God Complex Radio: I Heart Sex Workers
http://godcomplexradio.com/2013/04/lia-scholl-i-heart-sex-workers/

Guest:
● Author of the new book *I Heart Sex Workers*, Lia Scholl has been involved in ministering to sex workers for many years. She is also a pastor of a congregation.

Suggested learners:
● Adults, especially those interested in social justice and human rights

Outline of interview:
● Why sex worker? Connotations of prostitute. There is a respectability to “worker”
● Not necessarily an issue of masculine oppression of the feminine, but simply a narrative of real people having real struggles
● Humanizing consumers of sex; sex does not mean bad: *bad* means bad
   ○ Misassociation of sex consumption with violence against women
● Continuum of sex trade: it’s not cut-and-dried; there is a spectrum
● Respect for the humanity of sex workers; sex work is their livelihood; may be breadwinners
● Do not have to be pro-trafficker to be pro-sex worker
● Definition of agency: ability to make the decisions affecting one’s own future
   ○ Triangle of agency: coercion, choice, circumstance
      ■ every sex worker is somewhere on this triangle, depending on how much agency she has
● Possible remedy in less-than-attractive situation is to increase agency; if woman is a sex worker by choice, agency will only improve her situation. If she’s not, agency allows a woman to improve her status as *she* sees fit
● “You’re a good person or you’re a bad person based on what your sexuality is”: without doing away with this attitude, we can never be truly affirming and accepting of people
● Harm reduction is a philosophy of service based on acceptance regardless of situation; there is no judgement or assumption of superiority; goal is helping individuals achieve their own goals, regardless of what those goals may be
   ○ incremental steps allow steady goal achievement; driven by those who are going to make the change rather than those who think a change should be made

Additional reflection questions:
1. Scholl discusses her opinion of those who “consume” sex. What do you think? Do you
agree with her take?

2. Scholl references a continuum of sex trade. How does going out on a date and feeling that there is a debt to be paid to one’s partner compare to the traditional conception of a sex trade?

3. Where should associations like IJM draw the line on their sting operations? Is it appropriate only to remove children from a brothel but to leave it in operation? Without assuming that an organization knows what’s best for the individuals it is supposedly serving, what is a logical next step?

4. How would you describe the role of sex workers in the Bible (Rahab, Mary Magdalene, etc.)? Does anything strike you as strange about their portrayal?

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