

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910452887203321
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Titolo	Prostitution and Victorian social reform // Paul McHugh
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : Routledge, , 2013
ISBN	0-203-10404-8 0-415-62360-X 1-136-24776-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (306 p.)
Collana	Routledge Library Editions: Women's History ; ; Volume 26
Disciplina	306.7/4/0942
Soggetti	Prostitution - England - History - 19th century Sexually transmitted diseases - England - History - 19th century Sexually transmitted diseases - Law and legislation - England - History - 19th century Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	First published in 1980.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preface 1. Introduction 2. Regulating Prostitution 3. The Attack on the Acts Launched 4. Defeat and Regrouping 5. The Repeal Campaign in Action - Organisation and Methods 6. The Role of Women in the Repeal Movement 7. Religion and the Repeal Campaign 8. The Liberal Strategy 9. Political Connections and Alliances in the Repeal Campaign 10. Conclusion. Appendices
Sommario/riassunto	In the mid-19th century many parts of England and Wales were still subjected to a system of regulated prostitution which, by identifying and detaining for treatment infected prostitutes, aimed to protect members of the armed forces (94 per cent of whom were forbidden to marry) from venereal diseases.