

# What's going on in Amsterdam?

5th March 2020

## Clean up of red-light district planned

Amsterdam is considering moving part of its red-light district indoors to an "erotic" complex where prostitutes (sex workers) no longer welcome customers through street-front windows that often attract **rowdy** tourists.

In plans released recently, the Dutch city said the complex could include a bed and breakfast for prostitutes as well as a sex club, sex theatre and cafés.

The Amsterdam city council said the two choices suggested would be a sex hotel or an "erotic centre" which will be a "sex hotel plus, plus, plus".

"All in all, a prostitution hotel with indoor windows or an erotic centre is the most obvious choice," the city council said in a statement. "These options have the most advantages and the fewest disadvantages," it said in the statement.

Amsterdam's mayor, Femke Halsema, has **vowed** to clean up the city's red-light district as her staff complain that **thongs** of tourists, often drunk and **rowdy**, "disrespected both prostitutes and residents".

Halsema also wants to fight a new trend, a "major increase in unlicensed underground prostitution" around the city centre's Wallen area, near the central station, for centuries the **haunt** of sailors and sex workers.

## Before you read the article, find this vocabulary in the text:

**rowdy:** noisy and disorderly  
**to vow:** to solemnly promise to do something  
**thongs (of):** large, densely packed crowds of people  
**haunt:** a place frequented by a certain type of person  
**scenario:** a proposed sequence or development of events  
**risk:** a dangerous situation  
**to cater to:** to try and satisfy a need or demand  
**tanning:** exposure to ultra-violet light darkening the skin  
**to bar s.t.:** to prevent or prohibit s.t.

reachable via public transport.

"Sex work is a normal job and the idea is not to chase prostitution from the city," the council said.

The erotic centre will not just **cater to** pleasures of the flesh but also house a beauty salon, a hairdresser and a **tanning** studio. The council said it hoped to finalise its plans before the summer.

In further news regarding the cleanup of the red-light district, the mayor, who is understood to want to reduce the number of outlets selling cannabis, also announced her intention to examine how they may reduce the attraction of drug use to tourists.

According to a survey by Amsterdam's research, information and statistics office, a third of foreign tourists and nearly half of Britons would be less likely to visit the city again if they were **barred** from buying cannabis in the coffee shops.

➡ Adapted from these articles, [Red Light District](#) and [Buying Cannabis](#), by ECP coach Darren Kurien

Over the last few months, city officials have asked sex workers, business owners and others about how to reform the prostitution business.

"A number of **scenarios** were then chosen. This included the location of sex work spaces in our city," the council said.

For instance: "If the location is too remote, there is a bigger safety **risk** and it becomes more difficult to supervise it. Also, it must be easily



www.englishcoachingprojects.net  
info@englishcoachingprojects.net



## Let's chat about that!

Write your opinions in an email and send them to your ECP coach!

Have you ever been to Holland?  
Did you enjoy it? Why / (not)?

Do you think that "sex work is a normal job"? Why/ (not)?

What is your opinion of sex and/or drug tourism?

Do you think the measures mentioned will reduce tourism?

Will that be good or bad for Amsterdam? Why?

# Social Events In English

Real-Life English in Vitoria-Gasteiz



# Practical English Stuff

Real Language to Express Yourself Better

Dates for your diary!

## Coffee Saturdays:

- 5th Oct ✓
- 2nd Nov ✓
- 7th Dec ✓
- 11th Jan ✓
- 1st Feb ✓
- 7th Mar**
- 4th Apr
- 2nd May
- 6th Jun

## Cinema Nights:

- 25th Oct ✓
- 29th Nov ✓
- 20th Dec ✓
- 31st Jan ✓
- 28th Feb ✓
- 27th Mar**
- 24th Apr
- 29th May
- 26th Jun

LIVE!English presents:

## COFFEE SATURDAYS!



*Come and socialise in English!*

Ask your coach for details!

## CINEMA NIGHTS!

*Come and socialise in English!*

## Here are some interesting facts about Amsterdam (see original article)

Practise asking questions with your ECP colleagues.

For example: How many bikes are **fished out** of canals every year? When was the city founded?

### Bikes in Amsterdam

