

# How many men purchase sex acts?

Europe	%
United Kingdom	7
Russia	10
Norway	11
Finland	13
Sweden	13
Netherlands	14
Switzerland	19
Spain	39
Asia	
Japan	37
Thailand	73
North America	
United States	16

To date there is little research on what percentage of the male population purchases sex acts and where they purchase them (at home or abroad). The few studies that are available indicate that the percentage of men who purchase sex acts varies widely among countries and cultures.<sup>4</sup>

1. [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk), "Sex trafficking gang members jailed", Guardian Unlimited, 29 Sept. 2006.  
2. Robert Jensen, *Getting off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity*, South End Press, 2007, p. 26  
3. Margareta Winberg, Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden. Address, Iceland, 6 September 2003.  
4. Donna Hughes, *Best Practices to Address the Demand Side of Sex Trafficking*, August 2004 (<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/pubtrfrep.htm>)



**STOP THE DEMAND**  
FOR TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN & CHILDREN



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## What can I do to stop the demand for trafficking in women and children?

- Use accurate language: e.g. "perpetrators" or "exploiters" for those who buy sex acts rather than "clients" or "buyers"; "women exploited in prostitution" rather than "sex workers."
- Promote the passage of anti-trafficking laws that follow the Swedish model of punishing and those who buy sex.
- Participate in awareness-raising groups that make known the situation of human trafficking and demand in your country or region.
- Pray daily for an end to the demand for human trafficking.
- Protest against the sexualisation and commodification of women and children in media.
- Support efforts to eliminate pornography and the buying of sex on the Internet.
- Promote the UNANIMA International campaign to *Stop the Demand for Trafficking in Women and Children* in your parish, school, club meetings, etc.

### To find out more:

refer to the resource list in the UNANIMA International educational packet for the STOP THE DEMAND campaign.



[www.unanima-international.org](http://www.unanima-international.org)

UNANIMA International  
211 East 43rd Street  
Room 1207  
New York  
NY 10017 USA  
Tel/Fax ++212-370-0075  
email: [fergcf@earthlink.net](mailto:fergcf@earthlink.net)

## BACKGROUND 1

Connecting the dots:  
Demand and human trafficking



## Demand drives human trafficking

**A 15-year-old was trafficked from Lithuania to the U.K. She describes her life as being normal before she was enslaved in the sex industry.**

*How did it happen?*

Her friend was offered a summer job in England and she decided to go too. When she got there a man paid £3,500 to her companion. She realised with horror that she had been sold. Then the man raped her, took her to a brothel and told her she had to have sex with the customers. She was too terrified to refuse. She knew the clients saw that she was distressed but no one offered to help her.<sup>1</sup>

Even though at 19 she has now escaped from a life of daily sexual exploitation, it is unlikely that she will ever be able to describe her life as normal again. Psychologists who work with women raped and abused in this way describe the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder that they experience as similar to that of soldiers and victims of war.

For this reason, UNANIMA International

believes that the best way to combat human trafficking is to ensure that it never happens.

*How can this be done?*

If there were no men who were seeking to buy sex (and it is largely men), there would be no easy money for traffickers and they would seek money from other sources. Unfortunately, current estimates suggest that the sex industry generates more than \$9.5 billion and because of demand this amount is increasing.



### Who are the demanders?

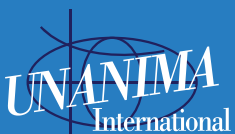
According to researcher Donna Hughes, many of the assumptions we make about demanders are myths:

- the men are seldom lonely
- the men seldom have sexually unsatisfying relationships
- the men are more likely to have sexual partners than those who do not purchase sex

### What do they want?

- sex acts their wives will not do
- the excitement of hunting for a woman they can buy for a short time
- sex without relationship responsibilities
- sex in contexts where they are not required to be polite or nice; where they can humiliate, degrade and dominate women and children

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# Why does the demand exist?

Men throughout the world are socialised into a model of masculinity.

Men are assumed to be naturally competitive and aggressive, and being 'a real man' is therefore marked by the struggle for control, conquest, and domination. A man looks at the world, sees what he wants, and takes it.

This, according to Robert Jensen, is the model of masculinity to which every man is exposed. This does not imply that he accepts it explicitly or without question.<sup>2</sup>

Additional socio-cultural reasons:

- The systemic preference of men over women as manifested in attitudes of gender inequality that exist almost universally throughout the world
- The prevalence of pornography, which results in the growth in demand for sex
- Consumerist behaviour that commercialises and commodifies women's bodies

- Greater acceptance of sex tourism by countries of origin of the tourists when carried out in another nation and with women and children who are residents of that country

Economic reasons:

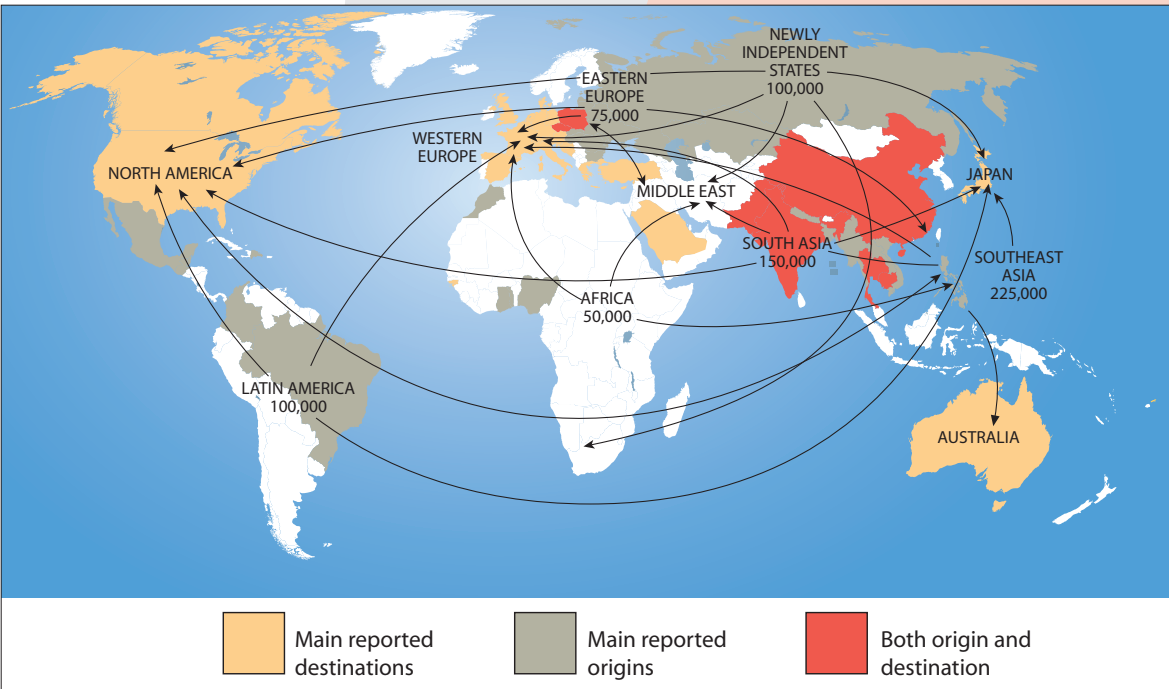
- Desire of employers for an unskilled and cheap labour market
- Confinement of women's labour to the domestic and entertainment spheres and in the informal sector
- Development policies and patterns that depend on temporary migrant workers

Political reasons:

- Military bases with their enormous prostitution infrastructure
- Unequal and exploitative political and economic relations
- Restrictive migration policies
- Sales of arms and increased armed conflicts
- Weak law enforcement mechanisms
- Ineffective and corrupt judicial systems

# The magnitude of the problem

Between 700,000 to 2 million persons are trafficked each year



# Two approaches to dealing with human trafficking and demand:

1. The Netherlands

- Criminalises forced trafficking but legalizes prostitution and aims to control it by legislation
- Applies criminal sanctions against traffickers who use force and coercion
- Legalizes prostitution and regulates it as work
- Considers that its legalization will curtail trafficking, child prostitution and organized crime
- Encourages buyers to be aware of signs of trafficking and to report potential victims — asking "Have you seen the signals? Fear, bruises, no 'pleasure' in the job"

How has it worked?

- Buyers continue to be major perpetrators of violence against prostituted women and girls. In one study, 85% of prostituted women in the Netherlands surveyed reported having been raped in prostitution.
- In 1960, 95% of prostituted people in the Netherlands were Dutch; currently 80% are immigrants, most from poor countries.
- At least 70% of prostituted people in the Netherlands are undocumented.
- ChildRight reports that between 1996 and 2001, the number of prostituted children in the Netherlands has increased from 4,000 to 15,000. One-third are immigrants.
- Over the last decade, the Dutch sex industry has grown by 25%.

2. Sweden

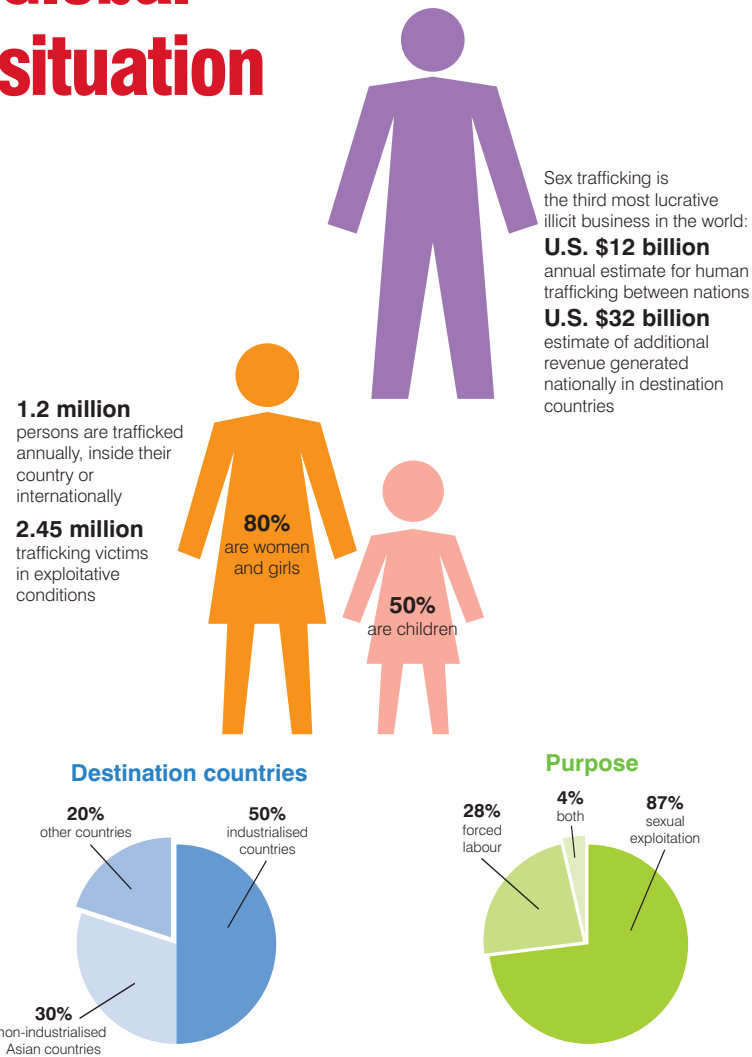
- Directs strong penalties against pimps, brothel owners and traffickers
- Requires arrest and prosecution of buyers
- Does not prosecute the women who are sold
- Works to dismantle the social attitudes that underlie the prevailing systemic inequality between women and men
- Funds services for those who have been trafficked
- Initiated an intensive public education campaign against demand for trafficking

"Sweden recognizes that full gender equality ... cannot be brought about as long as a subclass of women and children are victims of prostitution and trafficking."<sup>3</sup>

How has it worked?

- A decline in sex trafficking into Sweden: the danger of prosecution coupled with diminished demand made Sweden unfriendly territory for traffickers.

# Global situation



"The responsibility for the sex-trafficking market lies with prostitute-users, traffickers, and the economic, social, legal, political, institutional and cultural conditions which oppress women and children throughout the world."