



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Reader

FROM: Demand Abolition, Hunt Alternatives Fund

DATE: July 2011

RE: Research report "Comparing Sex Buyers with Men Who Don't Buy Sex: '*You can have a good time with the servitude*' vs '*You're supporting a system of degradation*'"

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In order to expand the body of knowledge on the dynamics of the commercial sex industry, Hunt Alternatives Fund commissioned research on the behaviors, attitudes, and backgrounds of men who purchase sex in Boston, Massachusetts. We supported clinical psychologist and leading expert on prostitution and sex trafficking, Melissa Farley, PhD, founding director of Prostitution Research and Education, to build on her previous interviews with nearly 700 sex buyers in five countries.\* The Boston study breaks new ground, however, by directly comparing men who buy sex with men who do not while controlling for age, education level, and ethnicity. In-depth interviews and surveys of more than 200 men have yielded quantitative and qualitative data about men's perceptions toward women, in and outside of prostitution, while building a more complete picture of the negative effects of prostitution on those who are prostituted, on communities, and on the buyers themselves.

We hope that this report serves as a powerful tool that policymakers, criminal justice professionals, and practitioners – not only in Boston, but around the nation – can utilize in creating policies, programs, and public discourse around eliminating demand for commercial sex. While this research is significant to our efforts to abolish demand, the findings in this report do not necessarily represent the staff opinions or organizational positions of Hunt Alternatives Fund.

Demand Abolition supports the movement to end modern-day slavery by combating the demand for illegal commercial sex in the US. By conducting and disseminating research, educating policymakers, providing technical assistance to criminal justice professionals, and convening key stakeholders, Demand Abolition is catalyzing systemic social change that reflects the dignity of all people.

For questions regarding Demand Abolition or the commission of the research please contact program director Lina Nealon at 617.995.1915. For questions regarding the content or findings of the report please contact Prostitution Research and Education at 415.922.4555.