

RESOURCES ON SEX WORKERS RIGHTS

The following provisional resource list has been prepared by the Count Me In! Consortium. As a result of limited resources and capacity, with apologies, please note that all but one of the resources are in English. This is not, by any means, an exhaustive list of resources, but a starter list to help you gather more information.* For most of these documents, sex work is the primary topic, but in others, sex worker rights are built in common with other rights claims. Please also note that the [Global Network of Sex Work Projects](#) has an extensive list of resources and reference documents in a number of languages.

Decriminalization:

- ❖ [10 Reasons to Decriminalize Sex Work](#), Open Societies Foundation, revised March 2015.
- ❖ [Challenging Criminalization of Sex Work in Africa Policy Brief](#), African Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA), 2024.
- ❖ [“Decriminalisation and the end of AIDS: keep the promise, follow the science and fulfil human rights,”](#) A statement from the UNAIDS Reference Group on HIV and Human Rights,” June 2023.
- ❖ [Decriminalization: The Smart Sex Workers Guide](#), Global Network of Sex Work Projects, 2022.
- ❖ [Harm Reduction & Decriminalization of Sex Work and Drug Use Factsheet](#), Positive Women’s Network, 2019.
- ❖ [Protecting the human rights of sex workers](#), Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, 2024.
- ❖ [The March 8 Principles for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Criminal Law Proscribing Conduct Associated with Sex, Reproduction, Drug Use, HIV, Homelessness and Poverty](#), International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), 2023.

Health:

- ❖ [Advancing Sex Workers Health and Welfare Programming in East and Southern Africa](#), UNFPA, March 2023.
- ❖ [Briefing Paper on Sex Work and Mental Health](#), European Sex Workers Alliance, 2021.
- ❖ [HIV and Sex Work: Human Rights Fact Sheet Series](#), UNAIDS, 2021.
- ❖ [Implementing comprehensive HIV/STI programmes with sex workers: practical approaches from collaborative interventions](#), World Health Organization (WHO), 2013.
- ❖ [The Global HIV Epidemics among Sex Workers](#), Kerrigan, Wirtz, Baral, Decker, Murray, Poteat, Pretorius, Sherman, Sweat, Semini, N’Jie, Stanciole, Butler, Osornprasop, Oelrichs, Beyrer, 2013.
- ❖ [The Impact of Criminalization on Sex Workers’ Vulnerability to HIV and Violence](#) Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP), 2017.
- ❖ [Two pairs of gloves: sex workers experiences of stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings in Europe](#), ESWA, Dec 2023.
- ❖ [When Sex Work and Drug Use Overlap](#), Harm Reduction International, 2021.

- ❖ [Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health \(Anand Grover\): Focus on criminalization re: Sex work, same sex sexual conduct and HIV transmission](#), 2010.

Human Rights:

- ❖ [A Guide on the Human Rights of Sex Workers](#), UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Compiled by: Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the highest standard of physical and mental health (SR health), the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity [IE SOGI], and the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls [WGDAWG], March 2024.
- ❖ [Eliminating discrimination against sex workers and securing their human rights](#), UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, 2024.
- ❖ [Policy on State Obligations to Respect, Protect and Fulfill the Human Rights of Sex Workers](#), Amnesty International, 2016.
- ❖ [Explanatory Note on Amnesty International's Policy on State Obligations to Respect, Protect and Fulfill the Human Rights of Sex Workers](#), Amnesty International, 2016.
- ❖ [Informe regional sobre condiciones laborales y violaciones a DDHH](#), Redtrasex, 2023 (Spanish language).
- ❖ [Laws and Policy Affecting Sex Work: A Reference Brief](#), Open Societies Foundation, July 2012.
- ❖ [Sex Work and Laws in South Asia: A Monogram](#), Center for Advocacy on Stigma and Marginalization (CASAM), April 2010.
- ❖ [Sex Work and the Law in Asia and the Pacific](#), UNDP, Oct 2012.
- ❖ [The Law and Sex Work: Four Legal Approaches to the Sex Sector](#) Sex Workers and Allies Network, April 2020.
- ❖ [Sex Workers Organising for Change: Self-representation, community mobilisation, and working conditions](#), The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW).

Sex worker/feminist engagement:

- ❖ [Ain't I A Woman: Report of Global Dialogue between the Sex Workers' Rights movement and the Stop Violence Against Women Movement](#), March 2009.
- ❖ [IPPF Policy on Sex Work, International Planned Parenthood Federation Policy Paper](#), 2022.
- ❖ [IDWA Position Paper on Sex Work](#), International Women's Development Agency, no date provided.
- ❖ [It's time to get off the fence on sex workers' rights](#), Joel Quirk, Emily Kenway and Cameron Thibos (Eds.), Open Democracy, 2021.

Trafficking:

- ❖ [“Disadvantaged, ignored, and disrespected” A feminist analysis of CEDAW General Recommendation 38, Part 1](#), IWRAW AP (International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific), 2020.
- ❖ [“How did this happen?”A feminist analysis of CEDAW General Recommendation 38, Part 2](#), IWRAW AP, 2020.
- ❖ [Annotated Guide to The Complete UN Trafficking Protocol](#)_ Global Rights Partners for Justice, 2002.
- ❖ [RAIDED-E-Book](#)_SANGRAM India, March 2018.
- ❖ [Written Submission on Trafficking in Women & Girls in the Context of Global Migration](#)_ Sex Workers Inclusive Feminist Alliance (SWIFA), no date provided.

UN Engagement:

- ❖ [Framework on Rights of Sex Workers in CEDAW](#), International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW AP) and the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP), 2017.
- ❖ [Joint submission to CEDAW on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration](#), UNAIDS, UNDP and UNFPA, 2019.
- ❖ [Shadow Report Guidelines on CEDAW and Rights of Sex Workers](#)_ IWRAW AP and NSWP
- ❖ [UNAIDS Guidance Note on HIV and Sex Wor](#) UNAIDS, 2012.
- ❖ [Unzipping the Universal Periodic Review for Key Affected Women and Girls in Asia and the Pacific](#), Unzip the Lips, 2016.

Other:

- [Sex Work as Work](#), NSWP policy brief, NSWP, 2017
- [Sex Workers Rights Defenders at Risk](#), Front Line Defenders (2021)
- [The Needs and Rights of Trans Sex Workers](#), NSWP, 2014.
- CMI Factsheets: [Counting Sex Workers In! Campaign](#),
 - a. Fact sheet 1: Sex workers’ rights as women’s rights
 - b. Fact sheet 2: The far-reaching impact of laws governing sex work
 - c. Fact sheet 3: Funding for sex workers’ rights
 - d. Fact sheet 4: Sex work vs. ‘sex trafficking’ and understanding the difference
 - e. Fact sheet 5: Violence in the lives of sex workers
 - f. Fact sheet 6: Sex work and migration
 - g. Fact sheet 7: COVID-19 and sex work
 - h. Fact sheet 8: Counting sex workers in feminist foreign policy
 - i. Fact sheet 9: (In Dutch)Sekswork in Nederland
 - j. Fact sheet 10: (In Dutch) Sekwerkbeleid in internationale context

*** NOTE:**

The resources included cover a range of materials related to UN engagement, policies on decriminalization, human rights, health, sex worker/feminist engagement, and trafficking. However, there are many other resources that have a specific focus or address a particular context. Some potential areas where additional resources are available include:

Regional Perspectives: Additional resources provide insights into specific regions or countries. This could include regional reports, policy briefs, or research studies focused on the situation of sex workers in particular areas.

Legal Analysis: Additional resources provide detailed legal analysis or comparisons of laws related to sex work and human rights in different jurisdictions.

Community Perspectives: This, most importantly, includes many additional perspectives from sex worker communities and organizations, addressing sex workers' lives and experiences, as well as their advocacy efforts. These are available in reports, publications, or statements from sex worker-led organizations or advocacy groups.

Recent Developments: Up-to-date resources, especially those covering recent developments or changes in policy or practice.

Academic Research: Academic journals and publications provide in-depth analysis and empirical research on various aspects of sex work, human rights, and related topics.

