



## Council of Europe supports sex buyer laws – read full report on the Internet

<http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/Doc/XrefViewPDF.asp?FileID=20559&Language=EN>

*Some Council of Europe member States have drawn up prostitution regulations and policies aimed at countering trafficking by curbing the demand for victims. This is true of Sweden, together with Iceland and Norway. The “Swedish approach”, based on criminalising the purchase of sexual services, is currently under consideration by legislators in several European countries as a possible tool for tackling trafficking. While each system presents advantages and disadvantages, policies prohibiting the purchase of sexual services are those that are more likely to have a positive impact on reducing trafficking in human beings. Irrespective of the legal approach adopted, prostitution regulations should include harm-reduction measures aimed at countering the negative effects of prostitution on the people involved and supporting those who wish to leave the sex industry.*

### Three Principles of the Universe

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The universe has three basic laws which are inherent values and which govern the way in which it evolves and unfolds. These are often referred to as the footprints of God.

#### **Differentiation**

-The 13.7 billion year story of the universe is an epic which has to be seen as a whole for its full meaning to be understood. It comes as a totality. We are the first generation to have seen our earth from outside itself, from the moon and more recently from the international space station.

The universe began in simplicity as a dense concentration of energy.

For a short time it was pure hydrogen but quickly changed into other elements. When two different things come together the result is creativity and diversity.

So hydrogen, a light colourless gas, combined with oxygen, another colourless odourless gaseous element, to form water. From this combination came everything else over time: galaxies, stars, planets, primates, animals humans etc.

-Different minerals came together to form the earth’s crust some of which dissolved into soil, oceans, and vegetation. Further differentiation produced plankton, fish, whales and so on.

At each instant the universe recreated itself anew. It has an infinite power to transform itself in every dimension. So at the root of reality is an inexhaustible fecundity and a supreme intelligence and wisdom always drawing the process forward.

The universe is coded to become more and more diverse.

-For a long time scientists thought that all atoms were the same but in recent times, with new technology and on closer observation, they have discovered that there are many different types of atoms. It is as though the closer we get to anything the more it seems to insist on its individual identity. “Look at me! I am fresh/different. To understand the universe you must understand me”.

-The universe also differentiates over time. Previously we thought that everything had simply a cyclical nature- that things would simply repeat with the seasons. Now we know that nothing repeats, things actually evolve in a developmental way over time and grow in complexity. (e.g. the snowdrop which comes from the bulb this spring is not the same snowdrop which came last spring. The water of the ocean has the latent capacity over time to become a human tear etc.) We are that closely connected!

-From the outset the universe expressed itself in unique, identifiable, intelligent energy centres or patterns. Each is a unique expression of the whole: from atoms to galaxies, from the iron core of earth to the flower, from the eagle in flight to the human.

Planet earth is the most highly differentiated reality we know of in the whole universe.

-Without differentiation the whole cosmic adventure would end. Where does this adventure take place? In individuals of every species giving expression to who they are! Each of us is given a quantum of energy at our birth and we have one task- to become who we truly are.

Our greatest contribution is in being different from every other being. This task involves a certain loneliness, it also calls for courage and strength.

-We humans are the being in whom earth becomes conscious of herself. Through our gift of conscious self awareness earth lives in conscious self awareness. With this breakthrough differentiation entered a whole new level. We humans can actually participate in creating diversity. In our creativity we set our

truth to work. We have a limited time to do this work because of our mortality. We only flower once. Just to be is creative!!

-Differentiation is the way that the universe sustains life, through male/female reproduction, different nationalities, cultures, languages, differences within species (e.g. elms oaks, blackbirds robins, granite, limestone, potatoes, apples etc.)

-The function of the human is to give voice to, to experience, to delight in the differentiation in the cosmos as an expression of the divine. It is not a problem to be solved. We have often damaged diversity by trying to reduce differences, by going to war, by wanting immigrants/travellers to be like us, by plundering the planet, by conjuring God in our own image and by seeing things only from a human point of view (anthropocentrism!) etc. As species become extinct we are extinguishing modes of divine presence in the world. God needs the whole of creation to give expression to godself. No one creature can do that adequately.

-Creativity is about being drawn into, allured by, fascinated to the point where we are carried forward by the creative urge and energy of the universe.

“I have come that you may have life and have it to the full”. What a challenge!

-This new sense of our true place in a highly differentiated universe involves letting go of many preconceptions and attitudes, and being born over and over again. It calls us to a new sense of ethics and responsibility for all.

## Questions

*How can we move from seeing differentiation as a problem to be solved to seeing it as something to be delighted in?*

*What has been my experience of dealing with diversity?*