

**The**  
**TRUTH**  
**About**  
**PROSTITUTION**  
**In**  
**ISRAEL**

# The TRUTH about PROSTITUTION



**12,000**  
**women, men and children**  
identify as sex workers in Israel

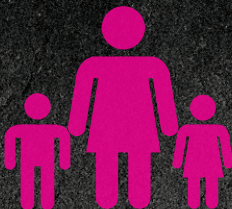


# The TRUTH about WOMEN and GIRLS in PROSTITUTION



**85%**

are women over  
18 years of age



**62%**

of these women  
are mothers



**10%**

are girls under  
18 years of age

# The TRUTH about MEN and BOYS in PROSTITUTION



**5%**

are men over  
18 years of age



**39%**

of these men  
are fathers



**0.3%**

are boys under  
18 years of age



# The TRUTH about WOMEN and GIRLS in PROSTITUTION



**57%**

of women entered  
the sex industry  
before 17 years  
of age



**13 to 14**

is the average  
age of girls  
entering the  
sex industry



**11**

Some girls are even  
11 years old when  
entering the sex  
industry



# The TRUTH about PROSTITUTION



**9%**

of women said that another person introduced them to the sex industry



**7%**

of women said they entered the sex industry as a result of substance abuse

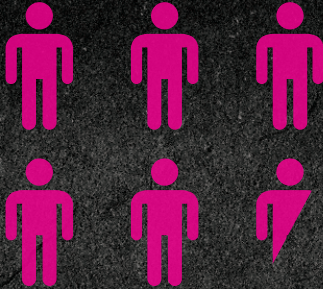


**5%**

of women said they entered the sex industry as a result of sexual abuse

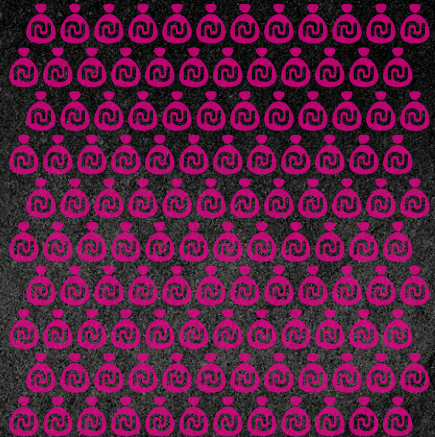


# The ECONOMICS of PROSTITUTION



**5.5  
customers**

per day are seen by  
Israeli sex workers



**1.2  
billion NIS**

is generated by the sex  
industry each year



# The HARM of PROSTITUTION



**60-80%**  
of prostitutes  
experience regular  
sexual and physical  
abuse



**10-40%**  
more likely to die as  
a result of sex work  
than other women  
in Israel



**60-75%**  
of prostitutes have  
been raped while  
working in the sex  
industry



# The HARM of PROSTITUTION



**95%**

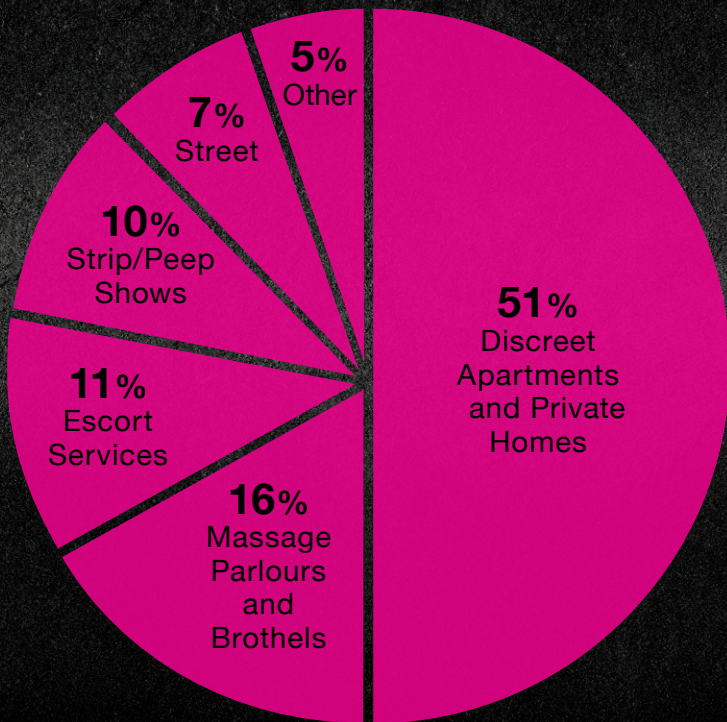
of those in prostitution  
experienced sexual  
harassment that would  
be legally actionable in  
any other job



**65-95%**

of those in prostitution  
were sexually assaulted  
as children

# WHERE does PROSTITUTION occur?





# WHY do people become PROSTITUTES?

## Economic Hardship



**66%**

of the women interviewed said they started working as prostitutes to pay off debts and support children

## Employability



**10%**

said they had no other profession and no other employable skills

## BUT



**70%**

(or more) said that prostitution had failed to solve their financial problems



# DO men and women in prostitution want to LEAVE?



**76%**

of women currently  
involved in the  
sex industry  
shared their desire  
to leave



**51%**

of men expressed  
a desire to end  
their involvement  
in the sex  
industry



# WHY can't men and women in prostitution LEAVE?



Many men and women interviewed expressed the lack of skills applicable to other industries as a barrier to leaving the sex industry



Financial debt is also often a hindrance to men and women leaving the sex industry



Coercion by former employers including pimps, madams and other employees are often cited by men and women working as prostitutes as a reason not to leave



# WHY can't men and women in prostitution LEAVE?



**7%**

of women openly stated that drug and alcohol dependence kept them from leaving the sex industry



**However**

this figure is probably higher amongst sex workers who are unwilling to declare their addiction



# Project NOA

## Not Objects Anymore



Project NOA is an initiative by the Jerusalem Institute of Justice (JIJ) which aims to combat sex trafficking and prostitution in Israel.

Through education, policy development, national social media campaigns and community collaborations, Project NOA raises awareness of the harms of trafficking and prostitution.

Project NOA advocates for legislative change in Israel to protect vulnerable people from objectification and exploitation.

JIJ gives legal representation to individuals who have suffered breaches of civil or human rights in the sex industry.

Project NOA promotes justice for vulnerable men, women and children and serves as a voice for the voiceless.



The Jerusalem Institute of Justice is dedicated to cultivating and defending the rule of law, human rights, freedom of conscience, and democracy for all people in Israel and its adjacent territories.

We educate and advocate for victims of repressive policies in our region.

Our passion for moral clarity has driven us to represent marginalized groups like victims of human trafficking, Israeli lone soldiers, and marginalized Palestinians.

Our work has taken us before the UN, European Parliament, and esteemed academic venues on several continents.

Headquartered in Jerusalem, JIJ is developing a network of international jurists focused on combating anti-Semitism.

The Jerusalem Institute of Justice exists to strengthen democracy, advance freedom, and challenge human rights abuses through legal, media and political advocacy.

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