

## **“Make the final stroke! - No women's slavery in Germany”**

### **Aid and human rights organization SOLWODI launches campaign for a Europe without prostitution.**

Just before the general election and the coalition negotiations take place the aid and human rights organization SOLWODI launches a broad campaign under the slogan “Make the final stroke! - No women's slavery in Germany”. The aim: Improving the situation of women in Germany for the long term.

“How could develop social equality when boys and girls, men and women learn from an early age that you can buy sexuality – and that usually means women – like fast-food?” Sister Lea Ackermann, the founder of the association SOLWODI Germany, asks. “Prostitution prevents gender equality, supports trafficking in human beings and affects the woman’s dignity and fundamental human rights.”

Whereas everything should become better in Germany – with the social democrats’ and the green’s common Prostitution Act in 2002: Prostitution should become an occupation just like any other. And the women in prostitution: they should get health- and social pension insurance, they should become secured and acknowledged. But that plan did not work at all: Most of the women in prostitution still do not have any security from an employment contract or safeguarding for the old-age. They work under high pressure or compulsion, they drink alcohol or take drugs whilst fulfilling their tasks. A lot of the women suffer under posttraumatic stress disorders, similar to those of torture victims.

Therefore SOLWODI and the action “Make the final stroke!” call for the prohibition of the purchasing of sexual services in Germany, like it is already realized in Sweden and other countries. That would shift the general point of view away from the woman in prostitution and towards the man who buys the goods woman.

“Everywhere in Europe, at first in Sweden, then also in Norway, in Ireland and in France, it has been recognized that it brings a lot more disadvantages to the women than it brings advantages to them if prostitution is legalized.”, thus Monika Hartenfels, managing director of the association SOLWODI Germany. “As Germany stands quite alone with its liberal Prostitution Act there has developed a constantly increasing Sex-Tourism in our so generous country. Germany – the brothel of Europe? Do we want that image? No! SOLWODI request the government to join the great movement for a Europe without prostitution.”

With that campaign SOLWODI wants to collect as many signatures as possible to hand them over to the government, to set politics under pressure and to force the politicians to act.

And there is definitely a necessity to act: Indeed the “Act on combating human trafficking and on surveillance of prostitution places” has been railroaded through parliament just ahead of the summer break. So delayed it fulfilled the long overdue realization of the directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and the Council from the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011 on prevention and combating of human trafficking and on protection of his victims. But it is questionable if the Federal Council of Germany will approve that law in his upcoming conference on the 20<sup>th</sup> September: The concerned committees of the German Parliament have already recommended the Council to produce a new bill for a fundamental reform of legal prostitution as well as for an effective combating of human trafficking and enforced prostitution (see Bundestag-Drucksache 641/1/13 vom 10.09.2013). After the committees the bill which had been formulated before the summer break had to be revised essentially as it did not cope with its aim to curb human trafficking – it merely represented a “minimal solution”.

Hence the issue of human trafficking will bother the new government in the upcoming legislative period too. With the new campaign SOLWODI wants to take part in this discussion. The signatures are supposed to show what the people in Germany want. If you want to support the campaign “Make the final stroke” as well, there are two ways:

Ask for our flyers with the lists of signatures in the internet, collect signatures with those flyers and send them back to us. Or sign electronically on: [change.org: https://www.change.org/de/Petitionen/an-die-](https://www.change.org/de/Petitionen/an-die-)

[bundesregierung-von-deutschland-der-kauf-sexueller-dienstleistungen-in-deutschland-muss-gesetzlich-verboden-werden](#)

The aid and human rights organization SOLWODI helps women and girls who have become victims of human trafficking with the end of sexual exploitation, victims of enforced prostitution and those who are threatened by forced marriage and honour killing.