

In a landmark decision Tuesday, August 11, 2015 Amnesty International, the leading human rights organization in the world, voted to recommend the full decriminalization of sex work and prostitution in order to protect the human rights of sex workers.

In light of this decision, ICASA reaffirms our belief that the decriminalization of prostitution assumes that it is a victimless crime and denies the overwhelming reality that acts of prostitution are but one aspect of a multi-billion dollar a year sex trade industry that is based on the marginalization and exploitation of others, predominantly women and children. By nature, each act of prostitution is an act of sexual violence against women and children and a violation of human rights.

While we agree that more must be done to protect those bought and sold in the sex trade industry, it's equally critical to hold accountable johns, pimps, brothel owners, and others who perpetuate in this predatory, harmful industry. With the recent decision, Amnesty International has chosen to defend the rights of those who marginalize, exploit and degrade women and children over those who are victimized.

As victim-centered rape victim advocates, it is essential that we speak out against any efforts that promote sexual violence and fail to hold perpetrators of each and every act of sexual violence accountable.

- [Click here](#) and log in to ICASA member services to read ICASA's Policy on Prostitution and Sex Trafficking
- To read more about Amnesty International's decision, [click here](#)
- To Speak Out against Amnesty International's decision to decriminalize prostitution, [click here](#).