

Myths About Men Who Buy Sex

Myth 1 – Men who buy sex are lonely.

The Reality: The majority of men who buy sex have a wife or girlfriend, and they come from all walks of life and ethnic groups. They are often middle to upper class and college educated. Men who buy sex are regular people.

Myth 2 - Prostitution serves men's need for frequent sex.

The Reality: Men do not have insatiable physical needs beyond their control, and society should never tolerate prostitution under the false belief that men lack decision making and reason. Men buy sex for a variety of reasons – to obtain sex acts that their partner refused to perform, to avoid relationship commitments, to satisfy a sex addiction, or to act out scenes from pornography. Other reasons include the desire to take out their frustrations on someone, or as a result of peer pressure.

Myth 3 – Men who buy sex don't know they're harming women.

The Reality: Men who buy sex are the most frequently identified perpetrators of sexual assault and physical abuse against women in prostitution. Many reported witnessing physical and sexual violence against women in prostitution, and many acknowledged hurting the women from whom they had purchased sex. Almost half of the men interviewed admitted that prostitution causes psychological and physical damage to women.

Myth 4 – Men who buy sex are not criminals.

The Reality: Buying sex in Illinois is a felony for a second offense. Men who buy sex create the demand for an industry that must be met by traffickers who go out and find more young girls to bring into the sex trade. Men who buy sex are participating in and funding an industry that they know to be exploitative of women in prostitution.

End Demand Illinois is a campaign led by the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation. The campaign partners are Chicago Coalition for the Homeless; Cook County Sheriff's Women's Justice Programs; DePaul University College of Law's Schiller DuCanto and Fleck Family Law Center; Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Polaris Project; The Voices and Faces Project

To learn more, visit www.caase.org/endedemandillinois.org