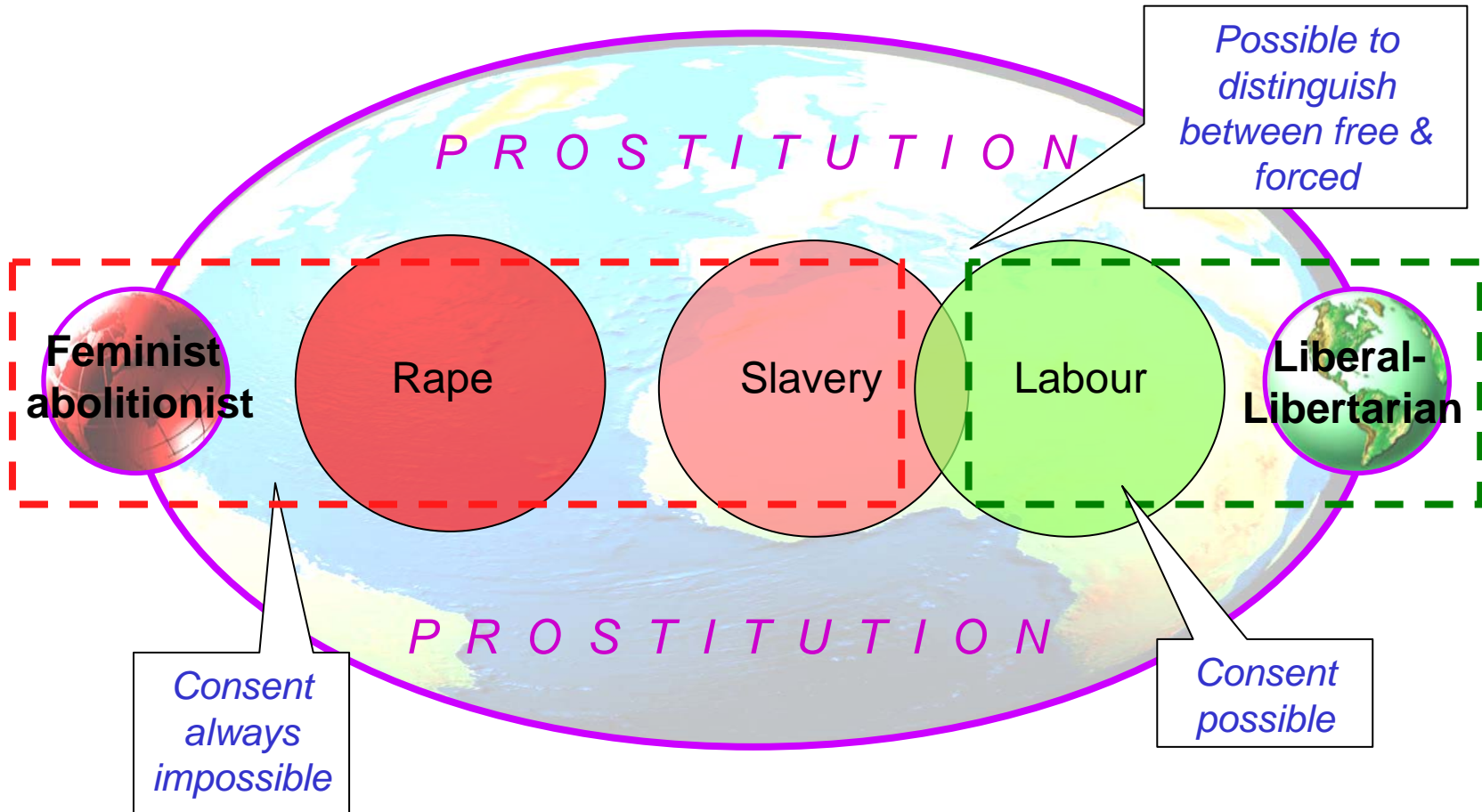
Wives

# POLICY PROBLEMS IN RELATION TO “THE DEMAND SIDE OF TRAFFICKING”

The concept of demand for ‘trafficked’ persons embraces broad and hugely divergent range of motivations and interests on the part of many different social actors (e.g., employers, petty criminals, consumers, husbands, etc.) in very different social settings (formal economy, informal economy, private household etc.)

UN Trafficking Protocol identifies ‘sexual exploitation’ as one of the possible constituent elements of trafficking, but does not define it. Is the consumption of commercial sexual services necessarily an act that fosters trafficking?

# Political Debate on Prostitution



# THE FEMINIST ABOLITIONIST PERSPECTIVE ON DEMAND

“Penalize the buyers. The least discussed part of the prostitution and trafficking chain has been the men who buy women for sexual exploitation in prostitution... our responsibility is to make men change their behaviour by all means available – educational, cultural, and through legislation that penalizes men for the crime of sexual exploitation”

**COALITION**

*Against Trafficking*

*in Women*

Janice Raymond, 2001

# BUT IS DEMAND FOR SEXUAL SERVICES DIFFERENT AND UNIQUE?

Demand for “embodied labour” also features in:

- Domestic and care work
- Informal personal services sector
- Au Pair system
- Adoption and marriage
- Begging etc.



# DO CLIENTS “RECEIVE” THE TRAFFICKED PERSON?

The client buys services, not the person – he doesn't exercise powers of ownership, and cannot choose to set her free, kill her, or take her home as his personal slave



# What should clients do if they come across a worker they think may be a victim of trafficking?

	Treat her like any other sex worker %	Give her an extra big tip %	Offer to help her escape %	Choose a different sex worker %	Report it to the police %
<b>Thailand</b> clients (n=63)	10	3	25	8	71
<b>Japan</b> clients (n=33)	24	0	15	15	46
<b>Spain</b> clients (n=24)	13	4	25	8	54
<b>Sweden</b> clients (n=6)	0	0	17	33	67
<b>UK</b> clients (n=33)	21	3	12	21	36



# DOUBLE MESSAGES: THE WHORE STIGMA

- It's shameful to buy a woman!
- It's shameful for a woman to sell herself!



**PIRKTI MOTERĮ – GĖDINGA!**  
Be to, anksčiau ar vėliau VISI tai sužinos\*

Dabar baudžiamas ir **PERKANTIS** prostitucijos paslaugas asmuo:  
\* Tai yra žinoma, todėl šiuo atveju žmogus, kuris parduoda kūną, neturėtų būti kaltinamas. Tačiau šiuo atveju jis turi būti apsaugotas.

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# Who counts as a Victim of Trafficking?

*Feminist  
Abolitionists*

All female prostitutes  
are Victims of  
Trafficking



*State Parties to the UN  
Trafficking Protocol (2000):*

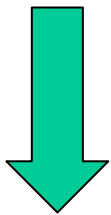
Only those who

- ▶ did not choose to work in prostitution and/or
- ▶ have been subject to extremes of physical violence by the same people, or associates of the people, who arranged the victim's migration

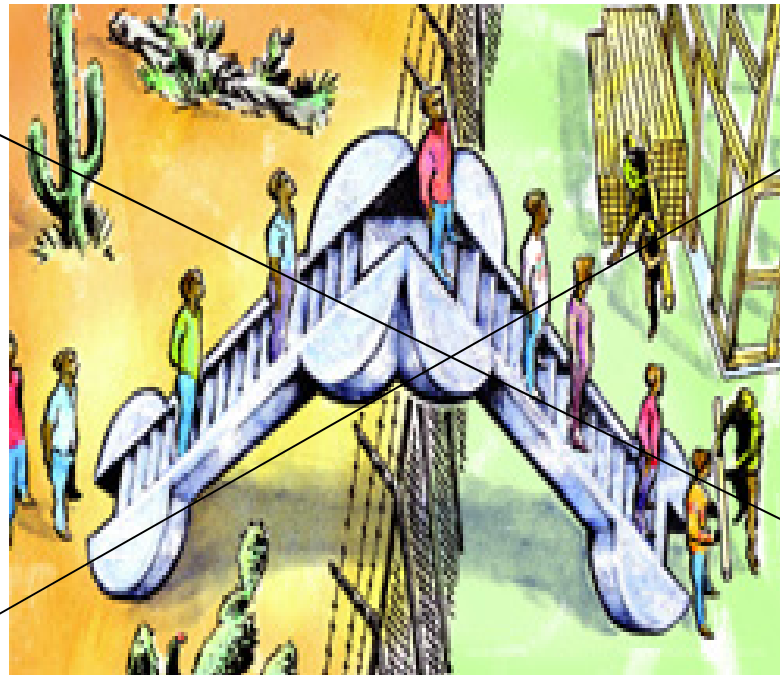


# CONTINUUMS OF ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

Voluntary migration



Forced migration



Free labour



Forced labour

# ADMINISTRATIVE CATEGORIES AND DEMAND

Exclusively interested in those officially recognised as Victims of Trafficking



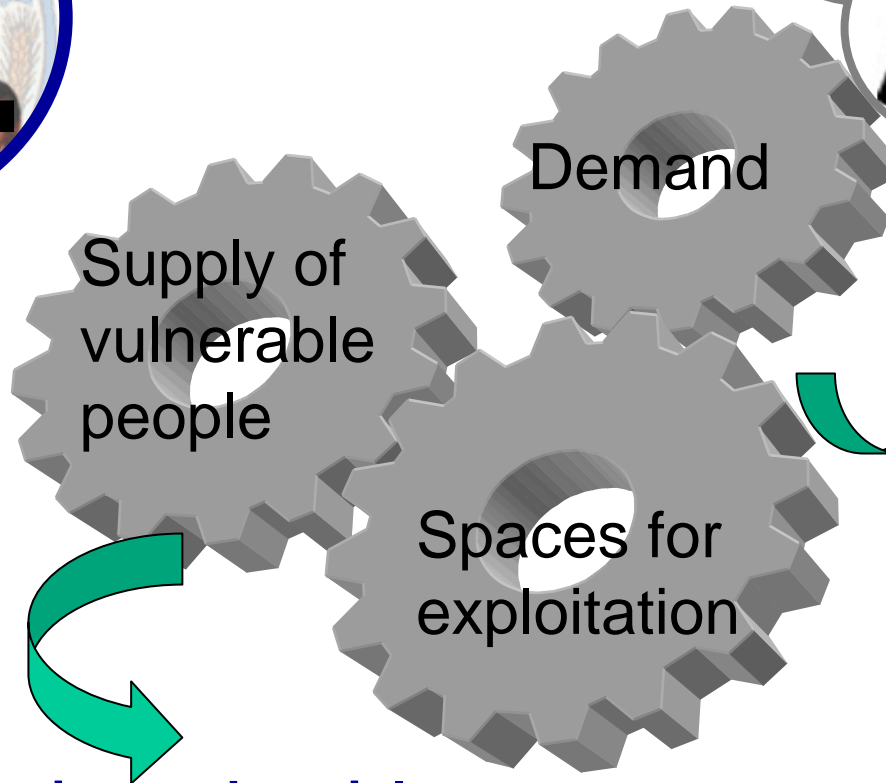
NGOs funded to provide services to those officially recognised as VoTs

Generally interested in unprotected persons, whether VoTs, smuggled persons, or otherwise illegally present and vulnerable



Unscrupulous gang masters and employers in a range of sectors; pimps and assorted petty criminals; abusive adoptive parents, husbands etc.

**State fails to protect certain groups in certain settings**



**Consumers, Employers, Householders, and others take advantage of exploited persons**

**Cultural imagination and social norms make it seem unremarkable or defensible to exploit and abuse these groups in these settings**