



Her Excellency Femka Halsema
Mayor of Amsterdam
Herengracht 502
1017 CB Amsterdam

July 8, 2019

Dear Madam Mayor Halsema:

No city's wealth and prestige have ever increased by relocating and closing its most profitable businesses. The trickle-down effect of your proposals will have a lasting negative economic impact, not just on sex workers but also on other established commercial enterprises within the red-light districts. The bars, hotels, and restaurants, all of which contribute to the wealth of Amsterdam, will not be able to sustain profitability under your current proposals.

As a Dutch subject living abroad and survivor of human trafficking within Amsterdam, I keep abreast of political arguments which may negatively affect the difficult life of sex workers. Having read your four proposals, I would argue that little or no effort was made in gathering insight from sex workers and survivors of human trafficking.

Sex workers are not to blame for the barbarous atmosphere in De Wallen. To assume that their relocation would change the present conditions, and not merely change the location of the problem, is naive. The logic is the same as allowing people into a Rijksmuseum, where they are free to damage the art. Then instead of protecting our national treasures through legal enforcement, the government has the museum relocated.

On behalf of my organisation, Twentyfour-Seven, an anti-trafficking human rights organisation, I would like to propose to the government of Amsterdam, the establishment of new ordinances specific to the red-light districts – A Code of Conduct for visitors in the area.

Once developed, the code of conduct will force reasonable and civilised behaviours from tourists and locals alike. The dignity of sex workers can be maintained through the code's enforcement. Its establishment would ensure the economic integrity of local businesses and the human dignity of sex workers. This proposal, although simple in nature, preserves one of our most historic districts, and also ensures better working conditions for sex workers, as well as unimpeded commerce and a continuation of tourism in our city.

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The enforcement of the code of conduct would be executed by local police, who would levy fines on those not adhering to the behavioural requirements. Fines of greater than 50 euros but less than 100 euros would restore civility, reduce crime, and protect sex workers.

I submit to you the following ordinances for their establishment within the red-light districts of
Amsterdam:

1. A dress code for those visiting the red-light districts.
 - A. A restriction on costumes like bananas, sex dolls, sex worker, etc.
 - B. A ban of graphic T-shirts that are offensive in nature or without sleeves.
2. Consideration of a code of behaviour. The following should be deemed unacceptable behaviour:
 - A. Mocking sex workers.
 - B. Exposing one's genitals.
 - C. Banging on windows.
 - D. Obscene gestures.
 - E. Spitting.
3. Prejudice against loud and unruly behaviour.
 - A. Pushing, shoving, shouting and screaming.
 - B. Any conduct determined to disturb the peace of the district.
4. Restriction on the congregation of five or more persons, Unless engaged in an official educational tours.
5. A 'No Loitering' zone outside the windows of sex workers to prevent intimidation and humiliation.
6. A ban on vomiting and public drunkenness to avoid nuisances.
7. A ban on photographing sex workers without consent. These actions objectify the worker.
8. A ban on any other behaviour deemed by an officer of the law to be skylarking.
9. More vigorous enforcement of already established ordinances such as littering, urinating, and defecating.

The red-light districts are exclusive areas within Amsterdam. The exclusivity should be a privilege enjoyed by the Dutch and shared with the rest of the world. Our inability to regulate the preservation of these special areas, by not enforcing a respectable atmosphere, is hurting our city and our international standing. If the location is treated much like an exclusive club, the expected conduct will follow.

Proceeds from this endeavour can be used as additional funding for the police, thereby providing

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more protection from the red-light district's increased crimes. The proceeds could also be used as a war chest in the fight against human trafficking.

I trust that this letter helps outline the nature of the problem the Amsterdam government has failed to identify, thereby helping you protect the culture and assets of our community. Should you require further information or clarification on the proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ms. Tsvetelina Thompson
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