

## Domestic Violence is Violence Against Women

“Prostitution is violence against women...”

### On June 20, 2013, the World Health Organization and the UN issued a report on violence against women:

About **one in three women worldwide experience sexual or physical violence** at least once in their lives, according to a World Health Organization report released Thursday.

Put together by the WHO in partnership with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the South African Medical Research Council, the report says **35 percent of women around the world are victims of sexual or physical violence**, and that assault at the hands of an intimate partner is by far the most common form of such violence. **In fact, a whopping 30 percent of women globally were found to be domestic violence victims.**

#### WHO report highlights violence against women as a ‘global health problem of epidemic proportions’

New clinical and policy guidelines launched to guide health sector response

**20 JUNE 2013 | GENEVA - Physical or sexual violence is a public health problem that affects more than one third of all women globally**, according to a new report released by WHO in partnership with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the South African Medical Research Council.

Is marriage and any other intimate partner relationship also ‘violence against women’? Would the appropriate response to all that ‘violence against women’ be to ban personal relationships and marriage?

Why does society want to eliminate all commercial sex to prevent violence against prostitutes, if not all or even most prostitutes are victims of violence in their work? And if they are victims violence, why are they precluded from the protection of the criminal justice system?

Even though the majority of women world wide are NOT victims of violence, would it help any of those who ARE victims to arrest, prosecute and punish the husbands or boyfriends of those who are not victims?

Why is arresting, prosecuting and punishing the non violent, non abusive clients, employers and associates of sex workers considered an appropriate response to whatever violence a prostitute may experience, rather than ensuring all sex workers have access to the criminal justice system ?