

## The Sex Trafficking Demand Reduction Act (HR 9043)

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Research consistently shows that **demand for paid sex—created by male buyers—is the primary driver of sex trafficking.** Traffickers exploit marginalized individuals, primarily women and girls, to profit from this demand. The Trafficking in Persons Report is a powerful tool to spur global action, but it fails to address the root cause: demand. As sex trafficking increases worldwide, the **Sex Trafficking Demand Reduction Act** has the potential to turn the tide.

**No buyers, no business. End sex trafficking around the world.**

### 1 WHY DOES THIS LEGISLATION MATTER?

In this national moment of reckoning, when the country is confronting the reality of how Jeffrey Epstein trafficked women and girls to powerful men who treated them as commodities, it is not the time to normalize the purchase of vulnerable people for sex. The lessons emerging from these revelations are clear; exploitation thrives when those with power and resources are shielded from accountability.

### 2 HOW DOES THIS LEGISLATION WORK?

This legislation amends the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to ensure that the State Department's Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Reports consider whether the government of a country has made serious and sustained efforts to:

- **Prohibit the purchase of commercial sex acts or implement a policy** against the purchase of commercial sex acts.
- **Educate buyers of commercial sex** on how traffickers exploit prostituted persons for human trafficking.
- **Reduce demand for participation** in international sex tourism by nationals of the country.

### 3 WHEN BUYING SEX IS NORMALIZED:



- Germany, which legalized prostitution, has become the red light district of Europe, where 1.5 million men purchase sex a day.<sup>1</sup>
- Bundestag President Julia Klöckner and other German leaders, including the Health Minister, Nina Warken, are sounding the alarm about how legalization has “caused the [prostitution/sex trafficking] market to explode in Germany.”<sup>2</sup>

**An analysis of data from 150 countries found that nations where the buying and selling of sex is legalized reported higher inflows of human trafficking than in countries where it was partially or fully prohibited.<sup>3</sup>**

### 4 THE EFFECT OF FOCUSING ON DEMAND:



- Following Sweden’s 1999 criminalization of sex purchases, the estimated number of women in prostitution fell 80%, from approximately 3,000 to 600 by 2008. Meanwhile, neighboring Denmark, which did not criminalize sex buying and had only 60% of Sweden’s population, had an estimated 5,500–7,800 women in prostitution that year.<sup>4</sup>
- In France, the number of criminal investigations related to pimping and trafficking increased by 54% in the first three years of criminalizing sex buyers.<sup>5</sup>

“As survivors, we know firsthand that trafficking does not begin with a trafficker; it begins with a buyer. Every victim exploited, every child sold, and every life forever altered can be traced back to a marketplace sustained by demand. By holding nations accountable for reducing demand, this legislation elevates survivor-informed solutions and brings us one step closer to a future where no person is treated as a commodity.” - Marjorie Saylor, Survivor Leader

#### Questions? Contact:

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1. <https://exoduscry.com/demand/>

2. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-mulls-ban-on-buying-sex-to-fight-exploitation/a-74673114>

3. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2012.05.023>

4. [https://ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ecpat\\_journal\\_jan\\_2013.pdf](https://ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ecpat_journal_jan_2013.pdf)

5. [www.causette.fr/societe/en-france/isabelle-lonvis-rome-je-souhaite-porter-une-nouvelle-strategie-nationale-de-lutte-contre-la-prostitution-a-la-rentree](http://www.causette.fr/societe/en-france/isabelle-lonvis-rome-je-souhaite-porter-une-nouvelle-strategie-nationale-de-lutte-contre-la-prostitution-a-la-rentree)