OUR LIBERATION REQUIRES DECRIMINALIZATION
Myths and Facts About Decriminalizing Sex Work

**MYTH**
Decriminalizing sex work would lead to an increase in human trafficking.

**FACT**
Making consensual sex work legal actually makes it easier to go after human traffickers, and makes it more likely that victims of trafficking will seek help. By removing criminal penalties, both sex workers and victims of trafficking will be more likely to report coercion to authorities as they are not afraid of prosecution themselves.

**MYTH**
Decriminalizing sex work opens the door for more people to be forced into sex work and will increase violence in communities.

**FACT**
Sex work decriminalization means that consensual sex work, among adults, would no longer be against the law. It would still be a crime to force people into sex work, to engage in human trafficking, or for adults to have sex with minors. After sex work was decriminalized in New Zealand, sex workers were more likely to report incidents of violence to police, and they were two-thirds more likely to refuse clients because they felt unsafe.

**MYTH**
All sex work is a form of coercion/discriminatory towards women.

**FACT**
People engage in sex work for a variety of reasons, including better income or flexibility; difficulty finding employment due to discrimination, lack of education, or criminal convictions; or simply because it suits them. Sex workers represent all genders, as well as people who do not identify with a particular gender, so the construct that sex work is emblematic of patriarchy does not take into account the diversity of experiences within the industry. Gender inequality can have a major influence on women’s entry into sex work; but criminalization does not address this—it just makes their lives less safe.
Decriminalizing sex work isn’t an LGBT issue. In a city where the unemployment rate for trans residents is nearly 50%, trans folks are disproportionately forced into underground economies to make ends meet. Supporting trans communities and queer communities means ending the punitive criminalization of sex work that makes sex workers unsafe, and forces them into the criminal justice system simply for making a living.

SEX WORK IS WORK!

Decriminalizing sex work is necessary for trans and queer liberation.

Unfair laws that criminalize sex work strip people of other employment options upon conviction, bar people from housing, increase the risk of infectious disease, and lead to unsafe jail conditions for trans women in the sex trade.

In order to make our city safer for everyone - and marginalized communities in general, join us in urging Councilmember Allen to hold a hearing on the Reducing Criminalization to Improve Community Safety and Health Amendment Act.

JOIN THE FIGHT: NOJUSTICENOPRIDE.ORG/DECRIM

NO JUSTICE NO PRIDE