



More about

Sex Workers' Rights

THERE ARE A LOT OF MISCONCEPTIONS AROUND SEX WORK. HERE ARE SOME KEY INSIGHTS AND RESOURCES



Improving the wellbeing of sex workers requires an intersectional feminist approach. Sex workers are women, men, trans and non-binary. They may be parents, students, members of the LGBTQ+ community, migrants, living with disabilities or living with or affected by HIV. Sex workers' rights intersect with class, race and many other factors. As a result, when sex work is criminalised, many communities feel the negative impact.



Conflating sex work, migration, and trafficking does real harm to real people; indeed, the conflation likely leads to policy failure.



The Covid-19 pandemic deepened and exacerbated existing inequalities experienced by sex workers.



Anti-rights actors are increasingly organising to prevent specific communities from accessing their rights. This includes deliberately targeting and discrediting sex workers and their efforts to challenge punitive laws and policies that result in widespread harm.



Around the world, legal models either uphold or further limit sex workers' safety, wellbeing, and human rights. Sex workers and human rights organisations call for decriminalisation. Evidence demonstrates that the 'Swedish model' of criminalising clients does not keep sex workers safe from violence.



To a large extent, violence against sex workers is created by the conditions of criminalisation. Rights-based policies must recognise that discrimination and stigma generate violence and reduce sex workers' access to justice.

CMI developed a reality check on several popular myths:



mamacash.org/media/cmi/_factsheets/a4_myth-busting.pdf

The Sex Work Donor Collaborative compiled additional resources

sexworkdonorcollaborative.org/for-funders



For additional fact sheets and more resources on sex worker rights, visit: cmiconsortium.org

