

8 Appendix

Interviews

J (female), 50, an administrative worker in the company distributing luxury clothing for children

Q: For how long have you been living in Ukraine?

A: From birth for 50 years.

Q: You were born in the Soviet Union, right? Has the attitude to the profession changed since those times?

A: I think it has. The conventional attitude then was - dislike and dispraise. Now it is much lighter. Times have changed. It is not counted as something unusual now. This is my opinion.

Q: Describe your feelings when you encounter sex workers in the street if you encounter them at all.

A: I saw them for some time near where I live. I didn't feel anything out of the ordinary. This is their life and their choice. Suppose this is convenient or interesting for them, then good for them. It doesn't concern me.

Q: Is there anything wrong with prostitution? (What?)

A: If this profession is in demand, then it has the right to exist, I guess. But I wouldn't say that this profession is good per se.

Q: Why is it not good?

A: People who are involved are not protected from anything, especially during their work. They don't have health insurance. Yes, they earn more money, but they have additional risks associated with their work.

Q: You are speaking about Ukraine, right?

A: Well, I don't think that prostitutes anywhere are viewed as heroes of labor (medal in Soviet Union for exceptional and productive work in your field). Prostitutes are not protected from people with certain complexes who want to satisfy their unconventional desires. And who knows what those desires can be.

Q: Do you think prostitution is disapproved of (stigmatized) in Ukraine?

A: For most older people, it is still unchanged from the times of the USSR. Younger people - I don't know, can't say for sure. People not born in the USSR are more accepting of this profession. I don't usually see any disapproval from the younger people.

Q: Attitudes are the same for buyers and sellers?

A: People tend to express negativity only towards the workers. People who buy services are not in the spotlight. Not often talked about.

Q: Is there, in your opinion, a difference in attitudes towards different types of prostitutes (e.g., high-class escort and street workers)

A: The nature of the work is the same, I guess. Their work conditions are better. Prostitutes who work in the streets are also often on drugs of some kind.

Q: But is there a difference in attitude?

A: No, I think. The essence is the same. Conditions don't matter that much when it comes to attitude. But this is my opinion, I repeat.

Q: Can the image of a prostitute be changed to be more accepted by the public?

A: No, in my opinion.

Q: Why not?

A: I can't describe it. I just feel like it. I don't know (chuckles).

Q: Maybe, people are not ready yet morally?

A: Maybe.

Q: Should people have the right to do what they want with their bodies? (e.g., work as a prostitute when you have different options)

A: I think people should have a choice of work. Everybody builds their life and uses their body as they see fit.

Yes. People should have the right to that.

Q: Do you think prostitution implies that the prostitute is sexually exploited? Also, is it a problem of gender equality (e.g., men using women)?

A: It depends on the type of services people pay for. But I think that is more like exploitation. If a person just pays for sex because it is easier, receives it, and then leaves - this is a service. But if people with some kind of mental disorder or just frustrated people use prostitutes as they see fit, it is an exploitation. This is how I see it.

Q: Do you think being a prostitute affects a human being in any way? (trauma, stress, suicide, further problems in life)

A: I am sure it has an effect.

Technical questions

Q: Do you believe prostitution is handled correctly right now?

A: I don't know how to answer. It is not handled in any way.

Q: Can a prostitute receive a medical check-up or report the violent behavior of a customer?

A: If our government wished for it to be possible, then it would be. But the government doesn't care. Maybe, I don't know something, but there is nothing done about prostitution. I only know that government officials get money from not doing anything about it. They are covering up the organizational work. But it is not the government as a whole—just corrupt politicians.

Q: Do you think anything should be done about prostitution, or everything should stay as it is?

A: I didn't think about it.

Q: Right now, we have administrative responsibility and fines for people who are engaged in prostitution. Should it be legal or just abolished?

A: I think that prohibiting it wouldn't yield any results. Maybe, to control disease spread, the administrative responsibility should be removed, and something should be done on the example of countries that have it under control. They should regulate it and control it. But I don't think our government is ready to do it right now.

Q: You say, "regulate and control." Can it be done now? Just hypothetically. Or something should be done beforehand?

A: No, nothing is ready for it. In order for any new model to work, they should reform social services, healthcare. If they pass laws or adopt a new model, it wouldn't work right now. We are not ready.

Q: You said that prohibiting prostitution won't work.

A: No, It won't. It was always "prohibited" but look at us now.

Q: If the legal status to be changed, but the changes are the opposite of your personal preference, would you react to it or stay indifferent? Say, they will make it completely illegal and punishable by law.

A: I won't be able to react in any way. Because I am not even remotely tangent to this sphere, I can only have an opinion as a citizen.

Q: Can the trial of the new legal model be performed in the region? Or are you against it?

A: No, why? It would be OK. Our city would be the right place for this. We have lots of tourists and a seaport. Even some sort of social experiment would be nice. Just to see how it would work. I would do so myself if I had authority.

Q: Is sex tourism a positive or a negative phenomenon in the case of Ukraine? Can it be useful for the country, or Ukraine shouldn't be associated with it more than it is today?

A: Tourism is great. But sex tourism won't fill our city budget. But those tourists will spend money on other things also - so I think this is OK.

Q: And from the side of our country's and city's image?

A: Hare, I wouldn't say it is OK. You made me think about it. If not spending too much time on this thought, I would say sex tourism would be bad for our image.

Q: So, the positive side - is money, and the negative - is the image.

A: Yeah, the image would be at a disadvantage here. I would say let it be just tourism, but not sex-tourism.

Q: Can prostitution be a gateway to human trafficking?

A: I guess, yes.

Q: Do you think the church can have a say in the matter? (Why not? Why should it?)

A: Church is not a part of the government, but it was always against. Even if the church doesn't play any major role in this, it will be against it, that is for sure.

Q: Describe how, in your opinion, prostitution should be handled in the perfect scenario?

A: As we talked about it, there are things to be put in order before any work even can be begun with prostitution. Our healthcare and social services must be prepared. There is no point in the beginning without these changes. Then the new model should be tried in some region, not ours. Just to see how it will work. There are many drug addicts and people with diseases in this profession. We also should look at them to see how his problem can be resolved. We must establish rehabilitation centers. When a person is exiting this profession, they can be depressed, or god knows what else. We must be ready for this.

Also, we need to have a tax system for this profession in place. So the money wouldn't lay in the pockets of everyone but the government treasury. I see it this way, just from the top of my head.

M (female), 44, medical worker

Q: For how long have you been living in Ukraine?

A: For 44 years.

Q: IF you still remember the USSR times, has your attitude to prostitution changed since then?

A: Not only since the USSR. It also changes with age when you become more experienced in life.

Q: Describe your feelings when you encounter sex workers in the street if you encounter them at all.

A: At first, I thought that this is bad, not good. But now, I don't know. I take it a lot easier now because everyone has their own story and problems. But no negativity on my side.

Q: Is there anything wrong with prostitution? (What?)

A: I would say it is 50/50. Horrible, when young girls and boys before 18 are forced to work in this. But when you are older, you are in the right to choose for yourself, except the places where prostitutes are held against their will. Those are horrible from any point of view.

You would say that if the person chooses this type of work consciously, then it can be.

Q: Do you think prostitution is disapproved of (stigmatized) in Ukraine?

A: Of course, as everywhere. We have quite a bit of soviet mentality left in us. Disapproval, dispraise, negativity – they are common.

Q: Does it affect buyers and sellers?

A: Only prostitutes. Those who buy services are not talked about very often.

Q: Is there, in your opinion, a difference in attitudes towards different types of prostitutes (e.g., high-class escort and street workers)

A: Of course, there is a difference. Either you stay beside the road, in the cold, or you are in a nice apartment. The nature of work is the same, but money and conditions are different. (there is, in fact, a difference in attitudes depending on where the prostitute works)

Q: Can the image of a prostitute be changed to be more accepted by the public?

A: In Ukraine? I suppose, not right now. It won't be soon. We are "walking towards Europe," but not taking the right road.

Q: Can you elaborate? Why is it not possible right now?

A: I think this is about our government's attitude to people in general, not only in regards to this profession but in general. Look at this situation with the pandemic. Everybody is thinking about themselves.

Q: Should people have the right to do what they want with their bodies? (e.g., work as a prostitute when you have different options)

A: It is everyone's personal choice. If a person wants to work in this field, then it is their right. But this is not concerning underaged boys and girls. They must be supervised until the age at which they can make such decisions.

Q: Do you think prostitution implies that the prostitute is sexually exploited, or is this just a service?

**A: If a prostitute works because of personal choice, then this is fine. But when a prostitute is held against his or her will in a brothel, for example, then this is exploitation.
But regular work in this field is just selling services.**

Technical questions

Q: Do you believe prostitution is handled correctly right now?

A: The government always turned a blind eye to this issue. Nothing has changed now; a lot of illegal money in this business, with government officials taking part in it. They are not legalizing it and not doing anything else.

Q: Can a prostitute have a medical check-up at the hospital or report a crime from the client?

**A: I think they can report violence from their clients to the police. But this is my opinion. I don't know if this is 100% real.
Judging as a medic, if a girl came to the check-up and said that she is a prostitute, it would be very difficult for her to get that check-up.**

Q: Since there are talks about changing the legal status of prostitution in Ukraine, do you think that changes are needed? (Why?)

A: Of course, we need changes.

Q: What kind of changes, exactly?

A: Well, we can't just prohibit it. It won't work. But legalizing it would only work with ground rules defined very strictly, regarding healthcare, etc. Some countries figured out this question, receive taxes from it, and everything is fine. But in our country, some money may be allocated for the question of prostitution, but it doesn't end up in the right place and helps no one.

Q: Social service, healthcare where you work, police - would they be ready if the government said that we implement a new model for prostitution right now?

A: Judging on how they were bringing back Ukrainians from Wuhan when the pandemic started, we are not remotely ready. (people were afraid that those Ukrainians were infected). And when people are ordered to work with prostitutes, there will be lots of negativity in the air. This will harm the quality of all the work.

Q: Can the trial of the new legal model be performed in the region?

A: I wouldn't mind it. If I worked at a hospital during this and had to perform my duties on a prostitute, I wouldn't be bothered with the fact that she is a prostitute.

Q: Is sex tourism a positive or a negative phenomenon in the case of Ukraine?

A: In principle, this is a bad thing. Sex-tourism would worsen our reputation.

Q: Can prostitution be a gateway to human trafficking?

A: Yes.

Q: Describe how, in your opinion, prostitution should be handled in the dream scenario?

A: Government must lay clear rules for people who can work in this profession. In Holland, they have specialized districts for this, if I remember correctly. Let's say that we would have something like it, so prostitutes wouldn't stand where they are standing now. I do not dislike them and do not think prostitutes are worse in some way than any other human being. Now, I accept them better.

Q: You disliked them before?

A: We were younger and had other values. I was different and didn't have the life experience. Everyone judged them and pointed at them, and so did I. I said that prostitution was horrible. But it's behind me now.

S (male), 25, factory worker in Israel

Q: For how long have you been living in Ukraine?

A: For 25 years, since I was born.

Q: Describe your feelings when you encounter sex workers in the street if you encounter them at all.

A: Well, I don't have any feelings. I can only guess if a girl is just trying to get a car to go somewhere or is working as a prostitute. Well, maybe I see them, but I can't understand that they are prostitutes so fast, in order for it to mean something to me.

Q: Is there anything wrong with prostitution? (What?)

A: Anything wrong? In what sense? Moral sense?

Q: Well, is there anything wrong with prostitution in any sense?

A: It's OK, I guess. Among the people that surround me, prostitution is not regarded as a good thing.

Q: But what about you?

A: I am fine with it. If this person is not one of my friends and just wants to earn some money and this person likes what he or she is doing, then I have no problem with it.

If you think about it, nothing bad is happening.

Q: Is there, in your opinion, a difference in attitudes towards different types of prostitutes (e.g., high-class escort and street workers)

A:...Well, there is a different attitude, I guess. I didn't give it any thought to this. But I am all for good working conditions. The better the conditions, the better it is for them. I have never spoken to the prostitute. Maybe I did not understand the question.

Q: Let's speak about you. Do you find yourself thinking differently about girls working in the streets and those in expensive dresses, who are regarded as "higher class" and work in better conditions?

A: The problem is that I haven't spoken to either of them ever. And if I put myself in this position and we were talking about my friend, for example, I would prefer for my friend to work as a higher class prostitute (escort, etc.). Because there is a difference, in any case, I guess.

Q: Do you think prostitution is disapproved of (stigmatized) in Ukraine?

A: Yes. Yes. In Ukraine, people definitely are wary of them and, maybe, a little bit afraid of them. This is our mentality. People usually treat any sex-related profession with caution.

Sex is not often talked about in our society. That's why people are very private when it comes to the topic of sex.

Q: Is this caution displayed towards buyers and sellers?

A: Both, maybe. It depends on everyone's judgment. But I think people dislike buyers and sellers.

Q: Can the image of a prostitute be changed to be more accepted by the public?

A: Yeah, it can be. I think yes, yeah.

Q: What should be done?

A: We need to talk to people about this. Why prostitution has a bad image? Because we have a set of moral boundaries, and prostitution is beyond them. Maybe, we have a family institution, and people fear that prostitution breaks it. People need to accept that they have a right to their body and so everyone else. And people must understand that if a person decides to work as a prostitute, then it is that person's right.

Q: But if a girl, for example, can earn money in different ways but decided to be a prostitute? What is your opinion on that?

A: This is better than if she had no other options like prostitution to earn money. Except for sexual slavery. I despise that. But if she chooses prostitution, then this is a reason alright to work in prostitution. No other reason is needed. If she likes this profession, it's not only good for her in terms of money, but also for people who buy her services, including people who cannot get sex anywhere else.

Q: Do you think prostitution implies that the prostitute is sexually exploited? Also, is it a problem of gender equality (e.g., men using women)?

A: Well, I often find myself confined to those moral boundaries. There is something like a feeling of possessiveness in me. But I strongly suggest to myself that I must not think this way. Prostitution is just a service.

Q: But something tells you that this is not just a service bought and sold?

A: Once again, those boundaries. It is something like when you are jealous of your girlfriend when you shouldn't be. Things like open relationships exist. But I cannot imagine myself in an open relationship. I was raised in a society with boundaries, and it is very difficult to go beyond those boundaries. But in my mind, I understand that this may not be right.

Q: Do you think being a prostitute affects a human being in any way? (trauma, stress, suicide, further problems in life)

A: Depends on many things. I suppose they must have some kind of doctors they regularly attend to not be affected by that. But this is my guess. I don't know anything about it.

Technical questions

Q: Do you believe prostitution is handled correctly right now? (What about current laws preventing access to regular medical check-ups? Possibility to report abuse etc.)

A: No, I don't think it is handled at all. Police often cover it up and get additional revenue from it. In my district, I saw prostitutes talking to policemen like they were friends.

I think that prostitution must be legalized, for the prostitutes to have rights and protection from the law. Not different from a job at the factory.

Q: Why must prostitution be legalized? Can you elaborate on that?

A: Easier to regulate, and workers will pay taxes. Easier access to healthcare and privileges. Contribution towards their pension. I think it must be legal to buy services of this kind and provide services of this kind. But not to advertise them, like on billboards or something.

Q: Can we legalize it now, or something must be done beforehand?

A: We must prepare people. Explain why this is right and not something to be ashamed of. I would even say a propaganda campaign, so people would be more acceptant and not only resort to judgment.

Q: And social services, police?

A: This goes without saying.

Q: But are they ready right now?

A: This is the question for the people who work there. They must be ready, but I bet they would be super judgemental towards the profession and the workers. They might refuse to perform their duties. But their moral compass shouldn't justify the refusal to perform their duties.

Q: And if prostitution would be banned entirely, opposite to your wish for it to be legalized? Would you do anything or object in any way?

A: I don't think I would do anything. But I would vote for the politician who promises to legalize it or wouldn't vote for someone who wants to prohibit it. This is what I can do as a citizen.

Q: Can the trial of the new legal model be performed in the region?

A: It may be. I have nothing against it. I would only wish for this experiment to take place in a major city. People outside metropolitan areas are more conservative, and they would meet the changes only with negativity. But Kiev or Odessa are more subjected to the western way of thinking, and this experiment would fit well.

Q: Is sex tourism a positive or a negative phenomenon in the case of Ukraine?

A: It can bring money. If everything is legal, then it would be just fine. We would take western money from the west (smiles).

Q: Can prostitution be a gateway to human trafficking?

A: I am not sure. If everything is organized well, then it should be fine. You provide services. You have some kind of agency that helps you and provides you with clients. It's like a hairdresser that rents a place in the salon.

Q: Do you think the church can have a say in the matter? (Why not? Why should it?)

A: I am strongly convinced that the church cannot influence this in any way. We are not an overly religious country, I think.

Q: But the majority of Ukraine's citizens are religious in some form or shape. And church plays a big part in the lives of people.

A: Well, we are a modern society, and the church shouldn't be a problem in this matter. We have a number of religions, and we cannot take into consideration each and every view of this problem from those religions.

Q: Describe how, in your opinion, prostitution should be handled in the dream scenario?

A: We must start with attitudes. Launch some kind of campaign that would help the task.

Some kind of TV-show about a girl who became a prostitute. I am joking.

And when people become more acceptant, we will have to pass new laws, while explaining why those laws are needed and good for the country. Create places where prostitutes can provide services, like legal salons or brothels. Healthcare questions must be resolved so that prostitutes and their clients can access doctors who can diagnose diseases related to sex.

A tax system must be in place, but that goes without saying.

S (male), 50, seafarer

Q: For how long have you been living in Ukraine?

A: I have lived here for 50 years.

Q: You caught the times of the Soviet Union. Has the perception of prostitutes changed since then?

A: I think no. But let me think. If we took into account the new commercial approach, then I would say yes. Young people, in particular, with TV and the internet, have

different perceptions of this. Older people raised with certain ideas in mind may be thinking that prostitution is bad. Younger people with other ideas may be thinking that prostitution is alright. It depends on how their parents raised them.

Q: Describe your feelings when you encounter sex workers in the street if you encounter them at all.

A: No feelings or emotions. They are a labor union, nothing more. Everybody does what they can. They earn money, and that's all. Everything in this profession is just tied to the looks of the worker. If she is not a good looking one, then...well. And if she has the looks, then she has a different treatment.

Q: Is there anything wrong with prostitution? (What?)

A: Everything is fine with prostitution. Everything goes on as it should be. In the current state, prostitution is just more commercialized with the new technology. Prostitutes just have more opportunity to sell themselves or their body with the emergence of the internet—channels in messengers, etc.

Q: Does this disapproval affect buyers also?

A: I don't know. I don't think so. Look.

Hypothetically, why, if I don't have a family and not in a relationship, shouldn't I be able to make use of the services they provide? So, No, I don't think that there is something like this towards buyers. Those elderly ladies, who sat on the benches and judged everyone and everything, are not around anymore, so yeah. But naked or half-naked bodies are on TV and many other places, so everyone is used to this.

Q: Is there, in your opinion, a difference in attitudes towards different types of prostitutes (e.g., high-class escort and street workers)

A: No difference in attitudes. The same labor union, just different prices. They are doing the same job.

Q: Can the image of a prostitute be changed to be more accepted by the public?

A: No, everyone has stereotypical thinking worked out in their heads that prostitution - is prostitution. Not more or less. In the current phase, the perception of the prostitute stays the same. It depends on the generation you are coming from. As I said, your view depends on the circumstances in which you were brought up. E.g., If you are young and grew up with more progressive ideas, you may even be happy that you have prostitution as another possibility for making money.

Q: Should people have the right to do what they want with their bodies? (e.g., work as a prostitute when you have different options)

A: Well, of course. Of course.

Q: Do you think prostitution implies that the prostitute is sexually exploited? Also, is it a problem of gender equality (e.g., men using women)?

A: Well, this is pretty widespread. When a person finds themselves in a difficult position, there are people who are there to take advantage of that person, like people who introduce you to this work. And then you are a part of this profession and not on the best terms. Usually, the prostitute is under pressure until he or she earns back a specific sum of money.

This business is criminalized one way or another. And where there is a criminal component, there is a possibility to gain control over a person who needs money to exploit that person.

Q: Do you think being a prostitute affects a human being in any way? (trauma, stress, suicide, further problems in life)

A: Of course, it does have an effect.

Q: Are there any other long-term effects, like problems on the moral side?

A: I don't know about the morality of the question. People who work in this profession have left the moral side of the question aside. They are beyond it, I suppose. So, not likely. More likely, they will have problems of a physical and physiological character.

Technical questions

Q: Do you believe prostitution is handled correctly right now? (What about current laws preventing access to regular medical check-ups? Possibility to report abuse etc.)

A: Absolutely not. Prostitution is tied with criminality. The government tries to raid some underground brothels or places where they make porn. But if all these activities and places were registered and certified according to health standards, like in the Netherlands or Germany, for example. Then that's it. You can work and pay taxes. Everybody is happy.

Q: Can prostitutes receive a medical check-up or report violence from the client?

A: Of course, they can. They are citizens and can use all the privileges of a citizen.

Q: But will the police take this report into account, for example?

A: I don't know. They are obliged to do it. Will they do it? I don't know that. Every instance of this is different, I guess. It would depend on the situation. And if the violence would take place, then the police are obliged to take action. It is their job.

Q: Do you think the legal status of prostitution should be changed?

A: Legalization?

Q: Legalization, prohibition, etc.

A: Well, they definitely shouldn't prohibit it. Prostitution will go deeper underground in this case. In the Soviet Union, we had neither sex nor prostitution, but we also had sex and prostitution. This is a road already walked—no need to come back to this. Prostitution should be legalized. Workers must receive rights and obligations and pay taxes.

Some people like this type of work, you know. There is also a big segment of it online. They make the best of it. Good for them. But they must pay taxes.

Q: Can we legalize prostitution now, or should something be done beforehand?

A: Well, I don't see it being successful right now. We have a pile of problems of social character that need to be addressed first.

Maybe, this question will be discussed again. And it was discussed not long ago if I remember correctly. But the discussion ended fast. "It was swept under the rug." It is talked about from time to time in the media.

Q: You want prostitution to be legalized. But if it was prohibited again, would you react in any way?

A: I can only have my thoughts about the prohibition's ineffectiveness. You can't prohibit something that has existed for centuries.

Let's say you prohibited it. Now what? The same result as if you prohibited the virus of flu. People would still be sick. Do you get me?

Q: Can the trial of the new legal model where prostitution is legalized be performed in Odessa? Would you be against it, or would you support it?

A: I wouldn't be against it. But there would be a ton of people whose concerns would be absurd. They would shout that we are creating some kind of vice city. Also, activists would take part in it. The part of society with an active civil position would be against it.

Q: Is sex tourism a positive or a negative phenomenon in the case of Ukraine?

A: It is definitely a bad thing. 'Tourists' come for cheap services.

Q: What does it affect, exactly? Is it the image of the country?

A: I wouldn't say it has a great impact on the country's image, but there is something to it, like a third world country with cheap services of this type. And you can travel there just for the services. Yes, I would say there is some kind of loss of image in this.

Q: Like Thailand or Vietnam?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: Can prostitution be a gateway to human trafficking?

A: If it would continue in the same way as it is today, then yes. But legalizations should relieve us of the majority of these problems.

Q: We are a conservative society with many religious people. Can the church have a say in the matter of prostitution?

A: In the matter of the legalization or just the fact that there is prostitution?

Q: Let's say that in the matter of changing the legal status.

A: Everybody knows about prostitution in the church. It is one of the most ancient professions. The church condemns it and all, but officially there is no prostitution, as far as the church is concerned. So, nobody thinks about it too hard. But if we, say, make it legal, then the church would react to it.

Q: The church will react, but should the government or people listen to it?

A: I don't think so. I don't know the exact percentage of religious people in our country. I am not counting those who just visit the church out of habit on holidays. Will there be a big enough crowd to listen to?

Q: Describe how you would handle the question of prostitution one more time. Suppose you had all the power.

A: Legalization on the government level. Healthcare. And taxes. This is already yesterday's problem. You don't have to look far; Germany and the Netherlands. You don't need to invent anything.

V (male), 17, school student

Q: For how long have you been living in Ukraine?

A: Since I was born here, in Odessa.

Q: How old are you?

A: I am 17.

Q: Describe your feelings when you encounter sex workers in the street if you encounter them at all.

A: I don't see them frequently. But when I met them, I did not have any particular feeling about them. There was neither disgust nor the opposite—just a neutral feeling.

Q: So, you just don't pay attention to them, or don't you have any particular feelings for them?

A: Well, everyone says that prostitution is bad, but I don't see anything in it. So I am just neutral to it.

Q: Is there anything wrong with prostitution?

A: Well, prostitution itself, as our government is concerned, is not exactly legal, and they can't prevent prostitution from happening.

Q: Look, but from a moral standpoint, is prostitution good?

A: Oh, I get it. From a moral standpoint - prostitution is bad, of course. Because women are at a disadvantage here, prostitutes may be in moral or physical pain while doing their job. Their job, in some sense, can be classified as slavery. But women, whose husbands sleep with prostitutes, may suffer from it too. And I think that it is not right for human beings. I disapprove of this kind of work.

Q: But if a person has different means of making money, but this person chooses to work as a prostitute?

A: Of course, it's everyone's choice. If she wants, then why not? It's her choice. Because in our time it is difficult to live. If she needs money, and she made up her mind to work as a prostitute...but women don't resort to prostitution because they want to work there. They resort to it because of money and the need to care for the family, or whatever.

Q: Yes, you are right. But if that person has another possibility but prostitution to earn money, but still decides to work as a prostitute because... this type of work appeals to them?

A: If they like it, then it's OK, I think, indeed. As I said, this is everyone's choice.

Q: Do you think prostitution is disapproved of in Ukraine?

A: Well, I haven't observed any kind of disapproval from people. I can say for myself that I am neutral. And people to whom I spoke about this, they are neutral too. Our opinions are similar. They, too, think it's OK to be a client of a prostitute and to work as a prostitute. It's everyone's choice.

Q: Are those people to whom you talked about prostitution are your peers or older people too?

A: Both.

Q: You mentioned the clients. Can you elaborate on the clients?

A: I think that while it is OK to be a client, there are two sides to the coin.

If you have a wife and a family, then I think this is wrong. This is close to a betrayal of your loved one's trust, and it's painful to your wife and your kids if they find out about it. It can affect the kids somehow.

But if you are single, then it's OK, I guess.

Q: Is there, in your opinion, a difference in attitudes towards different types of prostitutes (e.g., high-class escort and street workers)

A: I don't even know. In our time, most of the organizational work is done online for prostitution.

But I know that when girls are standing beside the roads, sometimes cars that go by, they beep. And I don't think those beeps are because of respect for girls.

But as for online, they move to the internet, because they feel more protected there, I guess without unnecessary eyes looking at them.

Q: Can the image of a prostitute be changed to be more accepted by the public? If yes, then what should we do?

A: I don't think it can be changed. In 2015 or 2016, there was an attempt to legalize prostitution, but something hasn't worked out.

Some people think that prostitution needs to be legalized; some people think otherwise.

I think that if we legalize prostitution, then it would be a bad influence on younger people.

Well, I think nothing will change, and prostitution will be around. And those who want to advertise themselves in order to earn money will have the chance.

Q: I see your point of view on the question. But can people's prejudiced attitudes be changed for the better?

A: If it still would be as visible, then people wouldn't accept it any more than they do it now.

Q: Do you think being a prostitute affects a human being in any way? (trauma, stress, suicide, further problems in life)

A: Yes, those can happen—physical trauma, as well as psychological trauma in some cases. No matter the circumstances, this work still has an effect on your health.

Technical questions

Q: Do you believe prostitution is handled correctly right now? (What about current laws preventing access to regular medical check-ups? Possibility to report abuse etc.)

A: I didn't notice any handling of the question. And I also think that this question doesn't need any attention. Yes, the government needs to think of something to make prostitution more in place in our country, but we have more pressing matters right now.

Q: Can prostitutes have a medical check-up in the hospital or report violence from clients to the police? Is it possible?

A: I haven't heard of it. Everyone can do this; everyone has equal rights.

Q: Maybe, you know of some social programs or centers that help those who work in prostitution?

A: No, I don't know about those. But I would like to believe that everyone has equal rights to medical care, or to report a crime, etc..

But if a woman goes to the police and says that she is a prostitute, they won't accept her report. Prostitution is not legal, but on the other hand, if the client did something severe to her, then the police might do something. It is quite nuanced.

Q: Do you think that model of how prostitution is treated in our country should be changed? (Why?)

A: Well, if they legalize it, then we will get tax money from the workers, but this isn't an ideal way, because of bad influence on younger people. Young girls, future women, will notice everything that is going on, and some of them won't go to university but seek an easier way of earning money.

Q: What if the government legalizes prostitution tomorrow? Would you react in any way?

A: I won't care. I am neutral, as I said.

Q: Can the trial of the new legal model be performed in our region?

A: I am not sure about our region, but it would be nice to test the new model somewhere first. And then apply it all across the country. Even if in our city, why not? I like it. But it has to be a long trial, like a year.

And also, I think that if we prohibit it or legalize it, the number of clients would stay the same. Who was a client, would still be a client, and who wasn't - still wouldn't be.

Q: Is sex tourism a positive or a negative phenomenon in the case of Ukraine?

A: In what sense?

Q: People come from abroad for cheap services. Our women are considered beautiful, and the prices are lower than in most western countries. It's like usual tourism, but for sex.

A: I think it's not OK. It hurts our self-esteem if people are coming just for that. Yes, I know that Ukrainian women are considered good-looking, and there is no wonder that someone would be interested only in those kinds of services.

Q: Would it be bad only for our image?

A: I wouldn't say it's bad for our image. When a person comes from abroad only to pay you to have sex with him, that, I think, hurts your self-esteem, not just people's self-esteem, but those girls' who are prostitutes.

Q: Can prostitution be a gateway to human trafficking?

A: It's a difficult question. But I have heard of instances where girls were smuggled abroad and exploited. The girls were involved in prostitution. They become the real slaves...

This is outrageous. This is happening against their will. If here they work because they want it, but there they are forced to work.

Q: We are a conservative society, and there are many religious people. Can the church influence people, or outright have a say in the matter?

A: I don't know what is church's stance on prostitution.

Q: The church condemns prostitution.

A: Well, there are a lot of atheists nowadays; I don't know if the church can influence anything.

Q: But would it be right if the church's opinion was to be reckoned with

A: If absolutely everyone was religious, then it would be alright. But not everyone is religious, so to listen to the church's opinion wouldn't be right.

Q: Describe how, in your opinion, prostitution should be handled in the dream scenario?

A: My solution?

Q: Yes, how would you do it?

A: In fact, it doesn't concern me that much. I wouldn't resolve this issue right now. It's everyone's own business. If women want to provide services, then why wouldn't they? Let them earn money if they need it.

So, if to outright resolve the question, then let me think.

If just prohibiting it, nothing will change, because it would be almost the same as right now.

I think this question can't be solved. Because prostitution always was. And whatever people did to it, it is still around. It is our instinct. People will always find a way to bypass the prohibition. I don't know what to do to solve the question.

S (male), 29, seafarer

Q: For how long have you been living in Ukraine?

A: Since my birth. For 29 years. Soon I will be 30.

Q: Has your perception of prostitution changed through time?

A: Well, no. As I understood it since I was old enough to understand it, it is still the same. I think prostitution is a "dirty job."

Q: Tell me about your feelings when you encounter prostitutes in the street. Suppose you meet them, of course.

A: Mostly, I feel pity. Not disgust, but pity, because they have to work in this.

Q: Is there anything wrong with prostitution? (What?)

A: It is a type of work. Not the best type. But, how can I phrase this? Prostitution is their means for existence. Everyone earns money in ways they can. Maybe, it's not great from a moral standpoint. Difficult to judge when everyone has their situations in life. And if a person works as a prostitute just for personal enjoyment, then it's not alright. But if a person works as a prostitute out of pure despair, then this is entirely another thing.

Q: Do you think prostitution is disapproved of (stigmatized) in Ukraine?

A: Of course. The absolute majority is against prostitution. People in favor of prostitution are either those who use the services or those who profit from it.

Q: Does this disapproval affect clients also?

A: No, mostly it is directed towards the prostitutes. I didn't give this a proper thought. But from my point of view, only the workers are affected.

Q: Is there, in your opinion, a difference in attitudes towards different types of prostitutes (e.g., high-class escort and street workers)

A: Yes, I think there is a difference. Higher class workers have, I wouldn't say, more respect, but more forgiving or permissive attitudes to them. It's because of how they take care of themselves, exercise professional hygiene, etc. Their higher class is defined by the aforementioned criteria. Some workers are clean and look after themselves, and then there are those who infect people with diseases. And the latter criterion is inherent to those of a lower class, often working in the streets.

Q: Can the image of a prostitute be changed to be more accepted by the public?

A: I think yes. We are slowly drifting away from the teachings of the Soviet Union. We are becoming more and more open to new judgment on this topic. Attitudes are only going to get better.

Q: So, things are changing, compared to the times of the USSR?

A: Yeah, prostitution wasn't that widespread at that time. It was present but less developed compared to now. With years passing, our generation is growing up, and views become less and less radical. We grew up with the prostitution present, so we are used to it.

Q: Can people choose to work in this profession, even if there are definitely other means of earning money available?

A: If there are other options available? Then no. Here, everybody is judging by their capacity. Everyone has a different strength of character - for someone, it is easier to surrender and to go with the flow (end up in prostitution). And someone who is stronger will find themselves a different type of work. Those, who have decent self-esteem, won't end up in this profession. But, as I said, it is everyone's personal choice. The main point is that people shouldn't suffer from this work. Anyway, people have the right.

Q: Do you think prostitution implies that the prostitute is sexually exploited, or it's just buying the service?

A: No, it's not just a service, as I see it. It's definitely more than a service. It's exploitation. This is my opinion. Prostitutes are mistreated and abused very often by those who run this business (businesses). So, this is definitely exploitation.

Q: Do you think being a prostitute affects a human being in any way? (trauma, stress, suicide, further problems in life)

A: Yes, of course. It is a big psychological trauma. From positive things, there is only a financial aspect. All the other things are negative.

Technical questions

Q: Do you believe prostitution is handled correctly right now? (What about current laws preventing access to regular medical check-ups? Possibility to report abuse etc.)

A: No, it is not controlled on an official level in any way. And at the same time, it is controlled by the government on the unofficial level. I mean corruption and all those things.

Police take part in covering up prostitution (police receive bribes from the businesses and share those bribes with government officials). We are far from countries of the EU on this one.

Q: Can prostitutes get medical help through some sort of social programs or report violence from clients to the police?

A: They can try, I think. But it won't yield any positive dividends, I guess. Courts are buyable; police are buyable.

So, not in the case of our country.

Q: Do we need a change of legal model for prostitution right now?

A: We need an official control of prostitution by the government, I think. Total prohibition would not be right, but to regulate it and provide at least some assurance to the "workers of the frontline" - this won't be unnecessary.

Q: Those points you mentioned just now, can they be implemented right now, or should something be done beforehand? (healthcare, social services, police)

A: No, it wouldn't be possible right now. All those services are at a very low point right now. Before starting with prostitution, we need to resolve the problem of healthcare and social services in general. So, our government is not ready yet.

Q: If the legal status to be changed to the opposite of your preference, say, the prostitution would be completely prohibited and made illegal?

A: I wouldn't react to any changes. This sphere is out of my concern. I just won't be bothered by it.

It's not about prohibiting prostitution in general. If they do prohibit it, then girls can have any other alternative in terms of work. I don't think that a total ban would be something that is very bad. Total ban, as any other decision, would mean that this is a decision made by qualified people.

I would accept any decision.

Q: Can the trial of the new legal model be performed in our city or the whole region?

A: I wouldn't be too invested in this discussion to know if I am for it or against it. But if the model is to be tried in our regions, then I would be somewhat interested in finding out about the outcome.

Q: So, if the trial took place in our city or region, it wouldn't provoke any negative feelings in you?

A: No, it wouldn't

Q: Is sex-tourism a positive or a negative phenomenon in the case of Ukraine?

A: I would say it can have a positive impact because, let's face it, there is already sex-tourism taking place in our city. This phenomenon can bring new people to the country, and not just for the sake of sex-tourism.

Q: And what about the country's image?

A: I don't think sex-tourism can harm our image.

Q: Why not?

A: Well, if sex-tourism doesn't include some sort of illegal things...

But, in any case, I wouldn't want for only cheap sex to be the main attraction of our region, and Ukraine in general. It can be as one of the aspects, but not as the main attraction.

Q: Can prostitution be a gateway to human trafficking?

A: I would say yes.

Q: Describe your preferred perfect solution to the question of prostitution.

A: First, we need social reforms—a full rework of our social services. Right now, not only prostitutes are unprotected, but also people with low income, handicapped people, and retired people. The current support they receive from the government is far from enough.

For the new model of prostitution to have a positive impact on our society, we need to lay the foundation with proper social services. We need a specialized agency that would control, regulate and take care of such things as prostitution. I don't know if it will work, but this is how it should be, as far as I am concerned.

I am not sure about prostitutes' contribution to the pension fund. I think it would be inappropriate for them to receive a pension. But at least some assurances must be granted to them.

Q: But, why not grant them a pension, If they would pay for it with taxes?

Prostitution can become like any other job.

A: I am not talking about taking away their money. We have taxes for your income, and money contributed to the pension fund is another thing.

For the taxes they pay, they can receive legal help from the government, the protection granted by the government. So they wouldn't suffer in silence. These aspects are important, but I don't know about granting them a pension. I just can't imagine a grandma who is retired after years of work in prostitution. It doesn't sound right to me.

Q: It all comes back to the question about the attitudes to this profession, right?

A: Yeah, there are some things they deserve, but to be on par, for example, with a doctor, or some other profession from the regular roster, on the social scale - this wouldn't be right, I suppose. It is not right when a teacher receives a pension, and a prostitute receives a pension. Don't get me wrong, prostitutes have the right to earn money, but this profession is not fit to stand with other professions, at least right now. Maybe, in the future, our social consciousness will treat this profession better. But we have a very long road ahead of us before this happens.

Maybe, by the time our economy will be on the rise if it will ever be, then we can take care of the workers in this profession.

V (male), 51, an officer of Ukraine's security service (SBU) in retirement

Q: For how long have you been living in Ukraine?

A: Since February 4th, 1969.

Q: Let's remember the Soviet Union. Have people's attitudes to prostitutes changed since then?

A: I don't think so. There are small nuances that changed, but everything stayed the same, in general. The perception of the prostitute stayed the same. Non-perception stayed the same, I would rather say. How people view the question also depends on their social status.

Q: So, this non-perception - it's negative, right?

A: In the country I was born and grew up in (the USSR), they were seen as someone who doesn't work the way everyone does (not a useful addition to the society), not respected, to say lightly.

In the transition period (from the Union to the Independence), the perception of the prostitute was still bad. But this time, things were changing, and people had no money, while prostitution was profitable. This time people disliked prostitutes also because of jealousy. Young people aspired to become prostitutes (mainly girls) because of money.

As of today, prostitution is "accepted" as something that is inevitable.

Q: Can you describe your feelings when seeing a prostitute?

A: Try to get me right when I say that this category of citizens has its own division on castes. Well, maybe not castes but different levels, so to say.

The expensive ones, you just can't see them anywhere if you don't use their services.

They "do not use public transport" (implies that they are of higher social status).

The less expensive ones, you can still see them a bit.

And those at the bottom, so to say, provoke only a feeling of disgust.

Not feeling, but emotion would be the right word in this case.

Q: Not feeling, but emotion, okay. But why disgust, exactly?

A: I am talking only about this profession's representatives, that are at the bottom and can be seen in the streets. Because they are people who lost their way in life and, most probably, drug addicts. And so on.

I am not even talking about the morality of this kind of work. To repeat, they are people who lost their way, to say it lightly. The part of their image is that they are most likely drug addicts and alcoholics. That's why I perceive them quite negatively. In some cases, they even provoke disgust.

Q: Is there anything wrong with prostitution? (What?)

A: Prostitution is natural—the way to earn money. People pay for it; people provide it. Options for every wallet. In some sense, prostitution is a normal thing. There exist moral standpoints that condemn prostitution in general. But every human has the right to earn money as they see fit.

Q: We spoke about the disapproval of prostitution by people. Do their clients get the same treatment?

A: You know how it goes in our society. People hate only the person who takes the bribe, but the person who actually bribes is just as guilty. As a rule, the client is led by the physiological needs that our society understands well and doesn't condemn. But the people who provide the services they perceived more ambiguously compared to their clients. Why is it like this? Well, lots of reasons.

Q: We already spoke about the types of workers. Can you elaborate on the attitudes to them?

A: Well, to compare people of any other profession, or people of different social status.

One is clean and well-dressed, there is one in the middle, and the third one - is alcoholic and not so well, so to say. What are the attitudes towards each of them? First two will get the better treatment, won't they?

It goes the same way with the prostitutes. The prostitute, who works, earns money, and maintains a normal image, has a lot more respect compared to those who do not look after themselves.

I won't even mention the health aspect of this. Prostitutes of the higher class can afford better healthcare and regular check-ups. And the prostitutes at the bottom...well, guess for yourself.

Q: Can the image of a prostitute be changed to be more accepted by the public?

A: Theoretically, it can be done. But it's an immense task. We would have to do an enormous amount of work. Without good 'advertisement,' this profession won't be perceived any better. Because it still would be the same prostitution.

Our people with defined social norms are not yet ready to accept this profession and work in it with a broad smile.

There is some kind of rejection. This profession is not seen as a prestigious one.

Q: Should people have the right to do what they want with their bodies? (e.g., work as a prostitute when you have different options)

A: It depends on the point of view. From a particular person's standpoint, that person is a master of his body and mind and has the right to anywhere that person wants. But there are many different points of view, and it's difficult to say because this profession is ancient.

A brief recap: as long as this profession is mentioned during the years it has existed, those mentions are almost always in a negative key.

And to answer the question, for a person to work as a prostitute without any repercussions, we have to change people's minds. And that is very difficult.

Q: Do you think prostitution implies that the prostitute is sexually exploited, or it's just a service?

A: Depends on what you mean by exploitation.

Q: When there is nothing between you and your immediate need but money. You can acquire yourself a human being for a certain sum of money and do with that human being what you want, while someone else would benefit from that human being's suffering and earn money, while the person's permission may not even be asked.

A: I am not ready to answer at once. I guess there is a thing as "who pays the piper calls the tune. "But there are some established norms and boundaries, even in this case.

In my understanding, sexual exploitation can also be represented in the form of violence or sexual slavery.

Q: Can prostitution be a gateway to human trafficking and sexual slavery?

A: Certainly. Under the color of prestigious work, people are smuggled from the country and left without documents and rights. In time those people become just slaves, and when more time passes, they are thrown out as not fit for work, and that's the best case I described.

Q: So, the risk is very high?

A: Of course, of course. Where there is demand - there is supply. And in this case, the supply has a greater chance of being illegal.

The question of sexual slavery won't be resolved in the near future.

Q: Do you think being a prostitute affects a human being in any way? (trauma, stress, suicide, further problems in life)

A: Any work leaves a certain mark on the physical and mental performance of a human being. There are repercussions to any type of continuous work. Occupational injury, as to say. And prostitution is not an exception.

Even more so.

Prostitutes have neither labor unions nor social security.

Technical questions

Q: Do you believe prostitution is handled correctly right now? (What about current laws preventing access to regular medical check-ups? Possibility to report abuse etc.)

A: (laughs) I would say particular government officials "handle" prostitution in the form of collecting revenue from it.

But, in fact, there is nothing done about prostitution.

Q: By "handle," you mean corrupt people of power who cover it up in order to make money from it, which is illegal on many levels?

A: Yes. But you understand that we are talking about one particular country?

Q: We are talking about Ukraine and Odessa in particular.

A: The government, in the faces of particular people, handles prostitution by covering it up and collecting illegal money from people down the chain. In turn, prostitution is left alone while it provides money for the people in power. While this order of things stays the same, nothing will change.

Q: And what about laws? Are they broken so easily?

A: Everything related to prostitution is prosecuted by administrative law.

Q: Can a prostitute have a medical check-up at the hospital or report violence from the client to the police?

A: Theoretically or practically? Even, in theory, I don't think either of those things will be successful.

Practically, those things happen very rarely; I am talking about reporting a crime to the police. On the one hand, prostitutes are paid handsomely, but on the other hand, they have very little rights. So, the police might use them to collect money from them or set up for some of their other affairs.

Q: Should the legal status of prostitution be changed?

A: I think there are two sides to the question: if we could and if we should.

I agree that we should change the legal status.

But could we do it? I am far from certain.

Q: Why wouldn't we be able to do it?

A: Why? How should I say it? Cash flows will be diverted to another place. And those who benefit from the cash flows won't give them up in favor of the government treasury.

This is an underground business with big sums of money in the operation.

If we would talk about an abstract country that works as it should, then there are benefits for both the government and the prostitutes in making it legal. It would bring taxes, regulation of the business and medical control of the situation, and etc. But that is a normal scenario.

In our country, money from prostitution begins its way from a police patrol that gathers money from the prostitutes and ends it in government officials' cabinets.

There is no interest in making prostitution official to anyone, except, maybe, to prostitutes. But I am not sure about that.

There are many useful and needed laws that need to be passed. But will they ever be passed?

Q: Let's say that the government would be ready to pass those laws. Are the social services and other spheres ready for this?

A: Nothing is ready. We have neither decent police nor healthcare. Is there a point in continuing with this question?

Q: Can you state your preferred way of handling the question of prostitution?

A: I am all for legalization. If you can't defeat it, you must regulate it, excluding certain other things.

Prostitution is needed in every regime, under any circumstances, and in any country. Prostitution can't be defeated, but regulation and taxation make it very useful mainly by tax revenues.

Q: If the government decides to prohibit prostitution totally, would you react to it?

A: How can I react?

Q: Maybe, express your disapproval in private, or not in private?

A: This question may be relevant in the country where you are currently studying, but not in Ukraine. You may safely cross it over from your list of questions.

I wouldn't even think about reacting in any way.

And what should I react to, to prostitutes being denied a way to earn money?

It won't bother me in any possible way.

In order to help you to ask your next questions, I should clarify my stance: I am not even remotely bothered by the question of prostitution. I can only state my observations to you, and that's all.

Q: Okay, I understand it.

Q: Do you think that a trial of the new model should be performed in our city, before applying it to the whole country?

A: I don't really care. But I am not sure if local prostitutes will like it.

Q: Is it right to test the new model in our region, or is there a better candidate?

A: Odessa is a decent variant. It was long ago a free trade zone. There wasn't such a trade zone in the whole Russian Empire, but here it worked out very well. And such things as prostitution are common here since long ago because of seaports.

So, naturally, I think there isn't a better place for the trial in the whole of Ukraine.

Q: Is sex tourism a positive or a negative phenomenon in the case of Ukraine?

A: Inward or outward?

Q: Inward. For example, someone comes to us just for cheap sex services.

A: Again: supply and demand.

Q: There is supply and demand. Is it good for the country?

A: I repeat, for the abstract country, it is only good when it is regulated and taxed. All the other variants are just uncontrolled spread and venereal diseases.

Q: What about our image? What if Ukraine is associated with sex-tourism?

A: I think that a lot of workers in this profession - is not a good thing. The number of workers must be regulated.

If people started coming here only to get cheap sex, it wouldn't be normal.

Q: We have many religious people. Do you think the church can have a say in the matter?

A: We are in abundance of people who pretend they attend church regularly. It is not connected to a number of religious people.

Well, ask your question again.

Q: Big religious figures of our patriarchal church are in close ties with big political figures. Can the way beneficial to the church be pushed upon the decision-makers by the powerful institution of the church?

A: I would say it is possible. The church has a huge congregation. The church doesn't adopt the views of people, but people adopt the church's views. And churches are always against prostitution.

But we are talking about the political agenda. And if this agenda can fill the government's treasury, then the church can be reasoned with, so they won't cause much stress. You can negotiate with the church very well.

Q: Describe how, in your opinion, prostitution should be handled best?

A: I wouldn't want any part in this, but I can conduct it to you as I see it. This question must be introduced to our government's highest echelons and introduced in a way that they see the potential that solving this question would bring to us.

They would develop new laws, and then it's just a matter of time. When there is a decent law, it is passed and imposed upon people.

Q: But how would you handle the prostitution personally?

A: I would find out the exact number of prostitutes in the country and regulate them. Of course, there would be taxation and legal protection in case of their victimization.

You pass the law, bring the normative base up to speed and make adjustments, if necessary.

Y (male), 27, seafarer

Q: For how long have you been living in Ukraine?

A: For 27 years.

Q: Describe your feelings when you encounter sex workers in the street if you encounter them at all.

A: I have ambiguous feelings about them. On the one hand, they are deeply dysfunctional people in our city. They represent something that needs to be cleaned up. On the other hand, they must be in need. If life was so great, they wouldn't be there, selling their bodies to earn some money.

Maybe, they think that it is normal to work in this field if there is no other work available.

I think that if you have nothing to offer in terms of your brain, you are free to go and sell your body.

Q: Do you feel some kind of pity for them, or anything else?

A: No, everybody does what they are capable of doing.

Q: Is there anything wrong with prostitution? (What?)

A: I think yes. Pornography and prostitution pervert our society—just the possibility of it.

Q: You mean ease of access to it?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you think prostitution is disapproved of (stigmatized) in Odessa? Or are people OK with it?

A: I don't think so. It is already so deep in our minds. And they sometimes stand in plain view. So, no. But everyone has their own point of view.

Q: I understand that you disapprove of prostitution. But do you have the same feeling regarding buyers, too?

A: I also bought their services. So, I guess I only disapprove of the workers. But this also depends on the side from which you look at this. Buyers - are people who seek easy satisfaction or have money and believe that everything can be bought, including sex and love. It is a natural way for them to get these things.

Q: Is there, in your opinion, a difference in attitudes towards different types of prostitutes (e.g., high-class escort and street workers)

A: I think that attitudes are the same. Higher class workers worked on the streets at some point.

And those most elite workers, who have very little clients (like very little), are entirely another thing. They are more like kept-women or trophy wives. Kept-woman, in our time, is more like a type of a high-class prostitute.

Q: Can the image of a prostitute be changed to be more accepted by the public?

A: Oh, some serious work needs to be done, like legalization. And even after this, in people's minds, it won't change soon. It is in the subconsciousness of people, this dislike of prostitution.

Those who use the services are more acceptant. And those who don't, mostly women, can't accept prostitution as normal. Because it also breaks families apart.

Q: So, in order for prostitution to be more accepted, we need to start with people's attitudes, you say?

A: No, we need institutional reforms first. And then start working with people. If prostitution is more accepted, but they (workers) are still like this in the streets, or somewhere else, easily accessible, nothing will change. We need to establish legal brothels and send them there. We have hidden illegal brothels, but they are not doing the job of taking workers from the streets. And public acceptance can't be reached while the (mostly) girls are in the streets.

Q: Should people have the right to do what they want with their bodies? (e.g., work as a prostitute when you have different options)

A: It's their business. We have administrative fines for prostitution, but this is easy money, and almost no one can prohibit this to you.

Q: So, you think this is normal, and everyone has the right to work in prostitution if they want to?

A: No, definitely not. If I were in dire need, I wouldn't resort to this line of work and sell my body.

Q: But the possibility of such work. Is it good or bad?

A: Honestly, I don't know. It's neither.

Q: Do you think prostitution implies that the prostitute is sexually exploited? Also, is it a problem of gender equality (e.g., men using women)?

A: It depends on the services. And it depends on what you pay for. You can pay a lot of money "for everything," and it would be on the opposite side of buying just services.

I had a similar experience when I paid \$150 for one hour with a girl, and I could have done anything to her. But after one hour, she just gets up and leaves. Judge for yourself.

Q: But this still counts as services. You don't own that human being for one hour.

A: No, you don't own the human being, or this would be closer to slavery. Here, you pay money and get a possibility to do what you wish, within some boundaries, of course. But those boundaries expand with the amount of money you pay. But I wouldn't call it exploitation, either. They can refuse.

Q: Do you think being a prostitute affects a human being in any way? (trauma, stress, suicide, further problems in life)

A: Foremost, when you start in this profession, you are already traumatized, I think. A person with self-respect won't work in this field and have "intercourses" for money.

Q: But if the person just enjoys this kind of work?

A: If a person enjoys this kind of work, they have some sort of mental disorder. I think it comes from some kind of childhood trauma connected with sex. And this trauma can also lead to the financial need to be in this profession. It affects a human's mind. And they (women) often enter this profession because they have some problem of this kind.

Q: So, you think that if your mental health is in a good state, then you won't need to work in this profession, and you can earn money elsewhere?

A: For the same amount of money or less, you can work elsewhere, like in some company. Because they don't get to keep all the money they receive. They have "pimps" whom they work for. So, I believe you can get the same money elsewhere. Yes, they get more per hour, but they don't work every hour. On average, it is close to a normal job.

Q: But they still earn more on average. This is a fact.

A: Yes, but at what cost. Doctor's wage, for example, is a lot less. Why should a doctor get less than a prostitute? Yes, doctors get some grey money. But still.

Technical questions

Q: Do you believe prostitution is handled correctly right now?

A: No. Police pick on them from time to time, but it's just for the reports about their efficiency.

Q: But is a prostitute eligible for a medical check-up at the hospital through some governmental programs?. Also, can be violence from clients be reported to police, for example?

A: No. Their pimps take care of those things. They attend hospitals as private citizens and pay with their money.

Q: Since there are talks about changing the legal status of prostitution in Ukraine, do you think that changes are needed? (Why?)

A: If they legalize it, then many will want to work in this field. It doesn't matter if they will. They would have an opportunity. More opportunities will arise for this kind of work. And this is unacceptable.

Q: But if you were to change the legal status. Is it doable now? (e.g., law enforcement, social sector, medicine) (How long would it take to make things work?)

A: Our health services are in desperate need of changes. If prostitution is legalized, they won't be ready. Police don't know how to handle them. No social services. We don't have the infrastructure for legalization. It would be the same as our association with the EU. We need to make some changes first.

Q: What is your personal preference in the question of changing the legal status? What change would you prefer?

A: I will neither win nor lose anything if they ban in entirely. If they legalize it, I will be more worried about my future children. It can affect them if prostitution would become a normal thing for us. It can affect their morality. It is bad with morality nowadays. Women are more unbridled. Things like prostitution and pornography must be taken away from the public. Boundaries of "moral" things become wider and wider because of this.

Q: You imply that we need to ban prostitution entirely?

A: Yes. I am all for the totalitarian approach. Prostitution must be made illegal, and it should be done properly, but not as it is now. Police take part in this and earn money from covering it.

Q: You want prostitution eradicated. Can the trial of this model be performed in our region? Or should it be done in the whole country at once?

A: Yes, it would be OK. But you can't prohibit everything at once. You begin with something and must end up with total prohibition. Our current "prohibition" is not enough.

Q: But you can't prohibit it entirely. People will still work in this profession. Through social networks, for example.

A: As I said, I am all for the totalitarian approach. Social networks must be monitored, and prostitution must be banned.

Q: But you yourself bought their services. You won't be able to do this if your words come to life.

A: I just wouldn't use the services anymore.

Q: Is sex tourism a positive or a negative phenomenon in the case of Ukraine? What is your stance on Ukraine becoming a more popular destination for sex tourism?

A: In terms of morality, it is pretty bad. In terms of money - this is OK, I guess. This kind of tourism brings money. But I am against it taking place in my city. Even minding the money, it is bad for our image. The government won't get any of it on us anyway.

Q: Can prostitution be a gateway to human trafficking?

A: Yes. How many of them came to work on their terms but staying on entirely different terms?

Q: Describe how would you handle prostitution if you had all the power?

A: Total and effective ban and criminal liability.

**Q: How old were you when paid for services for the first time?
How many times in total?**

A: 21, and the next time at 25. The first time I wasn't satisfied, so it was a long time before the second attempt. Six or seven times total.

Q: Was it in Ukraine?

A: Yes.

**Q: What were the circumstances of your first time?
(Did you plan it? Was it spontaneous?)**

A: It was just for the sake of experience. Spontaneous affair.

Q: How can you describe their working conditions?

A: Every time, it was different. Two or three times, I was in a brothel. They had decent rooms and all the necessary things. Other times it was in my place of choice.

Q: Was there anything unusual or unexpected specifically for you, or nothing stood out at all?

A: Everything was ordinary. Nothing unusual.

Q: Did your experience change your attitude towards sex workers?

A: Nothing changed. My attitude stayed the same as before. This is an unworthy type of work. I don't have anything against women who work there, but I wouldn't be in close contact with them either. I heard the same story from three different women whose services I bought. Judge for yourself.

Q: Do you plan to do it again?

A: No, I am in a relationship, and I don't want to do it again. In theory, this is possible only if I split up with my girlfriend, but even then, I would be reluctant. Our relationship is stable, so this isn't the case.

Q: Describe how, in your opinion, prostitution should be handled in the dream scenario?

A: Total eradication. Total. By any means available.

Q: But can you really eradicate such a thing as prostitution? It still would be present in some form—a similar case, as with drugs. Bans just don't work.

A: That's why I say that it should be total. Not even the underground market for it. Even websites with porn.

Q: But you have used their services. And you definitely visited porn sites. Isn't it a bit hypocritical?

A: It all affects people's minds and lowers mortality. Men have women, and women have men for those kinds of things. Prostitution is not acceptable. If you want sexual satisfaction, find yourself a partner.

I (female), 34, English teacher living in Spain.

Q: For how long have you been living in Ukraine?

A: I have lived in Ukraine for 30 years

Q: Has the perception of prostitution changed since the times of your youth?

A: I believe the industry itself has changed drastically. The industry has entered a new era. Before, girls were standing in the streets, sitting in the pubs, and they were brought to the port. Because I still remember the times when the girls were brought to the port by the bus for work. And they were paid in foreign currency or in plain

goods that were shipped to this port (cigarettes, jeans, shoes, etc.). This occurred at the end of the Soviet Union.

But right now, prostitution has ventured online, which lets the girls work for a bigger audience. They can now work with the assistance of Instagram and other social networks, not only in their respective cities but also in other cities. All these factors enable the girls to earn much more money.

Q: Has your attitude to them changed through time?

A: I haven't had a negative attitude to this profession. Well, to define "bad" - it means the socially accepted intolerance of prostitution.

I suppose that every person has the right to choose the profession in which to work. Professions: prostitute, teacher, engineer - they all are professions. And each profession is difficult in different ways, so it is quite silly to judge people based on their profession, even if this profession is a prostitute.

Despite being born in the USSR and raised by people who lived in the same country, I never had a negative attitude either towards the profession or the girls and boys who work in this profession.

Q: When you were in Odessa, and met the prostitutes in the street, what were your feelings?

A: Well, I can't say that I had any particular feelings. I was just like: "Oh, the girls are working." It wasn't a feeling; it was more like a thought that they are standing and working, but if they used Instagram, then they wouldn't have had to stand in the street.

Especially if the weather is cold.

Feelings of pure human compassion arise, depending on the season of the year. Like it's -10, but you are standing here in those tights, you poor thing. I feel more of those kinds of feelings than something negative.

Q: Do you think prostitution is disapproved of (stigmatized) in Ukraine?

A: Disapproval absolutely is in place and quite noticeable. When people hear the word prostitute, they display a fastidious attitude in a very negative context. But people forget that prostitution is not only about selling your body. There are different kinds of prostitution. You can sell your body or mind; you can sell your country and sell goods.

Naturally, calling someone a prostitute became an insult.

I remember when my parents told me that prostitutes are bad, they carry diseases, they are anti-social, they are insufferable, etc. So yeah, the disgust was there.

But right now, people are even jealous of the prostitutes. Prostitutes are associated with Instagram, with escort services. But escort, in my opinion, is not a kind of prostitution. But people do not differentiate those things. Naturally, jealousy comes because the prostitute may have money, travel abroad, and not work the same boring office job.

Q: Is the negativity directed towards prostitutes only, or their clients are affected too?

A: The clients are always viewed as males, but they forget that females can be clients. Yes, the clients are not often talked about. It is related to the fact that the sexual life of males and females is perceived in different ways.

Q: Do you think it's because of the ratio of women to men in the profession?

A: I guess so.

Q: Can the image of a prostitute be changed to be more accepted by the public?

A: We have to stop using the word "prostitute" first—time to change it for a more humane one. Look, we talked about the word always being used with a negative connotation, which it acquired through the years.

When you change the world, this is the moment when a part of the negativity will be taken away, and the image will be changed for the better.

You can sell everything now. Depends on how you market it.

And if you market prostitution as a service, which it is, then you would get an entirely different and better result.

(here comes the part where we talk about the profession as a service and compare it to different professions)

Q: Do you think being a prostitute affects a human being in any way? (trauma, stress, suicide, further problems in life)

A: Each profession has an effect on a human being.

In this case, venereal diseases pose the biggest threat. Also, the conditions in which a person works.

But, people who are in this profession for survival have no time to worry about that.

As for psychological effects, if a person enters a profession by their own will, everything might be fine. If a person is forced to work by a relative, this will bring only difficulties and psychological problems.

Technical questions

Q: Do you believe prostitution is handled correctly right now? (What about current laws preventing access to regular medical check-ups? Possibility to report abuse etc.)

A: Prostitution is condemned and is currently in the underground state. The government does not help prostitutes and does not support them. You can get help from the police or a medical check-up as a prostitute, only if you pay them.

Otherwise, they will tell you that it's your own fault for working in this profession. This profession is serviced by the private medical sector, without unnecessary questions.

Q: Does that mean that you think we need changes to the legal model?

A: Unequivocally. The new model can change the attitude. There will be less violence towards workers and more rights to the worker. Social protection. Right now, they have none

Q: What should be done before those changes can be implemented if anything should be done at all? (e.g., law enforcement, social sector, medicine)

A: The medicine is ready, I think. The majority of the doctors who work in a government hospital also work in private ones. They know the drill. And, the human being comes to the hospital in the first place, not a prostitute.

Organizationally, our police and healthcare are ready. The moral question is the [problem. People just do not like prostitutes—mostly adults, not the younger generation.

People born in 2000 already do not have the same boundaries; they are more tolerant.

Q: You want prostitution to be legalized, as I understand. But if the government would just prohibit it and make it completely illegal, would you react in any way?

A: Criminalization just doesn't work and brings more demand to the market. Prices rise, and everything goes underground.

(here we talk about smuggling people out of the country and out customs not working properly)

I would open a volunteer center that would provide medical and psychological help to the workers. The most I can do. Because rallies and protests don't work. The helpless, then post on Twitter.

Q: Can the trial of the new legal model be performed in the region? This type of work is very prominent here due to the area having many resorts?

A: It would be reasonable. To do it in one city. The government would need to consider all the risks. But I believe that legalization would bring the most benefits to all in terms of money.

Q: Is sex tourism a positive or a negative phenomenon in the case of Ukraine?

A: It is bad for every country. It is already popular in Ukraine, and money doesn't make up for that. The image suffers. So, in time, girls and boys of the country are associated with prostitution. There is a saying that only Ukrainians got to Germany or Poland to work as prostitutes. But nobody speaks about people from Lithuania and Latvia who work there also.

It hurts all the people of our country, in the long run, and not only the prostitutes. It induces the primitive perception of the whole country. Difficult to turn that around. Look at Thailand or Vietnam. I don't want to see the same in Ukraine.

To regulate the sex-tourism, we need taxes for those tourists, so that sex would not be that cheap for them. They must pay different prices than citizens of Ukraine. The more you play, the more you value the thing you pay for.

Q: Do you think the church can have a say in the matter? (Why not? Why should it?)

A: The church in Ukraine is not about religion. Before entering the physical building, you pay for various attributes. If you are to show your faith. And the church does not pay any taxes. It doesn't contribute anything to the government treasury. What does it bring?

**That's right. It has no right to enter the discussion.
I hope, when prostitution is legalized, it will benefit the country more than the church.
The church will be against it. Because it will lose the battle for people's minds.
Difficult to
influence happier and more open people.**

Q: Describe how, in your opinion, prostitution should be handled in the dream scenario?

A: Legalization, but with all the rules and regulations are written in a decent manner. To not be abused and distorted. We need labor unions for the workers. We need social services to help the prostitutes. They must have their rights and responsibilities. And the huge part must be about regulating the clients. Their rights and responsibilities must be defined. The quality of clients must be improved.

A (female), 53, university lecturer

Q: For how long have you been living in Ukraine?

A: All my life.

Q: How many years is that?

A: 53.

Q: Tell me, has anything changed regarding prostitution since the USSR?

**A: I have lived in the USSR for 23 years. At that time, attitudes were strictly negative. And those opinions took many different forms. Today the times have changed, and there are talks about legalizing prostitution. But I, probably, would say that we do not need to legalize it. This is strictly my opinion.
Prostitution shouldn't be legal.**

Q: Can you please elaborate on why we shouldn't legalize it?

A: Right now, our girls often move abroad to work in this profession. Legalization can instigate such thinking. Maybe, there is a problem with the way they were brought up. I don't know. But I think prostitution should not be legalized.

Q: Are you afraid of the way it would impact our society and young people in particular?

A: Yes, I am afraid of that. Lots of things are allowed and available for young people. And we are very democratic about it.

Not all young people can think critically, and our society is not ready. Western society may be mature enough to not have such problems, but we are not yet there.

Q: Do you think that we need some kind of preparation, maybe?

A: I think we need to wait for at least one more generation to grow up with this thought.

If I am hesitant to fully accept prostitution, then my parents, for example, would not even think about it.

I can't imagine our life in a society where prostitution is legalized, to be honest.

Q: Describe your feelings when you encounter sex workers in the street if you encounter them at all.

A: I sometimes can see them in the evening or notice them while I am in a car. I look at them with interest. I am curious about how they are dressed, for example. But I do not feel disgusted or ashamed for them—nothing like that.

Q: Is there anything wrong with prostitution? (What?)

A: People say this is the most ancient profession. If society needs it, then it should exist, I guess. But, please, do not legalize it now in our country.

Q: We have spoken about it briefly. Is prostitution disapproved in Ukraine? Can you tell me about it again?

A: If we did a social poll, then 60 or 70 percent of people of my age would be against legalization, I think.

Younger generations would be more accepting of it, than our ""soviet"" generation. Difficult question. We need a poll.

For a long time, I have worked with students, and we had conversations, of which I was very fond of, about marriages and social education. There were different opinions. I can't say that young people are all for or against prostitution or civil marriages, for example.

Q: There is, in fact, disapproval of this profession. Does it also affect clients?

A: I can't tell you for sure. In my opinion, if a woman sees her body as a good and she chooses to sell it to the person who is ready to pay for it, then she shouldn't demand special treatment for herself. To disapprove of a person who pays for the available goods is the same as to disapprove the person who buys bread at the supermarket. This is a physiological need. Better to satisfy it with prostitution than if we would see a rise in sexual violence and rapes in the streets.

A woman is free to choose the way she earns money. But I am afraid that money isn't the only thing a woman needs from this profession. I think for a woman to be in this profession, it has to be her interest in this profession or the liking the polygamy involved.

Q: So, you say it's normal to work in prostitution, even if other jobs are available?

A: It's a personal choice. We are different from animals because we can choose.

Q: Is there, in your opinion, a difference in attitudes towards different types of prostitutes (e.g., high-class escort and street workers)

A: Everybody knows that even elite prostitutes - are prostitutes. There are all these types of them. In fact, they are all similar, just like goods in a supermarket of the same type, but with different quality and price tags.

Q: Can the image of a prostitute be changed without waiting for one generation to grow up?

A: In Ukraine, our society is not ready. But there is a place for a debate.

Q: Do you think prostitution implies that the prostitute is sexually exploited?

A: If a woman has a say in the matter, then this is not exploitation. If a woman does not have a choice, then she is a slave. Being a pimp in Ukraine is a criminal offense.

Q: Do you think being a prostitute affects a human being in any way? (trauma, stress, suicide, further problems in life)

A: I think that women are traumatized, and it is extremely difficult for them to return to a normal life after working as a prostitute.

Extensive work with a psychotherapist is required to lead a normal life. This "brand" is for the whole life.

Technical questions

Q: Do you believe prostitution is handled correctly right now? (What about current laws preventing access to regular medical check-ups? Possibility to report abuse etc.)

A: This question is being talked about from time to time if you watch the news and read the press.

Q: Can a prostitute get medical help or report a crime without covering up the fact that she is a prostitute?

A: I don't think so. People wouldn't act as they should with them. Maybe, even say that this is her fault because she is a prostitute.

Q: So, concerning these talks about prostitution. Do you think we need to change the legal status of prostitution?

A: You mean to legalize it?

Q: Legalize or prohibit.

A: I think we need to get back to this question. But I don't know what should be done exactly.

Q: What should be done before those changes can be implemented if anything should be done at all? (e.g., law enforcement, social sector, medicine)?

A: We need psychologists, social services, and healthcare to be brought in order. But this is not the most important question right now, and nobody will do it. We have a pandemic now—all eyes on it. So, naturally, prostitution became problem number 10 or so.

Q: You said that you don't want prostitution to be legalized. Suppose it was legalized. Will you react in any way?

A: I said that our society is not ready. If they legalize it, things will become more civil, I guess.

Q: But would you react in any way?

A: No, I won't care that much.

Q: Can the trial of the new legal model be performed in the region?

A: Naturally, Odessa being a big destination for tourism and having a port would make it the right decision. It would yield a result.

Q: Is sex tourism a positive or a negative phenomenon in the case of Ukraine?

A: It's horrible. I do not like it. Tourism must be conventional.

Q: Can you explain why?

A: You girls would be perceived as easily accessible. Maybe, I don't get something, but this is how I see it.

Q: Can prostitution be a gateway to human trafficking? Legalization brings benefits for the workers, but it increases the volume of this sphere.

A: I am not aware of it; I am sorry.

Q: Do you think the church can have a say in the matter? (Why not? Why should it?)

A: The church is separate from the government. Society must decide. The church will make a statement, but will the government listen?

Q: Describe how, in your opinion, prostitution should be handled in the dream scenario?

A: I want this question to be dealt with on a government level.

I think we are not ready for legalization. But legalization would bring security to women and other benefits. But I stress the fact that our society is not yet ready.

A (male), 29, anesthetist

Q: For how long have you been living in Ukraine?

A: Almost 30 years.

Q: Has the attitude to prostitution changed since you were young?

A: When I was, I knew nothing about prostitution. But since the time I found out what prostitution is, my personal attitude hasn't changed. It's neutral

Q: So, you don't experience any particular emotions if you meet them in the street?

A: I would say I lean toward negativity.

Q: Is there anything wrong with prostitution? (What?)

A: I think prostitution should not exist in principle; this is my opinion.

If we look at it from a medical standpoint, prostitution increases your risks severely. Looking at the countries that legalized prostitution, they had the question of prostitutes' medical care more or less resolved because their healthcare was not in complete ruin. We don't have that. That's why prostitution for us is a risk right now—the risk of the spread of diseases.

If we would speak about the benefits of prostitution, like access to the satisfaction of a basic need, then it's another deal. But I have no experience with that because I have lived with one woman because of half of my conscious life.

The immorality of prostitution - I dislike it.

Q: Do you think prostitution is disapproved of (stigmatized) in Ukraine?

A: I can only judge based on what I see and hear from people that surround me. The majority of them condemn prostitution.

Q: Does it affect clients also?

A: Yeah, mostly it's about clients. Why? I do not know. But, I think both sides are responsible—the rule of supply and demand.

Q: Is there, in your opinion, a difference in attitudes towards different types of prostitutes (e.g., high-class escort and street workers)

A: People speak more loosely about the girls of higher class. Based on their "cleanliness" and looks. Different images of them in the head.

Q: Can the image of a prostitute be changed to be more accepted by the public?

A: I hope. But this would lead to higher prices because prostitution being more normal. And their clients won't be glad about that.

Q: Let's forget about price for a moment. Can we change the way we think about women or men working in the profession? To accept them more, so to say.

A: I suppose there always will be two opposite points of view. Right now, in my surroundings, people are mostly negative about it.

Q: Should people have the right to do what they want with their bodies? (e.g., work as a prostitute when you have different options)

A: Yes. No one can prohibit you from doing what you decide to do, from biting your nail to suicide. The morality of your actions must be judged separately.

Q: Do you think prostitution implies that prostitutes are sexually exploited?

A: The fact of paying money brings ambiguity. When people just meet and have sex - we do not think about exploitation. But the fact that money is paid for this kind of intimate deed brings all the negativity.

Q: So, paying for sex when you feel like you need it can be viewed as exploitation?

A: Well, I wouldn't say so. It looks more like a service, but not quite. I don't know the correct explanation for it.

Technical questions

Q: Do you believe prostitution is handled correctly right now? (What about current laws preventing access to regular medical check-ups? Possibility to report abuse etc.)

A: Hard to say. Prostitution is not legal, so the prostitute would hand in herself when she comes to the police. And she would have to come as a private person to the hospital, but not state that she is a prostitute.

Q: Do we need to change the legal status of prostitution? Legalization of criminalization

A: We must decide while looking at the other countries and their experiences. But I think that we should just make it completely unattainable. Because this way, we can legalize everything; drugs, etc. I am all for prohibition.

Q: Is our police ready for tightening the grip on prostitution? Also, can we assist women (social services), who would, hypothetically, want to exit the profession after the total ban?

A: Looking at the things that happen from time to time, I can say that police and other parts of government are knowledgeable but do not do anything about it. Girls, that work in prostitution are psychologically traumatized, and, I think, they can speak to someone for social services.

Medical workers in hospitals cannot refuse to help you. It is illegal too. But the fact that you are working with a prostitute may be hard on some doctors.

Q: If prostitution was legalized, how would you react to it? Would you do something?

A: I can resent this decision while discussing it with someone in my kitchen. That's all.

It's a serious question. Religion is also a part of it.

I don't know.

I would resent it and make certain that my future children would stay away from it. People don't have a voice in our country, so protesting would not exactly work in this instance.

Q: Can the trial of the new legal model be performed in the region?

A: I am sure other countries performed trials, and there is enough information available about the results. We can look at that.

But I would be against any such kind of tests in our region or city.

Q: Even when testing the model, which would have to eradicate it as you wished?

A: I wouldn't be against such trials. But we don't need a model in this case - just orders to police and passing of laws. But that's a utopia.

But I would be against any tests of the model which legalizes prostitution.

Q: Is sex tourism a positive or a negative phenomenon in the case of Ukraine? Can it be useful for the country, or Ukraine shouldn't be associated with it more than it is today?

A: Sex-tourism is bad. The money stays in the pockets of the people involved.

But if prostitution was legal, then we could get taxes from it. But I can't tolerate the fact that we would fund a school, for example, with money from prostitution. Or any other application of that money. It is absurd.

Q: Why? It's just like any other tax. Funds are funds.

A: My thinking comes from the fact that I dislike prostitution.

Q: Can prostitution be a gateway to human trafficking?

A: Of course. It goes hand in hand. If the pimp supervises you and you owe him money, then it's already more like slavery, another kind of slavery. They sell access to women's and men's bodies.

Q: Do you think the church can have a say in the matter? (Why not? Why should it?)

A: The church should be separate. If any model to be adopted, I don't think the church can do anything in any of the cases—just the noise.

Q: Describe how, in your opinion, prostitution should be handled in the dream scenario?

A: Total prohibition and eradication. Prevent underground operation of brothels. Establish means to prevent people from entering prostitution and means to help exit the profession. But I do not know what result this method will yield.
