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What characteristics or circumstances are needed to enable clients to be a help against sex trafficking?

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Abstract

Trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation has become one of the main concerns of the European Union. Particularly, Spain has several peculiarities, which lead to the country receiving particularly large numbers of women for prostitution, whether forced or voluntary: there is a large demand for sexual services, as it is one of the countries with the greatest prevalence of male demand for this type of service, and the offer is mainly supplied by foreign women, with very little presence of Spanish women; Spain is very important tourist destination, which annually receives a large number of visitors; owing to its geographic position, in the south of Europe, Spain has become one of the main entry points for the African population that want to enter Europe. Likewise, Spain is the EU country that receives most immigration from Latin America, with which it shares cultural and linguistic links. Men who pay for sexual services are usually the first who, almost certainly, enter into contact with the victims of sex trafficking, before NGOs or the police, and could play a key role in the detection and rescue of those women who do not offer their sexual services voluntarily. Therefore, the following question arises: Could they help to free women who are not practising prostitution voluntarily? What characteristics or circumstances are needed to enable clients to be a help against sex trafficking? These are the questions that guide this study, whose purpose is to explore the possibilities that clients of prostitution could be a help or a bridge to the rescue of victims.

Keywords: Clients of prostitution, prostitution, sex trafficking