



# IFE-EFI STATEMENT

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Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI

April 2016

## FRANCE ADOPTS THE NORDIC MODEL TO END THE SYSTEM OF PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

### A DAY OF VICTORY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS



1960: France ratified the United Nations Convention Against Trafficking of Human beings and Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others and adopted as such abolitionist position.

2016: The country adopts a progressive law to end the system of prostitution which decriminalizes women in prostitution and penalizes the purchase of a “sexual acts”. Purchase of sexual acts has been for centuries a direct contribution to pimping, organized crime and trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation.

France is now the 5th country in the world to adopt a genuine abolitionist policy, following the model of the Nordic countries.

The new law directly addresses one of the most extreme forms of violence against women and is a major step towards achieving gender equality since men are the huge majority of those who buy sex, and women and girls - those whose bodies are being sold.

It includes measures of protection and assistance to prostituted persons, access to financial compensation for victims of prostitution and trafficking, access to social services, to help exit the system and temporary residency permits for foreign victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

**This law is a historic achievement and a sounding victory of the global movement for women's human rights and gender equality.**

**Euromed Feminist IFE-EFI support to the law is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We consider that this step is a major victory for the achievement of the fundamental right to human dignity, as part of our action to end all forms of subordination and oppression.**

**IFE-EFI supports and acts for the adoption of this legislation in the whole Euro-Med region and in the world.**

Paris, 6th of April 2016

*Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI advocates for gender equality and women's universal human rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship, for political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of peoples to self-determination.*

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