

Stopping Sexual Exploitation: a Program for Men (SSE)



Peter Qualliotine
Director of Men's Accountability

seattleops.org



“I buy sex because the only thing I’m more afraid of than intimacy is rejection”

-SSE Participant



From the World Health Organization (WHO)

Sexual health is a state of physical, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality. It requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.



In a recent nationwide survey of anonymous self-identified sex buyers, 76% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “I would like to stop buying sex.”





**“Act Like
a Man!”**



“Hegemonic” or “toxic” masculinity

- is not assumed to be normal in the statistical sense; only a minority of men might enact it.
- It is normative.
- It embodies the currently most honored way of being a man,
- it requires all other men to position themselves in relation to it, and
- it ideologically legitimates the subordination of women to men



“Most men think that sex will provide them with a sense of being alive, connected, that sex will offer closeness, intimacy, pleasure. And more often than not sex simply does not deliver the goods. This fact does not lead men to cease obsessing about sex; it intensifies their lust and their longing.”

- bell hooks



“I feel horrible. I realize that I was using prostitutes as receptacles for my own shame. They didn’t deserve that”

- SSE Participant



“I signed up for this class because I wanted to understand more about what causes some men to want to buy sex and perpetuate violence against women and children in this manner. What I found is that we as men are all hurting inside to some degree or another and unless we understand and face our own pain we are destined to pass that pain on to others around us whether it is buying sex or behaving badly in our own personal relationships.”

-SSE self-referred participant





**“Most men lead
lives of quiet
desperation and go
to the grave with the
song still in them.”**

-Henry David Thoreau

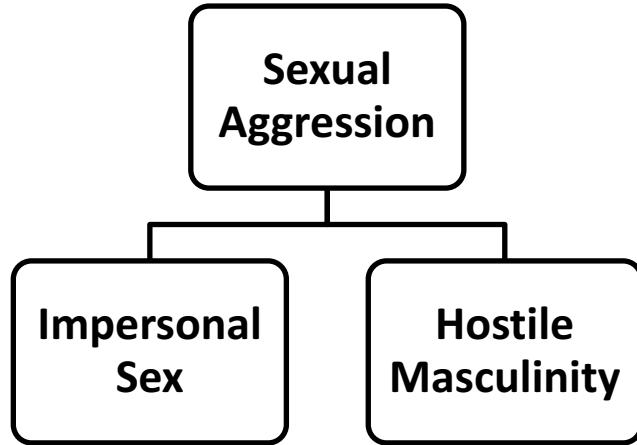


**“My friends tell me I
have an intimacy
problem. But they
don’t know me.”**

-Gary Shandling



Confluence Model of Sexual Aggression

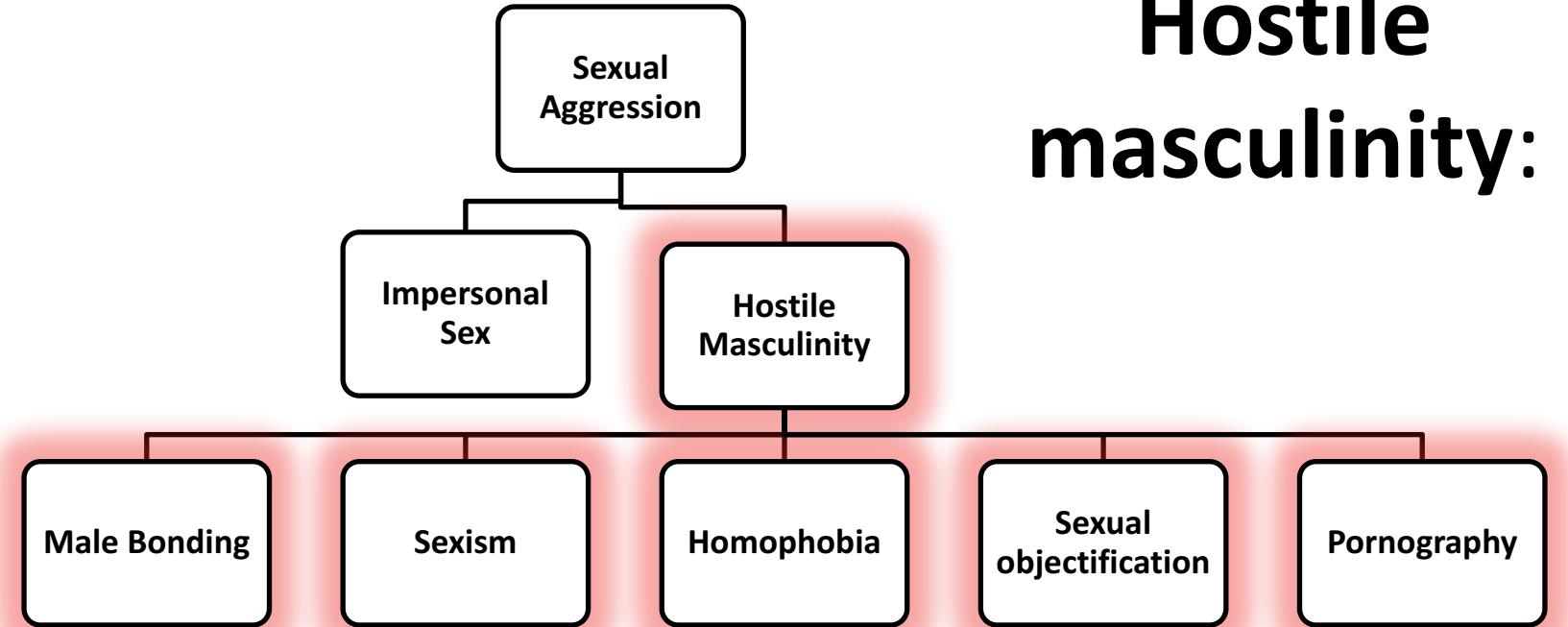


*Men who buy sex score higher on measures of impersonal sex and hostile masculinity

<http://prostitutionresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Comparing-Sex-Buyers-With-Men-Who-Do-Not-Buy-Sex.pdf>



Hostile masculinity:

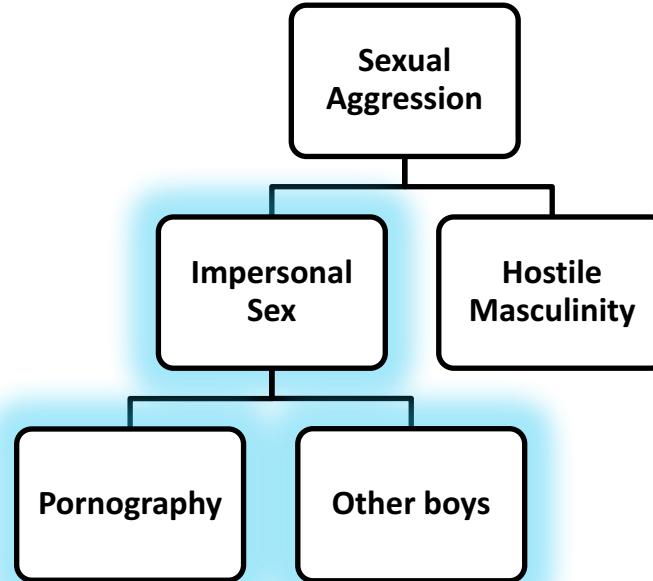


Hostile masculinity is a personality profile combining hostile, distrustful orientation, particularly toward women, with attitudes supporting aggression against women such as rape myth acceptance, and sexual gratification via domination of women.



Where do boys learn about sex?

Men high in Impersonal Sex develop a “sexual conquest” viewpoint about their sexual relations, coupling sexuality with their peer status and with their feelings of self-worth (Kanin, 1984). Importantly, ...this construct is not synonymous with heightened sex drive or promiscuity, but instead it represents “a more particular orientation to sex, specifically, an impersonal orientation... (which) rather than more personal, intimate sex enables gratification from coercive sex.”



Impersonal Sex



“I think about getting even with women [during prostitution] – it’s like a kid’s game, you’re scoring points,”

-sex buyer



“Homophobia: a Weapon of Sexism”

- Homosocial environments (Military; Sports; Frats; Male-dominated professions like Tech and Construction; etc.) provide a safe haven for heterosexual men that is not inherently thought of as homosexual.



Male-Bonding

- Male-male social bonds have a powerful influence on the sexual relations of heterosexual men.
- Homosociality shapes the sexual relations in which these men engage, the meanings given to their sexual involvements, and the development of narratives about them.



Homosociality organizes men's socio-sexual relations in at least four ways:

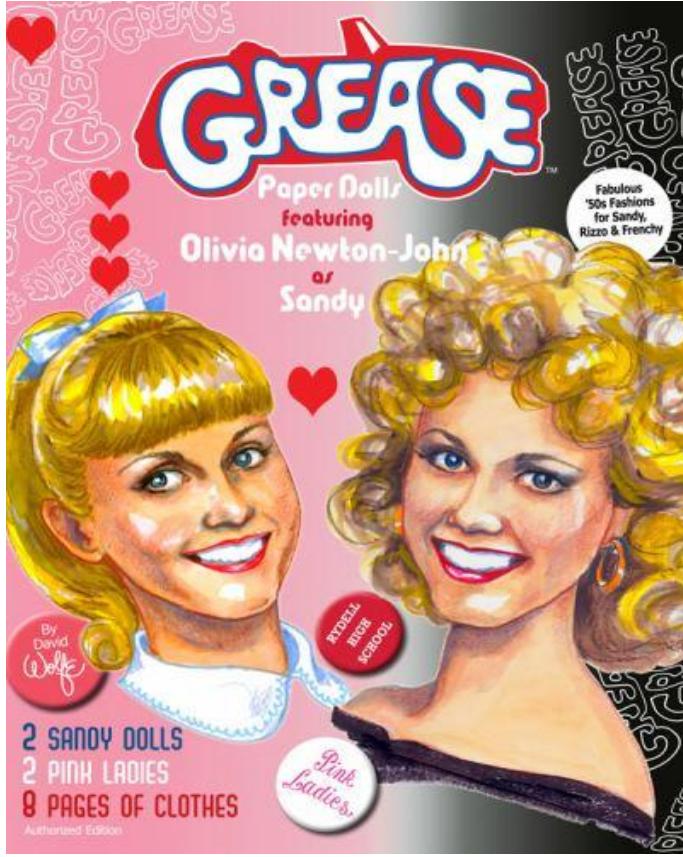
1. Male-male friendships take priority over male-female relations
2. Platonic friendships with women are dangerously feminizing.
3. Heterosexual sex itself can be the medium through which male bonding is enacted.
4. Men's sexual storytelling is shaped by homosocial masculine cultures



“I always thought that buying sex was just normal for men, that it was just something that we did sometimes. I didn’t really think about it. I didn’t care about the women.”

-SSE Participant





The “Good Girl/ Bad Girl” Dichotomy



“Prostitution isn't like anything else.
Rather, everything else is like prostitution
because it is the model for women's
condition.”

-Evelina Giobbe
W.H.I.S.P.E.R.



“If you scratch the surface, they
are all whores underneath.”

-SSE Participant

There is evidence for a connection between sexual aggression and prostitution.

Buying sex has been associated with: men's perpetration of gender-based violence, including :

- perpetration of physical and sexual violence against intimate partners (Decker et al., 2009; Raj, Reed, Welles, Santana, & Silverman, 2008)
- perpetration of rape against both partners and non-partners (Jewkes et al., 2006; Monto & McRee, 2005).
- College-aged men who used women in prostitution reported having committed more sexually coercive behaviors than men who had not used women in prostitution (Schmidt, 2003).
- In samples of more than 1,000 men each in Chile, Croatia, India, Mexico, and Rwanda, men who had ever bought sex were more likely to perpetrate rape (Heilman, Herbert, & Paul-Gera, 2014).

<http://prostitutionresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Comparing-Sex-Buyers-With-Men-Who-Do-Not-Buy-Sex.pdf>



“I buy sex because I love sex, but I hate women.”

-SSE Participant

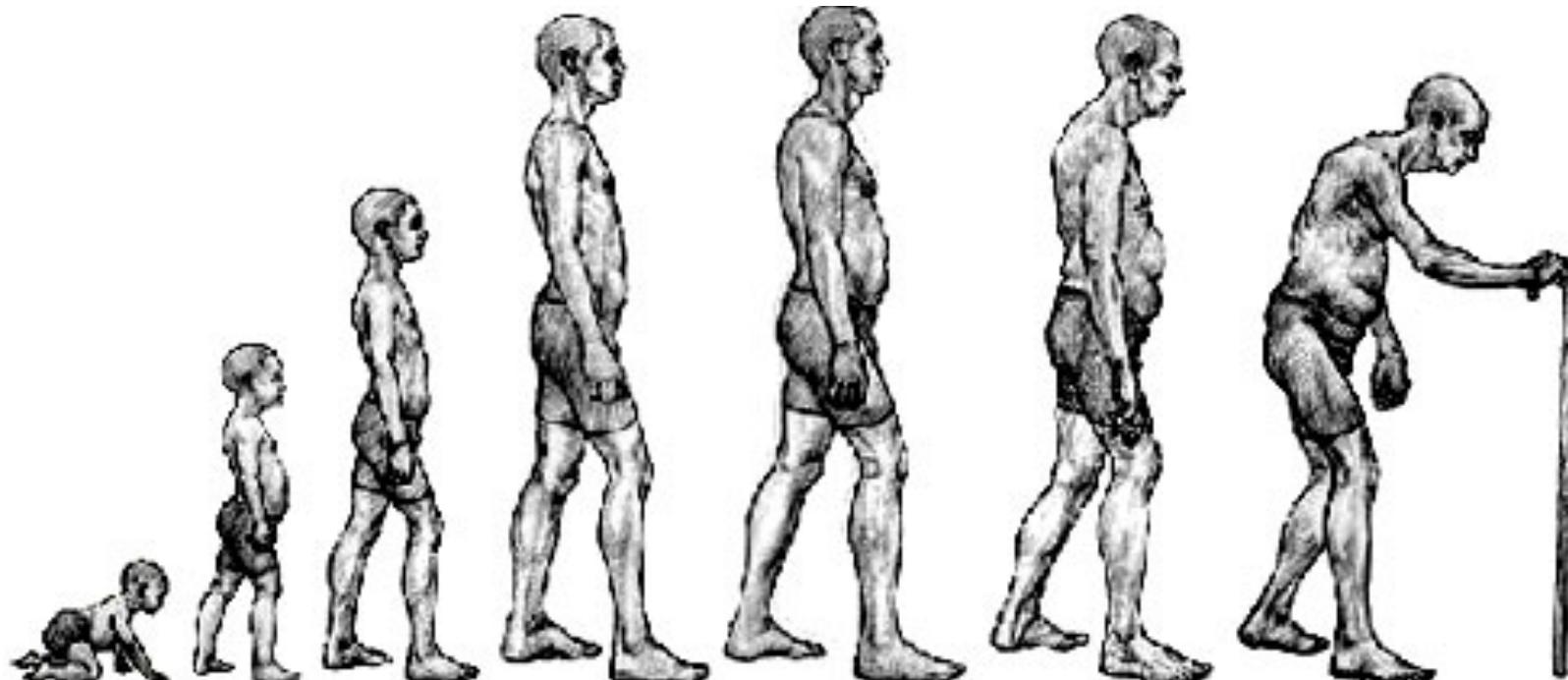


Sex and liberation

The alternative to a hegemonic masculine sexuality based on dominance which requires the sexual subordination of an ‘other’, is a healthy sexuality based on mutuality which requires authentic engagement with and respect for the other.

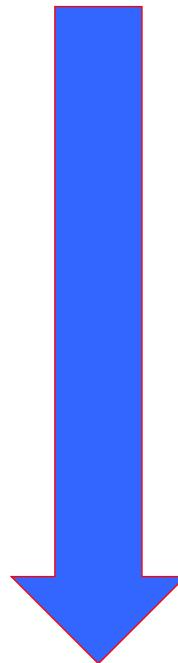


Direct Interventions with Commercial Sex Buyers and potential Buyers along a spectrum of Prevention and Intervention



Spectrum of Direct Interventions focused on Individual Buyers and Potential Buyers

- Parenting Boys
- Teaching Empathy and Respect to Children
- Middle and High School Prevention Curricula
- Awareness promoting Men's Accountability
- Online Deterrence
- Outreach
- Interruption
- Arrest
- Prosecution and Conviction
- Post-Conviction Intervention Program



Primary Prevention

Secondary
Prevention

Tertiary Prevention/
Intervention

“To be honest, I don’t think that anything else would have stopped me. I needed the arrest to make me take a long look at myself and what I was doing.”

-SSE Participant



Comparing Sex Buyers with Men Who Don't Buy Sex

"You can have a good time with the servitude"

vs.

"You're supporting a system of degradation"



"John" by Christine Stack © 2000. All Rights Reserved

Melissa Farley, Emily Schuckman, Jacqueline M. Golding, Kristen Houser,
Laura Jarrett, Peter Qualliotine, Michele Decker

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Comparing Sex Buyers with Men Who Don't Buy Sex

For the complete
report visit:

www.prostitutionresearch.com



Comparing Sex Buyers with Men Who Don't Buy Sex:

summary of findings and recommendations

- As in other studies of sex buyers, sex buyers expressed ambivalence, guilt and negative thinking about buying sex. They felt just as many negative feelings after buying sex as they did before.
- Many sex buyers sought sex that lacked emotional connection. They had little objection if the woman they purchased pretended to like them or actively disliked performing the act of prostitution.
- Sex buyers repeatedly commented that they liked the power relationship in prostitution and that they liked the freedom from any relationship obligation.



Comparing Sex Buyers with Men Who Don't Buy Sex:

summary of findings and recommendations

- Both sex buyers and non-sex buyers evidenced extensive knowledge of the physical and psychological harms of prostitution.
- Two thirds of both the sex buyers and the non-sex buyers observed that a majority of women are lured, tricked, or trafficked into prostitution.
- Many of the men had an awareness of the economic coercion and the lack of alternatives in women's entry into prostitution.



Comparing Sex Buyers with Men Who Don't Buy Sex:

summary of findings and recommendations

- Almost all of the sex buyers and non-sex buyers shared the opinion that minor children are almost always available for prostitution in bars, massage parlors, escort and other prostitution in Boston.



Comparing Sex Buyers with Men Who Don't Buy Sex:

summary of findings and recommendations

- The knowledge that the women have been exploited, coerced, pimped, or trafficked failed to deter sex buyers from buying sex.
- Many of the sex buyers had used women who were controlled by pimps at the time they used her for sex.
- Sex buyers in this study seemed to justify their involvement in the sex industry by stating their belief that women in prostitution are essentially “different from non-prostituting women.”



Comparing Sex Buyers with Men Who Don't Buy Sex:

summary of findings and recommendations

- Both sex buyers and non-sex buyers subscribed to the theory that prostitution reduces the likelihood of rape.
- Although half of the study's sample did not buy sex, many of them were tolerant of prostitution for men who did.
- These findings suggest that efforts to deter sex buyers should expand their focus from men who buy sex to the general public's attitudes that support prostitution.



“Why did we need a new model of program?”

Traditional “John School”

- Diversion
- One class
- Large group
- lecture format
- Claims effectiveness
- “Shotgun Approach”
- Information based

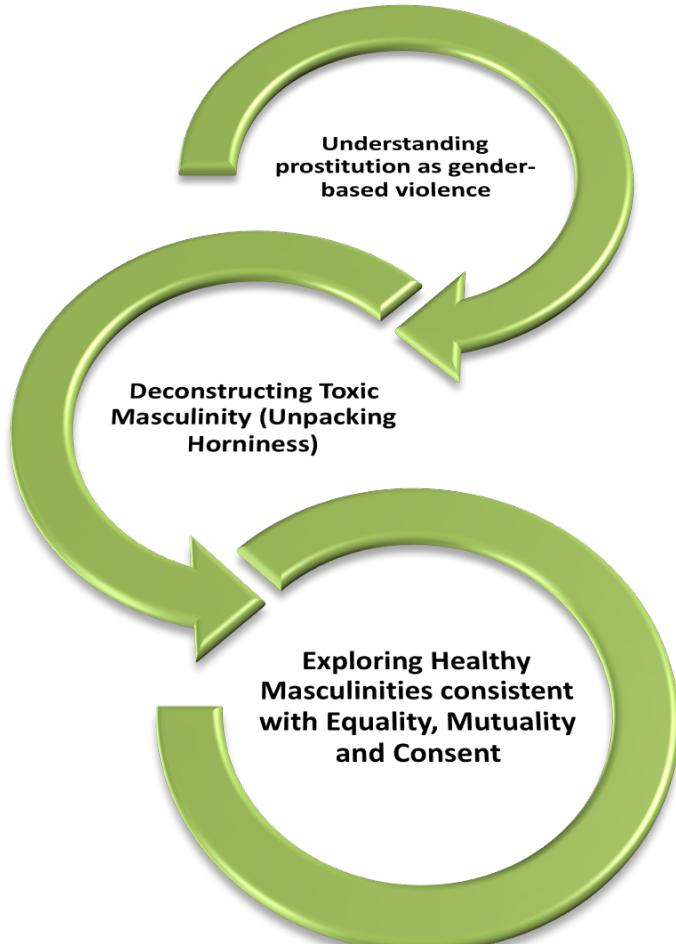
Stopping Sexual Exploitation

- Post Conviction
- Multiple sessions
- Individual and small group
- Interactive exercises
- Acknowledges limitations
- Clear pedagogical goals
- Process based



Stopping Sexual Exploitation: a Program for Men

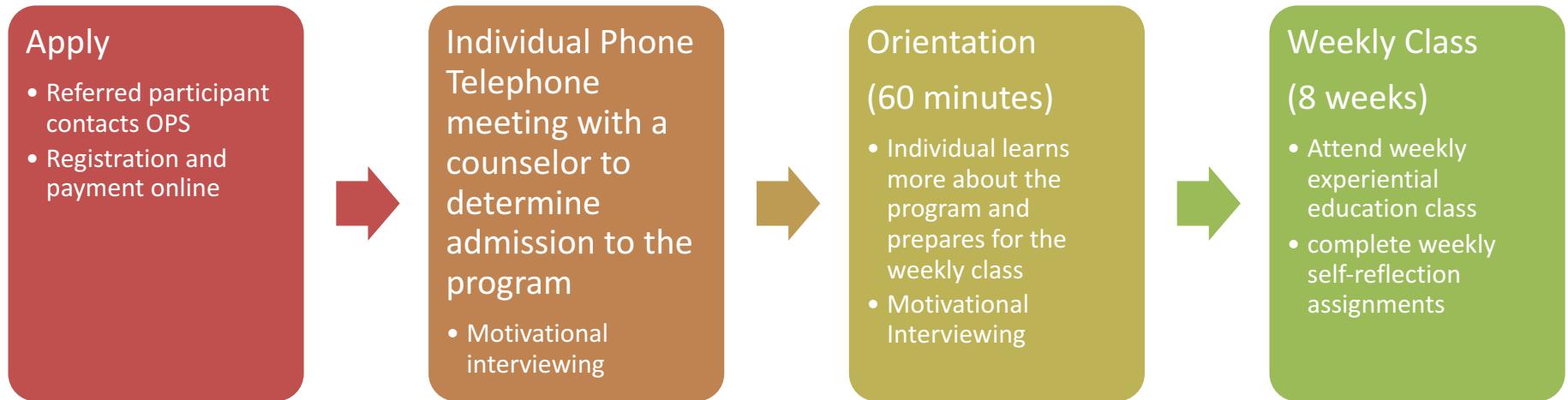




Three Process- Based goals of SSE



Stopping Sexual Exploitation: a Program for Men



The program consists of 2 sessions of Motivational Interviewing followed by an 8-week group class.



Motivational Interviewing Sessions

- Motivational Interviewing is a method that works on facilitating and engaging intrinsic motivation within the participant in order to change behavior. MI is a goal-oriented, client-centered counseling style for eliciting behavior change by helping clients to explore and resolve ambivalence.
- First session is by phone
- Second session (same counselor) is in person one week prior to group starting at the venue where group program will be held



The class consists of 8 modules designed to have participants explore the roots and motivations as well as the impact of the practice of sex buying.

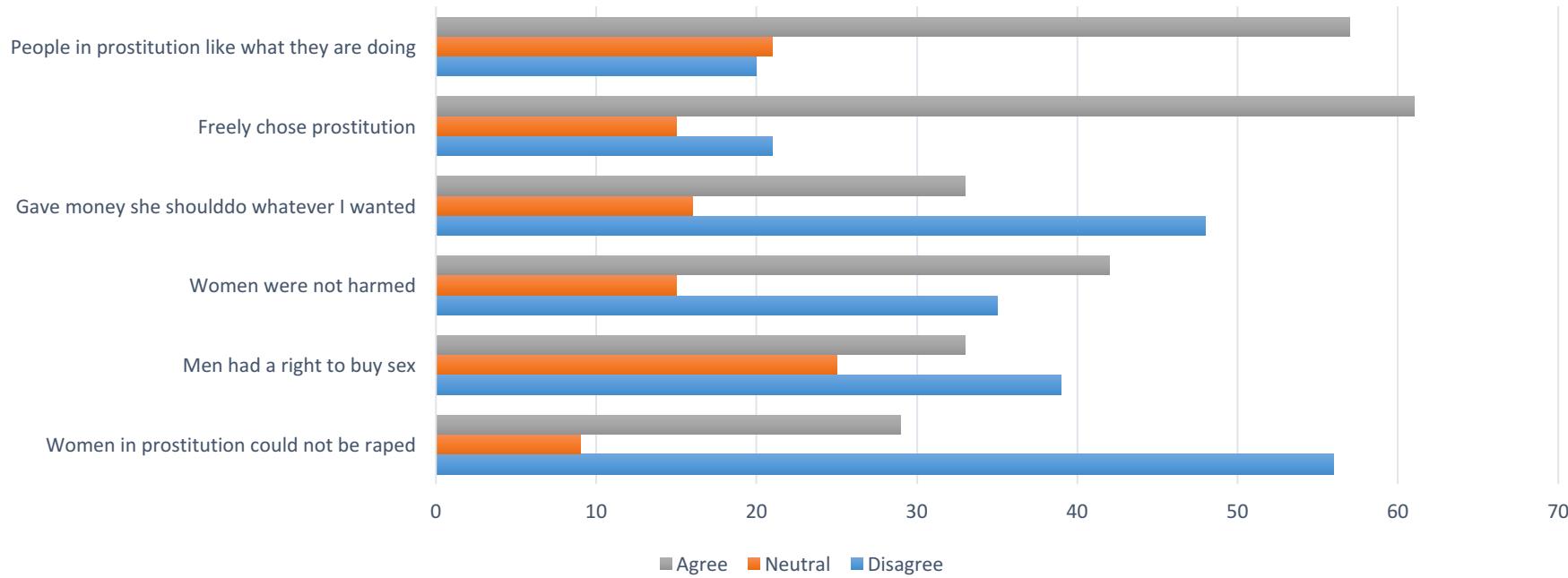
- 1. Male gender socialization: Myths of male sexuality and the construction of male sexual identity**
- 2. Female gender socialization and prostitution as gender based violence**
- 3. Pornography, Sexual Objectification and the Sexual Violence continuum**
- 4. Intimate Partner Violence, Pimping and Prostitution**
- 5. Power and Violence**
- 6. Vulnerability**
- 7. Mutuality and Consent**
- 8. the Will to Change: Where do we go from here?**



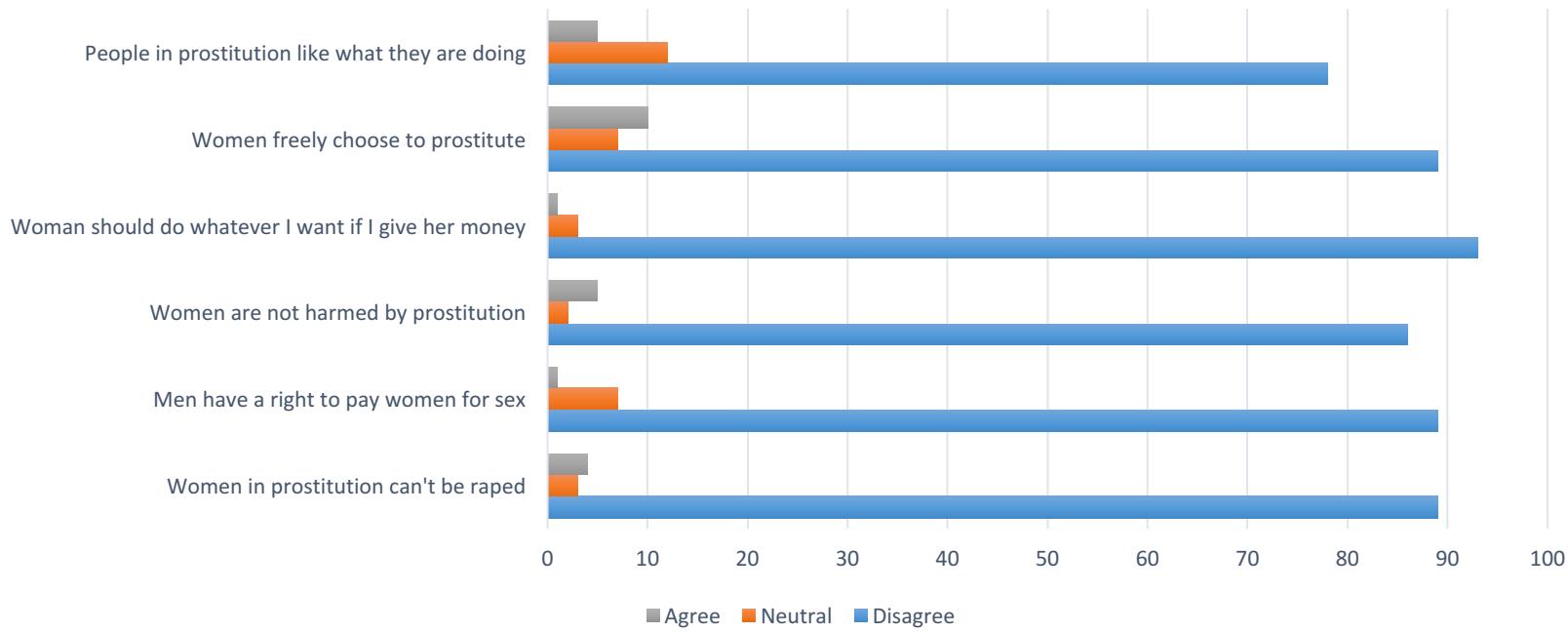
1. “Has your thinking about prostitution changed since participating in Stopping Sexual Exploitation: A Program for Men?”
 - “YES” 91%, (n=89)



Before This Program "I thought"



TODAY I THINK



Participants were asked these additional questions on the impact of sex buying:

- **82% Agreed**, “I will talk to other men about the negative impacts of buying sex” (N=97).
- **91% Agreed**, “Today I think that prostitution buying had a negative impact on my life” (N=97).
- **93% Agreed**, “Today I think that prostitution buying had a negative impact on others in my life” (N=95).
- **91% Agreed**, “Today I think that prostitution buying had a negative impact on prostituted women” (N=94).



Do you think you
will buy sex again?
“NO” 96%, (N=95)



SUMMARY

The post self-assessment data suggest the SSE class has positive effects on attitudes and beliefs that effectively meets the goals of programming for sex buyers regarding:

- Personal decisions to NOT buy sex again;
- Reframing prostitution from a “victimless” crime to a system of gender-based violence;
- Changing beliefs and attitudes regarding the cultural construction of masculinity and men’s role in the harm of prostitution; and
- Encouraging healthy masculinities.



“This class helped me take a good long hard look at myself and my relationships. I want to use this to make my relationship with my wife a mutual relationship rather than a controlling one where I am trying to control her.”

- SSE Participant



“I’m going to raise my son differently. I don’t want him to be so angry and depressed all the time like me.”

-SSE Participant



“I really liked this class, but eight weeks is not enough. We have been in this problem for years so ten weeks is not long enough, we need more.”

- SSE Participant



“The arrest stopped me. I would have never bought sex again, but the program taught me why I should never buy sex again.”

-SSE Participant



“Once departing from false universals, unconscious identification with dominant ideologies, and fixed schemas of development, an interior sense of self that finds alternative orientations becomes possible”

-Mary Watkins



Or not...

“I feel great about buying sex. What happens to prostitutes is not my fault and it’s not my problem. The only thing stopping me is I don’t want to get arrested again.”

- SSE

Participant

Disclosure

- I have no disclosures



Peter Qualliotine
Director of Men's Accountability
peter@seattleops.org