



JIMMY CARTER

August 10, 2015

Dear Amnesty Delegate,

As you surely know, human rights activists and organizations around the world, including The Elders, the King Center, Gloria Steinem, Peter and Jennifer Buffett, Equality Now, and the European Women's Lobby, are strongly opposed to the likely draft of Amnesty's policy advocating for global decriminalization of prostitution – not only sellers (which we support), but also buyers, pimps, and others benefitting financially from this portion of the sex industry.

It is not a human right of those with power and privilege to buy, for their own gratification, the bodies of those with financial, security, or emotional needs. The practice is inherently harmful; protecting (or expanding) that action legitimizes the sexual exploitation of a shocking number of vulnerable people, the large majority of whom are women and children.

We urge you to reject any proposal that does not hold buyers, pimps, and other exploiters accountable for the harm they are doing to the sellers (who should not be criminalized). Unfortunately, you have likely not been afforded the wealth of research that shows that sex trafficking expands at an accelerated rate in areas that do not restrict the buying. In addition to the data, listen to the voices of those who have been victimized by decriminalized and legalized prostitution.

*"There are more and more women now, and they drop their prices so that they'll make something at all. One woman here will even do it for a Big Mac."* --Prostituted woman on the state of the German sex trade after it was legalized

*"The sex industry destroys people who are already vulnerable, and the worst thing the New Zealand government ever did was making it legal."* --New Zealand prostitution survivor Michelle

Amnesty International is at a crossroad, with all of the world watching. Please ensure that the organization stays true to its mission of standing up for the world's most vulnerable people by opposing the systems of oppression that exploit them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.