

WHAT IS SEX WORK?

Provision of sexual services or performances by **one person (Sex Worker)** for which a **second person (Client or Observer)** provides money or other markers of economic value.

These markers of economic value may include:

- money
- food
- shelter
- drugs
- & more



SEX WORK IS AN UMBRELLA TERM INCLUSIVE OF

- Trade sex
- Porn performance
- Dancing
- Phone
- Web cam/internet
- Survival-based
- Street-based
- BDSM
- Magazine
- Film/Video
- Out Calls / In Calls
- & more

Sex work can be **LICIT** or **ILLICIT**.

In situations of illicit sex work, risk is involved for all three parties.



Sex work involves a

- Worker
- Consumer
- Often times, Manager



WHAT IS SESTA/FOSTA?

WHAT IS IT?

- Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act / Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act
- Bipartisan bill passed by House & Senate March 2018, signed April 2018.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Makes third party sites responsible for posting ads for sex workers - legally liable for trafficking.
- Since its passage, Craigslist personals, Backpage, and other sites have been pulled down.

WHAT'S THE IMPACT?

- Makes it more difficult for sex workers to find & screen clients.
- Pushes people out into the street again - putting sex workers of color, of trans identity, and/or of undocumented status further at risk.
- Creates more competition & more risk for sex workers who are 100% street-based (& often survival-based).
- Puts people MORE at risk of being trafficked.

WHY DO PEOPLE ENGAGE IN SEX WORK?



CHOICE

- Julia chooses to work as a dominatrix because the work is profitable & she enjoys it.
- Julia chooses to do sex work.

CIRCUMSTANCE

- Mark is marginally housed, & engages in a relationship with Peter to have a place to sleep.
- His sex work is circumstantial.

COERCION

- Leah's partner coerces her into trading sex with their supplier in exchange for drugs even though she doesn't want to.
- This is a human rights violation & not the same as consensual sex work.

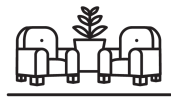
SEX WORK IS WORK

- Everyone who engages in sex work has personal, unique reasons for doing so.
- Sex work is one of the few trades in which someone without any formal education can provide for themselves at an equal level to someone with an advanced degree.
- However, sex workers who hold marginalized identities are uniquely vulnerable to racism, transphobia, xenophobia, classism, & other forms of structural violence.

RESOURCES

- DecrimNY: decrimny.org
- Sex Workers' Project: sexworkersproject.org
- VOCAL-NY: vocalny.org

HARM REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS



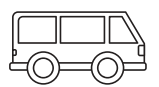
DROP-IN CENTER



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING & POLICY CHANGE



INTRACOMMUNITY SKILL SHARING



STREET OUTREACH

**DON'T ASSUME!
DON'T TRY TO
'SAVE' ANYONE
FROM SEX WORK**



**SAFER DRUG USE &
OVERDOSE
PREVENTION
MATERIALS**



**MEDICAL &
HEALTH
SERVICES**



**SAFER SEX
MATERIALS &
EDUCATION**

**BAD DATE
SHEET**

**OFFER ANONYMOUS
TESTING SERVICES**

**OFFER HAND SANITIZER, ANTISEPTIC
WIPES, MOUTHWASH, MAKEUP
REMOVER TOWELETTES**

For more resources, visit harmreduction.org