We are living in a culture that either believes a certain type of woman wants to be a prostitute or a certain type of woman believes in being a prostitute and that they enjoy it.....we regard these women with low morals, values and a menace to society to the point were we would argue they should have the right to sell their bodies.

Prostitution exposes women to worst forms of abuse...How do I know this? I know this because for the last 10 years I have been granted access into the lives of now former prostitutes. Their lives that were once full of paid rape, treated like objects, filled with abuse, dignity destroyed, beaten up and sometimes killed, they once had no choice. In short human rights abuse is rife in prostitution. Drugs and alcohol are used as a push factor to create debt bondage keeping women in prostitution. Threats to their families and themselves.

Angel attributes her entry into prostitution from childhood abuse, she was raped 7 times by her father, she ran away, couldn't find employment, living on the streets, met a pimp, she started prostituting herself serving up to 12 clients a day, high on drugs, severe Stockholm syndrome, she could not believe that someone out there would want to offer hope to an abused, broken mess....

Once you've examined the true nature of prostitution, you cannot in good conscience call it work. The term “sex work” becomes problematic. The women we have journeyed with told of being defecated on, spat at, sworn at, slapped, strangled during sex and made to do demeaning things. Those women who have since left prostitution describe it as damaging, dehumanising, degrading and soul-destroying. The journey of shame is an ever journey.

Is this work? Should we give women the legal right to experience this abuse?

I have never met one happy prostitute. There were women who presented themselves as okay, but that they were only just coping with their lives.

They are not happy. Angry? Yes. Defensive? Almost always. Sometimes bitter, always hardened, these women are surviving, in a physical sense, at least.

What is the output? I believe it starts in our homes, schools, communities, churches and more....

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Education of Children and Teenagers on Cultivating Healthy Sexual Behaviour.

Children and teens are becoming greater sexual targets—reports have shown that child/teen is one of the most popular pornographic search terms online. “After an analysis of 400 million web searches from July 2009 to July 2010, neuroscientists concluded that the most popular category of sexual searches online—by a very wide margin—is “youth.” Teen porn, “barely legal,” “jailbait,” “sweeties,” “Lolitas.” This is one of the major trends of modern pornography and in media in general: accentuating youth, even childlikeness, as sexy.” (Stop the Demand: The Role of Porn in Sex Trafficking- Covenant Eyes, pg9). Children from a young age need to be made aware on what healthy sexual behaviour is and when it is appropriate. Thirteen years of age is too late to be educating children on healthy sexual behaviours.

If prostitution were to be decriminalised- there would need to be drastic education for children on this topic, for example; what a “safe” scenario of prostitution is, and what an “unsafe” scenario of prostitution is. The Decriminalisation of prostitution promotes a mindset that it is acceptable for a child to aspire to become a “sex worker” as this requires no level of education, appeals to the vulnerable and needy as an “easier” means to make money by simply selling their body for sex. If this is the case, what is to stop children/teenagers from aspiring to become a “sex worker” once at the legal age to enter the “sex working” industry? We will be cultivating a culture where children will aspire to sell their bodies for sex rather than aspire to go to school, finish school, get a tertiary education and find decent work. What kind of legacy do we want to create in our diverse nation? A legacy of children dreaming to be doctors, scientists, teachers, lawyers,, police women/men, fire fighters, artists, programmers, analysts, handymen, crafters, nurses, farmers, security guards, entrepreneurs, innovators etc. or one that simply says that “sex work” is decent work- why study long hours, work hard at school, work hard in a job when one can simply be paid for sex? What procedures will be put in place to protect children from sexual grooming for “sex work” by traffickers, recruiters or predators? Data released from Pornhub shows that South Africa’s top categories searched on the website is: “Ebony, Teen, Lesbian” (Pornhub, 2016 Year In Review).

What measures are being put in place to educate children on healthy sexual behaviours? If “Teen” is the 2nd most common searched category on one of the most popular porn sites in the world, which streamed nearly 92 Billion videos in 2016, with South Africa being 20th on the list of countries to most view porn. Who is protecting our South African children from becoming targets for the sex industry? Effective measures that need to be put in place to educate children on healthy sexual behaviours are: to invest in effective interventions for children (Protective Behaviours trainings, which are
workshops hosted by Hope for Women that helps children learn to identify what a safe situation is and an unsafe situation, and who can they go to for help when they feel unsafe); interventions that will help prevent the creation of more victims of sexual abuse and perpetrators, prevention strategies need to cover every form of sexual violence: online violence; sexual violence between peers and within relationships of decency etc.

If we want to see a change in attitude and a shift in culture with regards to cultivating a healthy sexual society it must be compulsory for all schools to welcome in equipped organizations or practitioners to educate on healthy sexual behaviours and the sex industry. Fierce Hearts is a department of the Hope Risen Foundation (formally known as Hope For Women) who will be running workshops which equip and educate in various areas, such being: what prostitution is; what human/sex trafficking is; what sexual abuse is; what pornography is and why it is harmful etc. A better future starts with shaping a young generation to truly understand what it means to respect and love another human being.

Output: Compulsory for schools to educate on healthy sexual behaviour (this needs to be an ongoing discussion in schools and not just a once off presentation)