

## **Humiliation and Human Dignity: Conducting Participatory Action Research with Women Who Sell Sex**

by Maggie O'Neill

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This paper builds upon my recent work as part of the HDHS network by looking at the usefulness of conducting participatory action research, ethnography and arts based research (ethno-mimesis) with women and young people who sell sex. The paper/presentation argues that in order to facilitate 'understanding' in the sense used by Bourdieu (1999) of the relational dynamics involved and to foster processes of social justice, recognition, dignity and egalization in our policies, practices and jurisprudence we need to address as a matter of profound importance women's experiences of humiliation, misrecognition, and what Lowman calls 'a discourse of disposal' (2000). Building upon our discussions and interventions in the annual workshops during the last two years on human dignity and humiliation and visual images created by women who sell sex (during research with Maggie and Rosie Campbell) this paper seeks to generate both discussion and possible interventions on this complex issue.

For a preview of the images (and a report by Maggie and Rosie) before the roundtable discussion go to: [www.safetysoapbox.com/](http://www.safetysoapbox.com/).

The web-site was created by residents living in an area in the UK where street sex work takes place as a response to their involvement in the participatory action research project. The residents conducted the research with us as community co-researchers.