

FIGHT EXPLOITATION, NOT SEX WORKERS

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

January 27, 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

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Sex Work ≠ Human Trafficking

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"**

Our Objectives

1. Presentations at Executive Policy Committee
2. Reasons the by-law must be removed!
3. Harms of "anti-trafficking" campaigns and partnerships
4. What actually helps Combat Trafficking and Exploitation? Ethical Anti-Trafficking Initiatives and Support Services
5. Sex work abolition is harmful!
6. Essential action items needed from city of Winnipeg

Executive Policy Committee presentation - summary

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

Reasons the by-law must be removed!

Licenses/bylaw were not for the benefit or safety of the workers; used as surveillance by law enforcement

Body rub practitioners not allowed to lock doors in their work space

Criminal record check required for licenses

Mandatory providing of clients names with meeting dates and times

Dress codes dictated by the city

Large fines associated with various violations

Harms of "anti-trafficking" campaigns and partnerships

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."

Sex work abolition is harmful!

The repeal cannot lead to closures or additional by-laws or policies that seek to ban sex work.

You cannot prioritize abolitionist motives, you must meaningfully consult and work with sex workers.

Essential action items needed from city

Acknowledgment of harms that criminalization has on sex workers and vulnerable folks

Acknowledgement that trafficking and sex work aren't the same thing

Addressing root causes of exploitation. Investing in social supports

Recognizing that Sex Work is Work!

Meaningful collaboration with sex workers on any motions, amendments or recommendations about anything to do with adult businesses in the city

SWWAC trainings for councilors and other city employees

Commitment to look into harmful programs operating in the city, such as "John School"



The repeal cannot lead to the closure of sex workers' work places or lead to the enactment of more by-laws or policies that seek to ban sex work from the city!

We demand that sex workers be able to continue to work in Winnipeg–without police involvement and surveillance; this is a workplace safety issue!

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