

FIGHT EXPLOITATION, NOT SEX WORKERS

RE. Proposed Changes to Doing Business in Winnipeg By-Law

January 19, 2022

SEX WORKERS of WINNIPEG ACTION COALITION

- Make things safer for all sex workers
- Initiatives preventing violence & protecting human rights of sex workers must be:
  - **informed and directed by sex workers**
  - harm reduction
  - evidence-based

- **Full decriminalization of sex work** (≠ PCEPA)

#FightExploitationNotSexWorkers

Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform
Alliance Canadienne pour la Réforme des Lois sur le Travail du Sexe

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We are 100% Against Exploitation and Trafficking

Our Objectives

1. Problematizing the objectives for the report
2. The intentional conflation of sex work with human trafficking
3. Refusing to listen: Prioritizing Joy Smith & WPS over Sex Workers
4. Human Trafficking Education Campaigns: Harms of Partnering with Hospitality industry & Vehicles for Hire

Objectives for the Report

Primary objectives: *protecting "those who sell their own sexual services" + reducing "the demand for prostitution" (p.3).*

TAKING AWAY OUR MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD DOES NOT PROTECT US

PARTNERING WITH ORGANIZATIONS THAT DO NOT SEE US AS WORKERS, AS PEOPLE DESERVING WORKERS RIGHTS DOES NOT PROTECT US

PROVIDING ADDITIONAL REGULATORY TOOLS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT DOES NOT PROTECT US

Sex Work ≠ Human Trafficking

Report conflates sex work with human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

SEX WORKERS ARE ADULTS WHO ARE CONSENTING

SEX WORK defines the exchange of sex or sexualized intimacy for something of value. It encompasses a broad spectrum of labours and ways of working. If it's not consensual or involves coercion in any way, this is **NOT** sex work.

Please see The Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women for an organization that does not conflate sex work with trafficking
instead, they **"centre human rights"**

REFUSAL TO LISTEN

SEX WORKERS ARE THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE CONSULTED FOR THIS REPORT.

AND YET THIS REPORT DISMISSES OUR VOICES AND INSTEAD PRIORITIZES THE VOICE OF THE JOY SMITH FOUNDATION AND HER NEW CENTRE & THE WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE

SEX WORKERS ARE THE EXPERTS OF OUR OWN LIVES AND WORK.

Meaningful Participation of Sex Workers in Policy

The Harms of Human Trafficking Education Campaigns: Partnering with Hospitality Industry & Vehicles for Hire

"Awareness raising is only one pillar of antitrafficking work and one that has much less impact than addressing the root causes of trafficking, which can include restrictive im/migration policies, lack of labour protections, poverty, social inequality, criminalization of sex work and more.

In fact, there is little evidence that public awareness campaigns help victims of human trafficking at all" (24).

The Harms of Human Trafficking Education Campaigns: Partnering with Hospitality Industry & Vehicles for Hire

"Governments in North America have been funding partnerships with hotels, airlines, truckers and other public-facing industries under the guise of combatting human trafficking and sexual exploitation, which puts the private sector on the frontlines of identifying victims… In practice, however, these efforts have largely wound up as law-enforcement crackdowns on sex workers and other members of racialized and marginalized communities." (18)

Indicators of trafficking "have become so broad they are practically meaningless, and it is unclear the extent to which these indicators are based on actual empirical evidence of human trafficking" (18)

- Minimal luggage and clothing
- Women travelling alone and/or drinking at the bar alone
- Guests who insist on little to no housekeeping
- Having sex toys, condoms or lube[70]

The Harms of Partnering with Hospitality Industry & Vehicles for Hire

These tools instill fear for sex workers and force us underground. They cause an environment of indifference, stigma, and violence towards sex workers.

All the places that we go, the tools that we use to work (hotels, vehicles for hire) become surveillance methods that expose us to law enforcement and police violence.

SURVEILLANCE = MORE VIOLENCE & CRIMINALIZATION

What actually helps Combat Trafficking and Exploitation? Ethical Anti-Trafficking Initiatives and Support Services

HIV Legal Network on Passing of Bill 251 in Ontario, Canada – So Called '*Combating Human Trafficking Act, 2021*'

"We urge the government to quash this Act and adopt an anti-human trafficking strategy that is rooted in human rights, including labour rights and migrant rights, and addresses the numerous structural barriers including poverty, precarious immigration status, and lack of access to affordable housing, health and social services that contribute to the risks of human trafficking."

So, what helps? Ethical Anti-Trafficking Initiatives and Support Services

"In a 2019 Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) consultation, participants asserted that trafficking could be successfully prevented by implementing measures addressing the issues of discrimination, migration, labour and social protections."

The report we're here to discuss today is suggesting the opposite of this



The removal of these licenses cannot leave the door open to banning adult businesses nor increasing the surveillance and control of our workplaces, work, and lives.

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