

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910969225203321
Titolo	International approaches to prostitution : law and policy in Europe and Asia // Edited by Geetanjali Gangoli and Nicole Westmarland
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bristol, : Policy Press, 2006
ISBN	1-4473-0261-3 1-281-15975-1 9786611159757 1-84742-158-X
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (vii, 214 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
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Disciplina	363.4/4094
Soggetti	Prostitution - Government policy - Europe Prostitution - Government policy - Asia Prostitution - Europe Prostitution - Asia
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 14 Jan 2022).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; INTERNATIONAL APPROACHES TO PROSTITUTION - Law and policy in Europe and Asia; Contents; List of tables and boxes; Notes on contributors; ONE - Introduction: approaches to prostitution; Situated knowledges - our approaches to prostitution; The structure of this book; Why these countries?; The impact of political structures; The status of women; Legal structures in relation to prostitution; Debates around decriminalisation and legalisation; The chapters that follow; Part One - Europe TWO - From the personal to the political:shifting perspectives on street prostitution in England and WalesTHREE - Prostitution in France; FOUR - Prostitution in Sweden: debates and policies 1980-2004; FIVE - The Republic of Moldova: prostitution and trafficking in women; Part Two - Asia; SIX - Prostitution in India: laws, debates and responses; SEVEN - Good women, bad women:prostitution in Pakistan; EIGHT - Selling bodies/selling pleasure: the social organisation of sex work in Taiwan; NINE - Prostitution in Thailand:perceptions and realities; Index

What is to be done about prostitution? Is it work or is it violence? Are women involved in prostitution offenders or victims? Is prostitution a private or a political issue? The answers to these questions vary depending on many factors, including where in the world you live. This book provides a valuable, detailed international comparison of the laws, policies and interventions in eight countries across Europe (England and Wales, France, Sweden and Moldova) and Asia (India, Pakistan, Thailand and Taiwan). The countries were chosen because of their contrasting social policy and legislative frameworks. Specific topics covered include national social and historical contexts in relation to prostitution; legal frameworks - with discussion of existing laws and policies and debates around legislation and decriminalisation; key issues faced - particularly relating to reasons for entering prostitution and analysis of policies and interventions. The case studies are brought to life by giving voice to the experiences of women involved in prostitution themselves together with the personal reflections of the authors. Aimed at a wide audience of students, academics, policy makers and practitioners, this book makes an important contribution to academic and policy debates in the fields of criminology, law, social policy, women's studies, sociology, politics and international relations.

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