

4.9.2013

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| Name of the publication | Abuse of a victim of prostitution: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the sex purchase ban | | |
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| Publication of the Ministry of Justice | 39/2013 Reports and guidelines | | |
| OSKARI number | OM 3/014/2013 | | |
| ISSN-L | 1798-7059 | | |
| ISSN (bound) | 1798-7059 | ISSN (PDF) | 1798-7067 |
| ISBN (bound) | 978-952-259-311-5 | ISBN (PDF) | 978-952-259-312-2 |
| URN | URN:ISBN:978-952-259-312-2 | | |
| Permanent URL | http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-259-312-2 | | |
| Keywords | sexual offences, Criminal Code | | |
| Abstract | <p>The report explores the effectiveness of the offence 'abuse of a victim of prostitution' (Criminal Code, chapter 20 section 8). Enacted in 2006, this provision prohibits the purchasing of sex from a victim of human trafficking or procuring. It is complemented by section 7 of the Public Order Act, which prohibits the purchasing and the offering for sale and selling of sex in a public place.</p> <p>The report also explores the situation in the UK and Sweden. Sweden has had a comprehensive sex purchase ban in place since 1999. Information on the situation in Sweden is available in a report published in 2010 and the annual reports of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings. The relevant legislation in the UK as reformed in 2009 closely resembles the Finnish corresponding legislation. Because no study of the effectiveness of the British legislation has yet been conducted, interviews were conducted to gain a better picture.</p> <p>The situation in Finland was explored through statistics and register data, interviews with 24 experts and a review of court documents. Statistics show that between 2006 and 2013, a total of 379 cases of 'abuse of a victim of prostitution' were reported to the police. Charges were brought against 49 persons and tried. The district courts have sentenced 42 persons for 'abuse of a victim of prostitution' or an attempt thereof. The default fine has been established at 20 day-fines.</p> <p>Fines for purchasing and selling sex, pursuant to the Public Order Act, were imposed in 106 cases between 2003 and 2011. Most of these fines were imposed on the sellers.</p> <p>Investigating and proving 'abuse of a victim of prostitution' has turned out to be</p> | | |



challenging.

The report concludes with recommendations.