



Coordination française pour le Lobby Européen des Femmes

Association Loi 1901
ONG en statut consultatif avec l'ECOSOC des Nations Unies

**ÉGALITÉ DES DROITS ET DES CHANCES POUR TOUTES LES FEMMES
EN FRANCE, EN EUROPE, DANS LE MONDE**

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Press Release

The sexual and emotional lives of the disabled must be treated with dignity

People with disabilities want to exercise their right to choose their partners and to be able to develop their own romantic relationships. CLEF, the French Coordination for the European Women's Lobby, is working towards an environment that supports them and respects their dignity. Disabilities do not dehumanize. People with disabilities are still people with a body, a mind, a gender, feelings, desires, thoughts...

To play on this commiseration, which expresses the emotional and sexual distress of disabled people, and to respond to the commercial exploitation of the body by proposing sexual caregivers is a skewed solution, easy but simplistic. A skewed solution that would result in an even greater feeling of exclusion and invisibility, by creating a specific service for "the poor disabled", thus marginalizing them.

The buying of sexual services, according to CLEF, correlates to the continuity of prostitution, a source of intimidation and violence, domination over the body through money. What would justify women (the demand is essentially male) to yet again put their bodies at the disposition of men, with knowledge of the potential abuse? After many years, this practice is being questioned in Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Going to a hospital, a medical center, or institution for the disabled, a sexual caretaker, with a similar position to a doctor, nurse or aide, would be subject to laws against pimping. The same would be true for prostitutes. An adjustment to this law cannot be justified as long as France is engaged in the fight against violence towards women and against human trafficking.

A better solution regarding two people trying to meet within an institution would be for consensual relationships between residents to be permitted, and rooms made available for couples.

We need to change the outlook of society and open these environments to increase opportunities for meetings. In this way, people with disabilities will be able to handle their own emotional and romantic lives while keeping their dignity and that of their partner.