

GEO Survey: Prostitution
13 June 2008
Topline Results

This topline shows results for an omnibus survey conducted by Ipsos MORI between 11th – 12th June 2008, among a nationally representative sample of British adults aged 16+.

Results are based on responses from 1,012 respondents.

Where percentages do not add up to 100, this may be due to computer rounding or the exclusion of 'don't know' categories.

An asterisk (*) indicates a percentage of less than 0.5% but greater than zero.

Data are weighted to the known GB profile.

Responses are based on all respondents, unless otherwise stated.

- Q1-4. **Currently in the UK, it is not illegal to pay for sex. INTERVIEWER CAN SAY: It is illegal for people to 'kerb crawl' for sex, for the prostitute to loiter on the street to attract customers, and for anyone to run a brothel.**
Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly agree %	Tend to agree %	Neither / nor %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %	Re-fused %	Total agree %	Total disagree %
Q1. It should be made illegal to pay for sex – this would mean that men who pay for sex with prostitutes commit a criminal offence.	27	9	14	22	25	3	*	36	47
Q2. Most prostitutes are only in that role because they are victims of exploitation.	28	21	14	18	16	3	1	49	34
Q3. Prostitution is a perfectly reasonable choice that women should be free to make.	27	32	12	7	20	2	1	59	27
Q4. Some men need the services that prostitutes offer in order to meet their sexual needs	23	30	13	8	21	4	1	53	29

- Q5-6. **Please imagine for a moment that you found out that... In your view, is this behaviour acceptable or unacceptable?**

	Acceptable %	Unacceptable %	Don't know %	Refused %
Q5. ...a spouse or partner had recently paid a prostitute for sex	9	87	3	1
Q6. ...a female family member had been working as a prostitute	19	74	6	1

Q7. **Would you feel ashamed or not if you found out a family member was working as a prostitute?**

	%
Yes, I would feel ashamed	60
No, I would not feel ashamed	37
Don't know	2
Refused	1

Q8. **Some people have argued that if paying for sex were illegal it would reduce the number of women and children being trafficked into this country from abroad and forced into prostitution. Would you support or oppose making it illegal to pay for sex as part of an attempt to reduce trafficking of women & children from abroad into prostitution in the UK?**

	%
Strongly support	44
Tend to support	14
Neither support nor oppose	9
Tend to oppose	10
Strongly oppose	21
Don't know	3
Refused	0
TOTAL SUPPORT	58
TOTAL OPPOSE	31
NET SUPPORT (support minus oppose)	+27