Irina Oleksiyenko Prostitution and Vice Spring Semester Research Paper April 21, 2014

## **Prostitutes in Ukraine**

I was born and raised in one of the poorest country, which it is at Ukraine. I moved to America when I was only seven year old. Fortunately, I knew what sex means when I was only four to five years old so that I protected myself before I sold myself to anyone. People were very open-minded at that time and then my classmates taught me about how sex worked by explaining it to me because they learned from their single parents. Now, I realized that prostitution is one of the biggest issues in this world. Prostitution existed because people who are seeking to make big money faster than to wait for job interviews when they really need money to support themselves or their kids. When I first learned about prostitution, I was in the shock about how much prostitution are out there. Every country and gang have their own systems about how they want to run their own prostitution for different reasons. To define prostitution, Merriam-Webster quoted, "the act of having sex in exchange for money." So, the big reason to be prostituted is all about money.

Prostitution in Ukraine is very illegal, but the system of government is not that wonderful enough to discipline polices out on the streets. Polices are always accepting the bribes to set troublemaker to run away freely. Polices' wage are very low so they are looking for extra money by capturing the people and then accept the bribes to set them free. Sometimes polices would even looking for the pleasures by

taking women in to have sex with them and pay them off during when they are on their duties. President of Ukraine is not doing a very good job also because he keeps the most of money to himself and gives only small percentage back to the community. Therefore, prostitution has been continuing increase and increase. The whole point of prostitution is that women are just trying to survive by having sex with anyone who can afford them to earn money to pay their bills and rents.

Ukraine becomes one of the favorite destinations for sex tourism. So, women have been going on the streets most of time looking for foreigners because they would be able to pay high to have sex as their exchange. Unfortunately, this makes Ukraine to be on the top of lists from Europe who have HID/AIDS. Ukraine has 1.6 percent of its population who are infected with the diseases. Meanwhile, in Germany, they only have 0.1 percent of Germany's population. In the city of Odessa, 150,000 people are already infected with HIV/AIDS. And, people still do not care that much about their own diseases. They can easily just go out for a walk or just go to bar hopping until they find their men to go home with and to enjoy the night until they earn their money as they asked. Of course, some of women have been used without any paid.

Many women are too frustrated because they do not want to be the prostitutes because they do want to have real jobs like men do. However, Ukrainian men do not see women in this way. Inna Shevchenko stated, "this is a country where the government is not saying and not thinking and not doing anything for women...this is country of man and for man. We are beautiful, we are smart, and we can do many things. We are intelligent and we want to work, but we don't have

possibilities here because nobody in this country explains to Ukrainian women that they can get a good education for free." The salaries for men and women are big different. Men get paid higher than women. To be teachers, they only earn two hundred dollars per month, or they can earn two hundreds per night as prostitute. Therefore, many women choose to be prostitute because it is only job they can earn higher than men. Overall, men do not treat women equally. Women suffer for so many reasons.

In addition, several facts about Ukrainian sex industry are sad to even think about it. Women thought men are buying them to have some pleasures. The real perspective of men is that they think they are purchasing a human being, not sex. The result also has proven that 39% of sex workers do not use condoms regularly just because their clients pressured women to allow men to have sex without condoms. And, 22% of them are the drug users. Once women turn into prostitution, it is going to be hard for her to have a good reputation if she ever wants to get out of it in the future. One of the stories that have been told that when boyfriend found out that his girlfriend used to be a prostitute, he decided to pass her on to his friends and to have gang-rape her. He did this just to destroy her reputation even when she moved to different town to have a new chapter in her life. Men would never allow women to be freed. So, women start to become more careless about themselves and allow men to do whatever they wish to do with their bodies.

Lastly, the women found one of the organization called Femen, which it invents the women rights. The mission is to fight against sex tourism and prostitution. "We wanted to cure foreigners' sex addiction," quoted by Anna Hutsol

who leaded Femen. Ukraine has about 12,000 prostitutes who declared, but to imagine how many more are out there who haven't been caught. The result has shown that high school and college students are prostitutes more than people who aren't in school anymore. In the city of Kiev, there are about 60 percent of the prostitutes who are the college students. They are doing this just because students are unemployed, or even with low incomes, and costs of living are too expensive. Thousands of them have losing jobs, but food and clothing prices are ridiculously high than what they can afford.

Conclusively, most of percentages of women who are prostitutes are having no choice, but to survive. They know the conclusions that they would get different kind of diseases and that they would risk themselves to death. They made this choice just so that they can live longer as much as they can to enjoy the life and to see if there is the way of succeeded when they find the better jobs. They can only to hope everyday for a better day. When they do not have a better day, they would just cry to themselves every night. Drug users and alcoholic percentages are increased because women do not want to feel their emotions end of the day. They just simply want to be gone for the day to make some money and come back to home to be able to eat and pay bills.

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