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LETTER

Stop Prostitution at Its Root

To the Editor:

In “Prostitution and Prevention” (editorial, July 29), you address the growing problem of child prostitution in the United States. You insightfully point out the hidden role of the men who drive the sex trade.

We at the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women have long called for the adoption of Sweden’s legal approach to prostitution and sex trafficking, which criminalizes the demand for commercial sexual exploitation. Sweden’s law represents an inspired paradigm shift from a law-and-order focus to a human rights approach.

This reflects the growing understanding that prostitution is not a victimless crime; the prostituted are its victims. Prostitution and sex trafficking are highly political and can and must be ended in our lifetime.

This can be achieved by creating the social, political, legal and cultural conditions that are hostile to the commercial sexual exploitation of others. Failing that, we will continue to see the expansion of this modern-day slavery.

Norma Ramos

Co-executive Director

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

New York, July 29, 2008

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