

## WOMEN REFERRED TO AS "WHORES"

Some of the "whores" were prostitutes, but not all of them. Women who were not married but lived with a man were also called "whores". Single mothers were also put in the category of indecent women. Starting from 1686, "whore benches" were installed in churches, where those "caught in the act of living a life of shame" were made to stand during a service. In 1734, a new set of laws was adopted that replaced the shame punishments for "whoring" with fines. Those who could not afford to pay the fine were offered corporal punishment as a substitute, although not in public anymore. Churches were called to abolish the shaming benches.