

**WHATEVER ITS LEGAL STATUS, PROSTITUTION
CAUSES GREAT HARM TO WOMEN.**

► In the Netherlands, where prostitution is legal



► 60% of prostituted women suffered physical assaults;

► 70% experienced verbal threats of physical assault;

► 40% experienced sexual violence;

**► and 40% had been forced into prostitution or sexual
abuse by acquaintances.**

Legalization of prostitution does not make women any safer or free. Women need access to real social change that will improve the social, economic, and political quality and status of their lives, not for the sexual use and abuse of them to be permitted and legalized. Alternatives to legalization exist! In 1999, the Swedish Parliament put into effect a law which criminalizes the buying of sexual services but not the selling of sexual services. This is a compassionate, social interventionist legal response to the cruelty and violence of prostitution.