

# The Appropriate Policy on Prostitution (A Normative Perspective on Female Prostitution in Indonesia)

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**Abstract.** This paper presents some arguments and remarks on normative perspectives of female prostitution in Indonesia and suggestions for policy on prostitution. Considering that prostitution is a multidimensional phenomenon, the authors sets 2 research questions: what are the alternative policies on prostitution and what are their strengths and weaknesses? And what should be the appropriate policy on prostitution in Indonesia? The research questions are answered through describing and assessing two major policies on prostitution in the Netherlands and Egypt. The paper is concluded with suggestions to formulate a policy that is compatible with the aspiration of all stakeholders.

Key words: policy, prostitution, female, sex industry, The Netherlands, Egypt

**Abstrak.** Makalah ini mengemukakan beberapa argumen dan catatan terhadap perspektif normatif prostitusi perempuan di Indonesia dan saran-saran kebijakan terhadap prostitusi. Mengingat prostitusi merupakan gejala multidimensional, penulis mengajukan 2 pertanyaan riset: apakah alternatif kebijakan terhadap prostitusi dan apakah kekuatan dan kelemahannya? Permasalahan tersebut dijawab melalui pemaparan dan penilaian 2 kebijakan utama terhadap prostitusi di Belanda dan Mesir. Tulisan ini diakhiri dengan saran-saran untuk menyusun kebijakan yang sesuai dengan aspirasi semua pihak yang berkepentingan.

Kata kunci: kebijakan, prostitusi, perempuan, industri seks, Belanda, Mesir

## Introduction

### *Statement of the Research Problem*

Generally, views on prostitution problems in Indonesia are divided into three following interest groups. First are those who want prostitution to disappear from the Indonesian society. Second are those wanting sex industry to be regulated and reformed effectively. Two strands of the problem derive from these two different views, from respectively the "moralist group" and

"pragmatist group". There is a third group that ask for a clear and consistent attitude from government towards the existence of prostitution (Hull, Sulistyaningsih, & Jones, 1997).

The views of the two first groups showed by Hull et al. (1997) are essentially similar to the two first views stated by Truong (1986). She shows three opposing views as follows: the moral view, the institutional view, and the women's social condition view.