

1. *Hola* I'm honored to have been invited to your conference on Trafficking in Human Beings. I'm the head of the THB unit in Stockholm.

*I guess* all of you in some way have been in contact with questions regarding THB or *actively are working on the issue*.

*I work* since **9** years back in a special unit with focus on combating THB and other crimes *revealed during or by the investigation*. I have worked with *investigations for 21 years*, and before that I have been in uniform for **15** years in Stockholm County Police. (I have worked as a police officer for over 35 years)

2. *Our police* work against human trafficking started in **2004** on behalf of the *government*. (Police Department *received 300 000 euros* which was *divided between* the *three largest cities* in Sweden, Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. Then, each police district had to find out how THB looked like in their district and how it best could be *combated*.)

3. We were pretty *naive* at first, thought we would save women from *their pimps*. We *soon realized* that this was an offense where either *suspects or victims* wanted to have anything to do with the police.

*Our unit* in Stockholm has now been working with this for *nearly 10 years* and we have *found working methods, an approach* that works quite well.

4. In *our Unit* we have *met* a lot of people *involved* in the “industry” *according* to trafficking, prostitutes, pimps and sexbuyers.

5. *In my lecture*

*I will talk about how our legislation look like,*

*How we work against human trafficking and street prostitution*

*How we see upon the victims and the customers,*

*How we work with other actors*

**6.** Trafficking in human beings for **sexual purposes** was a **phenomenon quite** unknown, to us in Sweden back in the **80`s and 90`s**.

**Today we estimate** that **400-600** women are trafficked to Sweden. **The victims** come from the **Baltic countries**, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Poland, and Russia but some also come from countries in Eastern Europe like Romania Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. We also have women from Nigeria in Sweden.

**Most of** the women **enter** Sweden **by car, buses or by one of the ferry** connections we have with different countries around the Baltic Sea. Also it's quite **cheap to fly** with some **low price airlines** know a days to Sweden.

**7. Swedish legislation** on Human Trafficking consists of various crimes. The most **serious offense** is....

**8.** Trafficking in Human Beings.

And it covers trafficking for the purpose of forced labour, sexual exploitation and organ trade. The legislation entered into force in 2002. Amendments were made in 2005 and 2010. Forced labour and organ trade is being handled by the Border police in our distric

**9.** It says here in the Act.....

***In yellow you can see the most imported in the legislation:***

***Exploitation of a person`s vulnerable situation***

***Takes control of the person***

***Be exploited for sexual purposes***

***The suspect will be sentenced to imprisonment for a period between 2 to 10 years***

*Even if such improper means not has been used, the trafficker will be sentenced for THB, if the victim is less than 18 years.*

*In It's difficult to get the suspect convicted of Human trafficking, they are more often convicted of a lesser offence which is.. **Procuring***

**10.** Anyone who *promotes or undue economic advantage* that a person has *temporary* sexual relations against payment.

For *procuring*: imprisonment up to 4 years.

For *aggravated procuring* to imprisonment for at least 2 years or up to 8 years.

**11.** The text in the legislation...

**12.** *Examples of procuring:*

*Transport, do the ad, threat, rent an apartment, earn money, provide like things like buying condoms.*

**13.** Today, Swedish *penal legislation* is not only directed against the traffickers and the pimps, but *also against the demand* for woman and children for *sexual exploitation, the buyers of sexual services.*

Since January 1th, 1999, Sweden has an offence that *prohibits the purchase of a sexual service.* This offence *is part of* the Swedish *strategy to prevent* and combat prostitution and trafficking.

Before the law came into force, traffickers and *pimps could easily* send the women out in *street prostitution* in order *to recruit sexbuyers themselves.* This was very handy and *efficient* for the traffickers and pimps.

First of all, we *do not separate prostitution from trafficking in human beings.* These *two phenomena* are closely connected to each other. *The link* between prostitution and trafficking is the *market – the buyers of sexual services.*

*Sex buyers are the most important link in the criminal chain* that makes trafficking in human beings *possible and profitable.* We usually say that sexbuyers *support serious organised crime with their money.* The sexbuyer is the first person in a *long chain* of criminal people.

**14.** -Attempt is illegal

- Helping someone else is illegal
- The payment can be other than money
- The law is gender-neutral

15. When the *law came it was questioned* in Sweden with a lot of fears about what *would happen* with the *prostitutes*. We will go into that, but first start looking at it from different *perspectives* and we will start with the *equality perspective*.

16. *Very few* of the women *are forced by violence before entering* Sweden and our prostitution market. We think that the girls often know what they are supposed to do, when leaving their home country. *But they don't know* how they will be *treated*, how *many customers* they need to take, that they can't *choose* their customers, when they can *return back* home, how much money they have to give to their pimps, that they are expected to give sex to their pimp's friends, that they *will be raped*, the list can get longer.

*Even If* they seek to prostitution themselves they are *not a free businesswoman*. Someone else will take care of their income, and tell them who to work with and when, what kind of services and so on.

17.

18. *When we* started all the *focus* was on the *victims and the pimps*. Why not on *the customers* – the root causes.

19. *Before the law* came into force, we were told that *prohibiting* men from buying sex, *should lead to much more violence* against women in prostitution.

We have looked in to that *especially*, but the *police* and the *social service* do *not report any increase of violence* regarding this issue.

Maybe because buyers want *as little attention* as possible and a buyer, who *violates a prostituted woman*, will face the risk that she can report him both for the violation and for buying sexual services. *Most men do not take that risk*.

Women in prostitution always risk facing violence. Either you have a Sex Purchase Act or not. If we can *reduce the amount of women in prostitution* we will *reduce acts of violence*, drug offences, *and money laundering, and other crimes*.

**20. One of the results** of the law is that we have very *little street prostitution* in Sweden today.

**21.** Between 1996 to 2008 the number of sexbuyers decreased.

**22.** Strong public support

**23.** As you can see strong support among young people

**24.** We get *most convictions* regarding sexbuyers *through confessions* and *evidence collected*, when we investigate THB and *procuring cases*.

*In court*, the sexbuyers have to tell how they got in touch with the woman and the pimp, what kind of sexual service was bought how much he *paid* for it etc.

*Most men plead guilty to avoid*, not only *a court trial*, but also the possibility that their partners or wives find out. *The get fines according to their income*.

(The oldest man arrested under the Law was 91 years old and the youngest 16 years old. The *average age* of the buyers was *44 years*, BRÅ)

In Sweden *people and especially the woman* are not aware of what kind of men seek a prostitute, that they represent all ages and all income classes.

They think the buyer is *a lonely, sexually unattractive man* with no other option for his sexuality” than to buy prostituted women. / *Handicap or odd person*

**25. The majority** are, or have been, married and they often have children, have a good income and social life. The most common buyers are men, who have or have had many sexual partners.

Some men *get angry* with us telling us that we are *destroying* their *marriage* or that it has *been some kind of misunderstanding*.

**KAST** is a project run in Stockholm, where sexbuyers can seek help and get counseling. KAST have, over the past 10 years received about 400 sexbuyers. The sexbuyers often say that they are sexaddicts and cannot control the behavior.

In Stockholm there is also the opportunity to seek help for sex addiction at one of our hospitals, 400 men has sought help at the hospital. So all together nearly 800 hundred men, have been in contact with KAST and the hospital.

26. Different kind of prostitution

27. Today, most of the victims are often ***sold over the Internet***. You can buy everything on the internet, houses, cars, food and sex.

However, we believe that the use of the Internet for the purpose of prostitution is a result of the rapid development of the internet, and not a consequence of the Swedish legislation.

***Recruiting buyers*** of these women is the ***weak point*** for traffickers and pimps, and we do a lot of surveillance on the Internet in order to find the women they sell.

28. ***Internet is an open source*** for anyone, and it is rather easy for the ***police*** to locate the women who are sold on the Internet.

If sex buyers can find these women also the police can do that. As long as the sex buyers can find the women, ***prostitution is not pushed underground***. The question is more about how much ***recourse we want to spend on finding it***.

29. Pricelist from one our cases.

30. We often have ***long surveillance periods*** with ***telephone tapings, camera surveillance and investigation times***. Our involved person often needs ***interpreter*** and we need to travel abroad to ***interrogate*** the woman.

31. Targeting the sexbuyer and the women. We can work in different ways, short ***surveillance or on longer basis***.

32.

33. Working with the sex purchase law, gives us tools to find traffickers and pimps.

34. We have also ***wire tapped severe criminal organisations*** and we ***especially*** notice how they look upon Sweden as ***a bad market for these activities***.

*They express frustration* over the *difficulties* to “set up shop” and attract customers.

They say they have to build up an organisation in order to run these businesses and *advertise* to inform buyers that they have *women for sale*. Not as easy some in street prostitution

To minimize the possibility of exposure, traffickers and pimps are forced to *operate in apartment brothels* in more than *one location and to change location regularly*. Thus the mode of operation is expensive and *requires* that the pimp *has local contacts*.

Prostituted women *must be escorted to the buyers* or meetings must be arranged with the buyers, to meet at a certain place, at a certain time. That means *fewer sexbuyers* and *less money* for the pimps, than if women had been in *street prostitution*.

**35.** When they speak *about running these activities* they *often plan* to do it in *other countries than Sweden*, where women can be *sent out in street prostitution* and where sexbuyers are not afraid of getting caught. *Criminals* are businessmen and calculate with profits, marketing factors, risks of getting caught etc.

The number of *women trafficked to Sweden* for prostitution purposes have *remained relatively stable*.

The reason that *we see no increase is probably because of the Sex Purchase Act* and the fact that *the Police have given priority to cases* regarding trafficking in human beings and procuring.

We think that our legislation against the *demand definitively is one of our best instruments in stop trafficking*

**36.** The unit in Stockholm is 26 persons

**37.** Thanks for your attention