

# COUNTING SEX WORKERS IN!

"NO BAD WOMEN, JUST BAD LAWS"



## MYTHS vs. REALITIES

**FEMINISTS DON'T SUPPORT SEX WORKER'S RIGHTS**



**FEMINIST COLLECTIVES AND ORGANISATIONS AROUND THE WORLD SUPPORT THE RIGHTS OF SEX WORKERS and the call for the decriminalisation of sex work.**

**SEX WORK IS VIOLENT**

"MY WORK SHOULD NOT COST ME MY LIFE"

**SEX WORK BETWEEN TWO CONSENTING ADULTS IS NOT VIOLENT.** However, its criminalisation, as well as discrimination and stigma against sex workers, generates violence and other human rights violations.

**SEX WORK IS A CHOICE**



**CHOICE IS ALWAYS LIMITED, RELATIVE, AND CONTEXTUAL.** Most people worldwide work for money to survive. If you're poor, a person of colour, a woman, trans and/or gender non-conforming, you likely have a smaller range of choices. Regardless of whether you choose to do domestic work, sex work, farm work, office work, factory work, or anything else, your choice should be valued and your rights should be respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled.

**SEX WORKERS SELL THEMSELVES**



**SEX WORKERS ARE NOT SELLING THEMSELVES,** they are selling a service that is limited in duration and scope.

**ALL SEX WORKERS HAVE BEEN ABUSED**



All industries have women who have experienced abuse because global gender-based violence statistics are deplorable. **THE WHO ESTIMATES THAT 1 IN 3 WOMEN WILL EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE IN HER LIFETIME.** Sex workers have the right to be treated with dignity, and have recourse to justice, just as women in other occupations.

### HOW CAN FEMINIST ORGANISATIONS SUPPORT SEX WORKERS?

**LISTEN TO AND RECOGNISE SEX WORKERS AS EXPERTS IN THEIR OWN LIVES.**  
Involve them as integral partners in the fight for gender equality and encourage visibility by collaborating with sex worker-led movements.

**USE AN INCLUSIVE AND INTERSECTIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF GENDER EQUALITY**  
that recognises diversity in needs and experiences of women and fight for feminism that is sex worker-inclusive and transgender-inclusive.

**SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES WITH SEX WORKER-LED ORGANISATIONS,**  
facilitate their access to key advocacy spaces, provide platforms for diverse sex worker voices, and foster the exchange of information + skills and work towards ensuring their access to physical and mental health information and services, housing, safety and security in offline and online spaces and assertion of their human rights.

**ACCEPT SEX WORKERS' EVIDENCE AND CAMPAIGN FOR FULL DECRIMINALISATION.**  
Given growing evidence about the ways in which criminalisation and structural inequalities shape conditions within the sex industry, it is time support the full decriminalisation of sex work as the best way to ensure the safety and self-determination of sex workers.