# Decriminalisation vs. Legalisation



Understanding Key Differences in Sex Work Legislation





#### Global Network of Sex Work Projects

Promoting Health and Human Rights

### **SEX WORK IS WORK:**

### Only Rights Can Stop the Wrongs

The Global Network of Sex Work
Projects (NSWP) exists to uphold
the voice of sex workers globally
and connect regional networks
advocating for the rights of female,
male and transgender sex workers.
It advocates for rights-based health
and social services, freedom from
abuse and discrimination and
self-determination for sex workers.

The term 'sex workers' reflects the immense diversity within the sex worker community including but not limited to: female, male and transgender sex workers; lesbian, gay and bi-sexual sex workers; male sex workers who identify as heterosexual; sex workers living with HIV and other diseases; sex workers who use drugs; young adult sex workers (between the ages of 18 and 29 years old); documented and undocumented migrant sex workers, as well as and displaced persons and refugees; sex workers living in both urban and rural areas; disabled sex workers; and sex workers who have been detained or incarcerated.

### **Contents**

Introduction	2
What is the Legalisation of Sex Work?	3
Key Features of Legalisation	3
What is Decriminalisation?	8
Key Features of Decriminalisation	8
Additional Measures to Support Implementation	. 12
International Support for Decriminalisation	. 13
Legalisation vs. Decriminalisation at a Glance	. 14
Challenging Myths about Decriminalisation	. 16
Additional Resources on Sex Work and Decriminalisation	. 18
Conclusion	10

### Introduction

The debate over sex work legislation is contentious and complex. In most countries, sex work remains criminalised, with laws prohibiting its sale, purchase, organisation, and/or promotion. In response to the negative impacts of criminalisation, stakeholders have advocated for legislative alternatives, including the legalisation and decriminalisation of sex work.

Legalisation and decriminalisation are two distinct legislative models, yet they are often misunderstood and conflated. Adding to this confusion, legalisation may be incorrectly presented as a 'middle ground' or compromise between criminalisation and decriminalisation.

This guide defines and clarifies the differences between the legalisation and decriminalisation of sex work. It also dispels common myths surrounding decriminalisation, supported by a growing evidence base. Finally, it explains why full decriminalisation is the model favoured by sex workers around the world, along with global leaders in health, human rights, and gender equality.



### What is the Legalisation of Sex Work?

Legalisation is a legislative model of sex work in which governments introduce specific laws and regulations that allow certain forms of sex work to take place under controlled conditions.

While proponents argue that legalisation enhances public health and safety, this model actually perpetuates stigma, reinforces inequalities, and undermines the rights and autonomy of sex workers. Countries which have legalised sex work include Austria, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Peru, Switzerland, and

Turkey, among others.1

### **Key Features of Legalisation**

#### **Regulatory Framework**

Under legalisation, authorities impose a strict framework governing numerous aspects of the sex industry, which may include:

- Mandatory registration with the government as a sex worker
- Licensing requirements for sex work establishments and sex workers
- Restrictions on the number of sex work establishments allowed
- Discriminatory zoning and location restrictions dictating where sex workers can work, excluding areas such as residential zones, and areas near schools and businesses
- Mandatory HIV and STI testing and treatment in government health facilities
- Restrictions on advertising

These regulations undermine sex workers' human rights by restricting where sex workers can live and work, violating their privacy and bodily autonomy, and placing extra burdens on them which do not apply to other workers. In this way, legalisation does not treat sex work as a form of work like any other, but as a special form of work that needs to be heavily controlled and monitored by the state.

<sup>1</sup> See NSWP's <u>Global Mapping of Sex Work Laws</u> for more information.

#### Registration

Compulsory registration is a common component of legalised sex work, in which sex workers must register themselves with local authorities, providing personal identifying information which remains with the government. In some countries, such as Germany, sex workers must obtain a special 'prostitute' identification card to work legally, singling them out from other workers. Registration may also

to work legally, singling them out from other workers. Registration may also be accompanied by mandatory health and psychological counselling, which is promoted as a way to help identify victims of trafficking.

However, public health and anti-trafficking organisations have cautioned that these brief, bureaucratic encounters in public offices, which often lack appropriate translation support for migrant workers, do not provide conducive and trusting environments for victims to reveal themselves.<sup>2</sup>

Mandatory registration also raises significant concerns regarding data protection and the right to privacy. Individuals who are recorded in government registries as sex workers may have their sensitive data freely shared with other authorities. Moreover, without additional anti-discrimination safeguards, sex workers may be subject to future discrimination in the realms of employment, housing, or social services. In some cases, it may be difficult or impossible to erase one's data after stopping sex work, further amplifying fear and reluctance to register.

<sup>2</sup> European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (formerly ICRSE), 2017, "Professed Protection, Pointless Provisions – Overview of the German Prostitutes Protection Act (Prostituiertenschutzgesetz – ProstSchG)."

#### **Mandatory Health Checks**

Under legalisation, sex workers may be forced to undergo regular mandatory HIV and STI testing and treatment in government facilities to work legally. This requirement is grounded in harmful and inaccurate perceptions of sex workers' practices, and the stigmatising belief that sex workers are 'vectors of disease.' Mandatory testing and treatment is not an evidence-based policy,<sup>3</sup> but rather violates sex workers' right to access health services free from coercion and discrimination, and fosters distrust and fear towards health institutions.



The importance of ensuring voluntary access to health services has been emphasised by numerous international bodies, including the World Health Organization,<sup>4</sup> UNAIDS,<sup>5</sup> the International Labour Organization,<sup>6</sup> and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,<sup>7</sup> as well as sex worker-led organisations.<sup>8</sup>

- 3 Elena Jeffreys et al., "Mandatory Testing for HIV and Sexually Transmissible Infections among Sex Workers in Australia: A Barrier to HIV and STI Prevention," World Journal of AIDS 02(03) (2012), 203–211.
- 4 World Health Organization, 2022, "Consolidated guidelines on HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations."

### **State Oversight and Policing**

Although legalisation is often promoted as a way to reduce the policing of sex workers, the need to enforce regulations leads to increased surveillance and policing, including by law enforcement, public health departments, immigration authorities, and local government bodies. Examples of this can include:

- Police raids and crackdowns on sex work establishments and workers
- Surveillance and monitoring by law enforcement, both in person and online
- Fines, arrests, deportation, and other legal repercussions for failing to meet regulations

Sex workers facing multiple levels of discrimination, such as migrant sex workers, sex workers of colour, trans and gender diverse sex workers, LGBTQI+ sex workers, and sex workers who use drugs are disproportionately profiled and subjected to punitive policing.<sup>9</sup>

- 5 Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), 2012, "UNAIDS Guidance Note on HIV and Sex Work."
- 6 International Labour Organization, 2010, "Recommendation concerning HIV and AIDS and the World of Work, 2010 (No. 200)."
- 7 UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 2013, "Concluding observations on the seventh and eighth periodic reports of Austria (CEDAW/C/AUT/CO/7–8)."
- 8 NSWP, 2015, "HIV and STI Testing and Treatment Policies."
- 9 NSWP, 2020, "Sex Workers' Lack of Access to Justice."



Under legalisation, sex workers who do not comply with regulations remain subject to criminal and/or other legal penalties. As a result, these sex workers face the same legal barriers to accessing healthcare, social services, and justice that exist in criminalised contexts. In some countries which have legalised sex work, such as Germany, it has been estimated that up to 90% of sex workers operate outside of the legal framework, significantly undermining the intended benefits of legalisation.<sup>10</sup>

### 10 Richard Connor, "Germany: Sex worker registrations increase after pandemic," Deutsche Welle, 15 September 2023.

#### **Two-Tiered System**

Legalisation fosters a two-tiered system in which some sex workers are able to comply with regulations and work legally, while the majority are excluded from protections and remain subject to legal penalties. Migrant sex workers are often disproportionately affected, and must shift their activities to more clandestine and precarious settings to avoid detection. 11 This renders already marginalised sex workers more vulnerable to exploitation and human rights violations while excluding them from the legal protections and supports afforded to other workers. This division between legal and 'illegal' sex work fosters a hierarchy which exacerbates inequalities and perpetuates structural barriers existing within criminalised models of sex work.



Bronwyn McBride and Trajche Janushev, "Criminalisation, Health, and Labour Rights Among Im/migrant Sex Workers Globally," in Sex Work, Health, and Human Rights: Global Inequities, Challenges and Opportunities for Action, ed. Shira Goldenberg, Ruth Morgan Thomas, Anna Forbes, et al. (Cham: Springer, 2021).



#### **Marginalisation and Othering**

By treating sex work as an occupation that is fundamentally different from other forms of work, requiring extensive regulation and control, legalisation reinforces the marginalisation and social othering of sex workers. The extraordinary requirements and scrutiny sex workers face under legalisation perpetuate harmful stereotypes of the sex industry as being inherently unsafe, exploitative, and socially undesirable. This can impact not only how the general population views and treats sex workers, but can also foster internalised stigma amongst sex workers themselves.

### Legalisation of Sex Work:

IS a framework which subjects sex workers to extraordinary regulations which violate their agency, bodily autonomy, and privacy.

IS conditional – sex workers can only work legally if they comply with regulations and laws. If not, they will be penalised, similar to sex workers working in criminalised contexts.

**IS** a way for the state to exert more control over the sex industry.

IS NOT decriminalisation, since it does not necessarily remove laws criminalising sex work.

**IS NOT** a solution to end stigma and discrimination.

IS NOT endorsed by the majority of sex worker-led organisations and their allies, as it still perpetuates stigma, discrimination, and marginalisation.

IS NOT a guarantee of human rights – sex workers who cannot comply with regulations are still marginalised and subject to legal penalties and human rights violations.



### What is Decriminalisation?

Decriminalisation of sex work refers to the removal of all laws and regulations that criminalise and/or penalise various aspects of sex work, including its sale, purchase, advertisement, and the involvement of third parties (such as managers, brothel-keepers, etc.). Unlike legalisation, decriminalisation does not introduce new laws to regulate or restrict the sex industry. Instead, sex work is covered under existing occupational health and safety laws which apply to other industries. The decriminalisation of sex work strictly applies to activities between consenting adults (aged 18 years and older). THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH

8

### Key Features of Decriminalisation

#### **Removal of Criminal Penalties**

Decriminalisation entails the complete removal of all criminal and administrative penalties for sex work, including its sale, purchase, advertisement,

and the involvement of third parties. It also removes associated penalties surrounding solicitation and living off the earnings of sex work. As a result, sex workers are not subject to extraordinary policing or surveillance by authorities, and can work without fear of legal repercussions.

Legal models which remove criminal penalties for certain aspects of sex work while retaining others, such as the Nordic Model, which criminalises the purchase, but not sale, of sex, are **not** considered decriminalisation.

#### **Recognition of Sex Work as Work**

Under decriminalisation, sex work is recognised as a form of employment like any other, entitling sex workers to the same labour rights and protections afforded to other workers. This includes access to safe and healthy working conditions, fair wages, and employment-based social protection benefits. Decriminalisation allows sex workers to enter formal employment relationships or register as self-employed workers, and empowers them to assert their rights and advocate for fair and equal treatment.



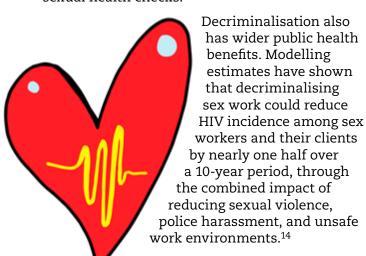
### **Access to Justice and Legal Redress**

Decriminalisation increases sex workers' access to justice and legal redress. Sex workers who have experienced discrimination, violence, or abuse can report incidents and seek out support without fear of legal repercussions. In settings where sex work has been decriminalised, sex workers have reported improved relationships with law enforcement and reduced police corruption. Decriminalisation also enables sex workers to negotiate safer working conditions and more effectively collaborate in the fight against trafficking by removing legal barriers to reporting.

<sup>12</sup> Gillian Abel, "A decade of decriminalization: Sex work 'down under' but not underground," Criminology & Criminal Justice 14(5) (2014): 580–592.

#### **Individual and Public Health Benefits**

Decriminalisation removes legal barriers for sex workers seeking out healthcare, including HIV and STI testing and treatment, sexual and reproductive health services, harm reduction, and other essential care. It empowers sex workers to make autonomous decisions about their own health, fostering positive health-seeking behaviours and reducing stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings. In New Zealand, where sex work is decriminalised, it was found that 97% of sex workers access voluntary sexual health checks.<sup>13</sup>



#### 13 Catherine Healy, "Decriminalization in New Zealand, New Zealand Prostitutes' Collective," Proceedings of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Conference, Sydney, 2010.



### **Empowerment and Inclusion**

By upholding the agency and autonomy of sex workers, decriminalisation challenges systemic inequalities. It offers the most conducive environment for sex workers to self-organise and engage in community empowerment initiatives, as well as collaborate with other social and political movements. It helps contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society which empowers and uplifts the voices of marginalised groups. Although decriminalisation is not a panacea for eliminating stigma, discrimination, and violence, it is an essential step to addressing structural barriers to sex workers' health and human rights.

<sup>14</sup> Kate Shannon et al., "Global epidemiology of HIV among female sex workers: influence of structural determinants," The Lancet 385(996) (2015): 55–71.

### **Decriminalisation of Sex Work:**

- IS the removal of all criminal and/or administrative penalties associated with sex work among consenting adults.
- **IS** the recognition of sex work as a legitimate form of labour like any other.
- **IS** aimed at promoting the health, safety, and human rights of sex workers.
- **IS** centred on upholding sex workers' agency and bodily autonomy.
- **IS** the legal model favoured by the vast majority of sex worker-led organisations worldwide.
- **IS NOT** an endorsement of exploitation, human trafficking, or the involvement of minors in the sex industry, which remain illegal.
- IS NOT the complete absence of regulations; occupational health and safety standards which apply to other businesses and industries also apply to sex work.
- IS NOT aimed at forcing or enticing individuals to enter sex work, but rather respecting the right to choose one's occupation and to work in safe and healthy conditions.
- IS NOT a partial approach. When any aspect of sex work is criminalised or penalised, sex workers remain subject to legal oppression.



### Additional Measures to Support Implementation

To ensure successful implementation, decriminalisation must be accompanied by supportive guidelines, policies, and anti-discrimination measures. All measures should be developed and implemented with meaningful participation from sex worker-led organisations.



Examples of supportive implementation measures may include:

- Developing sex work-inclusive workplace health and safety guidelines
- Conducting awareness-raising and sensitisation training activities amongst authorities to ensure they are aware of legal reforms and respond appropriately to sex workers
- Establishing anti-discrimination protections for sex workers
- Establishing appropriate labour protections for sex workers
- Promoting safe, legal migration pathways, ensuring the right of migrants to work in the sex industry
- Removing sex work from anti-trafficking regulations and moving it into labour frameworks
- Removing discriminatory public health regulations for sex workers, and moving sex work into a broader public health management framework
- Including sex worker-led organisations in working groups and review boards to review the implementation of legal reforms
- Destroying/expunging past criminal or administrative records related to sex work

By incorporating these measures, policymakers can promote a more inclusive and equitable environment, ensuring that all sex workers can access the full advantages of decriminalisation.

### International Support for Decriminalisation

The decriminalisation of sex work has been endorsed by countless experts and authorities in the fields of health and human rights.

The organisations listed below **all** call for the decriminalisation of sex work.

- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- UNFPA
- WHO
- UNDP
- World Bank
- · Amnesty International
- Médecins Du Monde
- Human Rights Watch
- Global Commission on HIV and the Law
- Open Society Foundations
- Global Network of People Living with HIV
- Global Action for Gay Men's Health & Rights (MPact)
- International Women's Health Coalition
- · Association for Women's Rights in Development
- American Jewish World Service
- Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)



- The Lancet
- Global Fund for Women
- Elton John AIDS Foundation
- Frontline AIDS
- International Community of Women Living with HIV
- Global Health Justice Partnership of the Yale
   Law School and Yale School of Public Health
- European AIDS Treatment Group
- ILGA-Europe
- Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PIKUM)
- Freedom Network USA
- STOPAIDS
- La Strada International
- International Planned Parenthood Federation
- ILGA World

# Legalisation vs. Decriminalisation at a Glance

	LEGALISATION	DECRIMINALISATION
Legal Status	Introduces laws and regulations permitting sex work under certain conditions, while all other sex work remains criminalised	Removes laws and penalties criminalising all aspects of sex work between consenting adults
Government Oversight	Government imposes special regulations and standards for sex work that do not apply to other industries	Government does not implement special measures to regulate or control sex work; sex work is covered under existing health and safety laws that apply to other industries
Policing	Law enforcement monitor compliance with regulations, perpetuating punitive policing practices and corruption	Sex work is not monitored by law enforcement, shifting the dynamic between police and sex workers from punitive to protective
Criminal Records	Sex workers who do not comply with regulations may still be prosecuted and obtain criminal records, limiting future opportunities	Sex workers cannot obtain criminal records solely for their involvement in sex work
Recognition of Sex Work as Work	Only sex workers who comply with extraordinary regulations and requirements are recognised as workers	All sex work is inherently recognised as work, equal to other forms of employment
Labour Rights and Protections	Labour rights and protections are only provided to sex workers who comply with regulations, leaving others unprotected and liable to prosecution	Labour rights and protections are upheld for all sex workers, allowing them to work without fear of arrest or prosecution

	LEGALISATION	DECRIMINALISATION
Access to Health	Mandatory HIV and STI testing and treatment may be required, perpetuating fear, stigma, and stereotypes of sex workers as 'vectors of disease'	Legal barriers to accessing health services are removed, reducing stigma and discrimination and empowering sex workers to take control of their own health
Impact on Trafficking	Has not definitively been shown to reduce trafficking, but rather pushes both sex workers and traffickers further underground to avoid detection	May help reduce trafficking by allowing sex workers and clients to report cases of abuse and exploitation without fear of legal repercussions
Stigma and Discrimination	Perpetuates stigma and discrimination by differentiating sex workers from other workers and creating a two-tiered system of 'legal' vs. 'illegal' sex work	Helps reduce stigma and discrimination by recognising sex workers' agency and autonomy, and by treating them like all other workers



# Challenging Myths about Decriminalisation

### MYTH #1: Decriminalisation undermines human trafficking efforts

**REALITY:** In jurisdictions that have decriminalised sex work, there have been no reported increases in the instances of trafficking. On the contrary, by removing legal barriers, decriminalisation enables sex workers to report cases of trafficking, exploitation, and abuse, without fear of negative repercussions.

### MYTH #2: Decriminalisation promotes the sexual exploitation of minors and allows abusers to go unpunished

**REALITY:** Decriminalisation only applies to consensual activities conducted between adults. Facilitating, coercing, and/or profiting off the

sexual exploitation of minors remain punishable offenses.

Decriminalisation

can facilitate the
identification of
underage victims of
sexual exploitation
by allowing sex

workers, clients
and others in
the sex industry
to report
cases without
fear of legal
repercussions.

### MYTH #3: Lack of regulation under decriminalisation will lead to chaos and lawlessness in the sex industry

**REALITY:** Decriminalisation of sex work does not mean a complete lack of regulation or oversight. Under decriminalisation, the sex industry must still adhere to standard workplace health and safety regulations which apply to other industries, and authorities retain the right to monitor adherence to these standards. As part of the formal economy, the sex industry is also liable to taxation.

### MYTH #4: Decriminalisation increases the demand for and size of the sex industry, and encourages individuals to become sex workers

**REALITY:** Research has shown that decriminalisation has not increased the size of the sex industry where it has been implemented. Decriminalisation does not aim to promote entry into the sex industry, but rather upholds individuals' right to freely choose their occupation, and work in safe and healthy conditions.

<sup>15</sup> Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, 2018 "Sex Workers Organising for Change: Self-representation, community mobilisation, and working condition."

<sup>16</sup> New Zealand Parliament, 2012, "Prostitution Law Reform in New Zealand."



### MYTH #5: Decriminalisation leads to an increase of crime in areas where sex work is prevalent

**REALITY:** Decriminalisation can decrease overall crime rates by allowing law enforcement to focus on more serious offences, rather than policing sex workers. Sex workers have also reported feeling safer and enjoying improved relations with the police following decriminalisation.<sup>17</sup>

### MYTH #6: Decriminalisation undermines public health goals and will lead to an increase in HIV and STI infections

**REALITY:** There is ample evidence demonstrating the negative role that criminalisation plays in perpetuating HIV and STI epidemics.<sup>18</sup> Decriminalisation, on the other hand, removes legal barriers to accessing health services and enables sex workers to be more open with health providers about their health needs. Where sex work has been decriminalised, there have been no noted increases in HIV and STI infections, and modelling suggests that decriminalising sex work could help decrease HIV rates by nearly one half over a ten-year period.<sup>19</sup>

### MYTH #7: Decriminalisation promotes gender inequality and reinforces the patriarchal oppression of women

**REALITY:** Decriminalisation respects the agency of women, as well as sex workers of other genders, to make autonomous decisions about their own lives, work, and bodies. Decriminalisation also promotes sex workers' access to fundamental labour rights and protections, which are essential to achieving gender equality and economic justice. On the contrary, measures which criminalise or restrict sex work reinforce patriarchal dynamics which seek to control women's bodies, sexuality, and economic agency.

### MYTH #8: Decriminalisation is an approach supported by only a few privileged activists, who do not represent sex workers as a whole

**REALITY:** Decriminalisation is the legal model of sex work endorsed by the majority of sex worker-led organisations worldwide, who directly advocate for their communities. NSWP's membership, comprising over 350 organisations from more than 100 countries, stands united in support of decriminalisation. Representing diverse ages, genders, sexual orientations, ethnicities, migration backgrounds, socioeconomic circumstances, and HIV statuses, NSWP's membership testifies to the widespread global support for decriminalisation within the sex worker community.

<sup>17</sup> Gillian Abel, "A decade of decriminalization: Sex work 'down under' but not underground," Criminology & Criminal Justice 14(5) (2014): 580–592.

<sup>18</sup> Lucy Platt et al., "Associations between sex work laws and sex workers' health: A systematic review and meta-analysis of quantitative and qualitative studies," PLoS Medicine 11:15(12) (2018).

<sup>19</sup> Kate Shannon et al., "Global epidemiology of HIV among female sex workers: influence of structural determinants," The Lancet 385(996) (2015): 55–71.

# Additional Resources on Sex Work and Decriminalisation

### **Human Rights Frameworks**

#### **Amnesty International:**

Amnesty International policy on state obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of sex workers and Explanatory Note

#### **NSWP:**

NSWP Consensus Statement on Sex Work, Human Rights, and the Law

#### **Open Society Foundations:**

Ten Reasons to Decriminalize Sex Work

#### Health

### Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS):

HIV and Sex Work – Human Rights Fact Sheet Series 2021

UNAIDS Guidance Note on HIV and Sex Work

#### WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, and NSWP:

Prevention and Treatment of HIV and other
Sexually Transmitted Infections for Sex
Workers in Low- and Middle-income Countries:
Recommendations for a public health approach

### WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, NSWP, World Bank, and UNDP:

Implementing comprehensive HIV/STI programmes with sex workers: practical approaches from collaborative interventions

### Women's Rights

#### **Count Me In! Consortium:**

Factsheet: Sex Workers' Rights are Women's Rights

### **European Sex Workers Rights Alliance** (formerly ICRSE):

Feminism Needs Sex Workers, Sex Workers Need Feminism: Towards a Sex Worker-Inclusive Women's Rights Movement

### Human Rights Council Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls:

Guidance document on Eliminating discrimination against sex workers and securing their human rights

### **Anti-Trafficking and Migration**

#### Freedom Network USA:

Position Paper: Preventing Sex Trafficking Requires the Full Decriminalization of Sex Work

#### **Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women:**

Moving Beyond 'Supply and Demand'
Catchphrases: Assessing the uses and limitations
of demand-based approaches in Anti-Trafficking

Sex Workers Organising for Change: Self-representation, community mobilisation, and working conditions

#### **NSWP:**

The Impact of Anti-trafficking Legislation and Initiatives on Sex Workers

### Conclusion

Decriminalisation and legalisation are two distinct legislative models with profoundly different impacts on sex workers' health, human rights, and wellbeing. Understanding these differences is key to engaging in meaningful dialogue, combatting misinformation, and advocating for rights-based legal reforms. Around the world, sex workers and their allies call for the full decriminalisation of sex work – the only legal model of sex work which is rooted in human rights principles and backed by robust evidence.





### Global Network of Sex Work Projects Promoting Health and Human Rights

## SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

Even before the HIV epidemic, sex workers were organising themselves. NSWP, as a global network of sex worker-led organisatons, has strong regional and national networks across five regions: Africa; Asia-Pacific; Europe (including Eastern Europe and Central Asia); Latin America; and North America and the Caribbean.

NSWP has a global Secretariat in Scotland, UK, with staff to carry out a programme of advocacy, capacity building and communications. Its members are local, national or regional sex worker-led organisations and networks committed to amplifying the voices of sex workers.





company. Company No. SC349355