

# REMOVE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR SEXUAL EXCHANGE IN DC

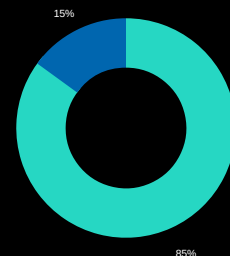
LGBTQ+ folks of color, who have fewer opportunities for housing, employment, and legal protections, are overrepresented among those engaged in sexual exchange. Existing criminal penalties and police practices around sexual exchange exacerbate the discrimination, stigma, and violence already experienced by these individuals and communities.



**37% OF DC'S  
TRANS SEX  
WORKERS ARE  
HOMELESS**

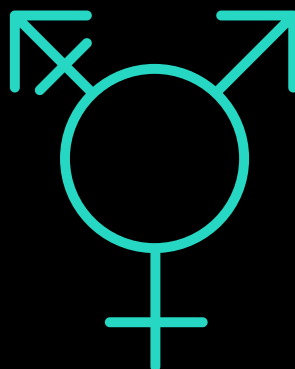
**10X**

**TRANS WOMEN  
ENGAGE IN SEX  
WORK AT A RATE  
TEN TIMES THAT OF  
CISGENDER WOMEN**



**85% OF DC'S  
TRANS SEX  
WORKERS ARE  
BLACK AND  
LATINX**

**TRANS PEOPLE WHO  
HAVE EXPERIENCED  
HOMELESSNESS ARE  
2.5 TIMES MORE  
LIKELY TO HAVE  
BEEN INCARCERATED  
THAN THOSE WITH  
STABLE HOUSING**



**OVER 80% OF  
STREET-BASED SEX  
WORKERS REPORTED  
EXPERIENCING  
VIOLENCE IN THE  
COURSE OF THEIR  
WORK.**

Removing criminal penalties for sexual exchange reduces discriminatory treatment of DC's most marginalized. This increases sex workers' ability to access supportive services, negotiate safer sex practices, and seek legal recourse for incidents of sexual and physical violence.