

**FORUM:** Human Rights Council (HRC)

**QUESTION OF:** Reinsuring the Access of Rights to Sex Workers

**MAIN SUBMITTER:** Belgium

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Armenia, Costa Rica, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, South Korea, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America

*Recognising* that sex work is a legitimate form of labour and inherently a consensual act,

*Deeply concerned by* the high rates of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), violence and abuse among sex workers

*Taking into consideration* that sex workers are a high-risk group for STDs, are often exposed to exploitation, abuse, harassment, violence, and social stigma,

*Bearing in mind* that the criminalisation of sex work has been shown to worsen all these issues and leads to sex workers not having sufficient access and breaches sex worker's right to self-determination,

*Emphasizing* that sex workers are entitled to full protection of their human rights under international law,

*THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,*

1. Urges Member States to create legislation that:
  - a) decriminalises sex work for adults and legally recognises it as a valid industry,
  - b) requires sex workers to register their jobs in person and alone with the local government;
2. Proposes all Member States to create legislation that protects sex workers labour rights by:
  - a) providing sex workers with the same worker's rights as given to those in other fields, such as, but not limited to:
    - i. protection against discrimination, unfair treatment and violence,
    - ii. entitlements to social protection, such as pension and unemployment benefits,
    - iii. right to any and all relevant workers' insurance,
    - iv. workplace safety regulations such as contractual limits on working hours,
    - v. the right to unionize and bargain collectively,
  - b) preventing the exploitation of sex workers in workplaces with:
    - i. labour standards being implemented in the brothel or any other premises with organised sex work,
    - ii. accountability if employment legislation is violated with damage to the workers;

3. Encourages the creation of an international digital platform, accessible to all individuals, especially sex workers, regardless of age, nationality and location, available in different languages, which will help sex workers and other users:
  - a) share personal stories to:
    - i. fight stigma,
    - ii. prevent social exclusion,
    - iii. change offensive attitudes towards them,
  - b) understand the true negative stance of sex workers,
  - c) provide sex workers with clear information on STD testing facilities in their district,
  - d) decriminalising consensual adult sex in addition but not limited to:
    - i. the preservation of stable laws against any trafficking, exploitation and child prostitution,
    - ii. the allowance of workers to operate in licensed premises with workplace protections;
4. Requests that all Member States should strengthen laws that protect sex worker's rights by ensuring that:
  - a) sex workers have access to healthcare, including Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) prevention and treatment, and mental health support,
  - b) engaging in sexual activities without protection is illegal for sex workers;
  - c) HIV prevention and treatment programs tailored to the needs of sex workers;
  - d) mechanisms for reporting abuse or exploitation without fear of reprisal or prosecution;
5. Urges member states to acquire a human rights-based approach to sex work emphasizes the elimination of discrimination, criminalization, and the stigma that sex workers face by:
  - a) protecting the rights of sex workers and ensuring their equal access to services by:
    - i. creating public awareness campaigns of sex workers rights and the role of consent in sex work of all kinds such as but not limited to media campaigns,
    - ii. creating educational workshops, seminars and public events.
  - b) promoting their dignity and well-being by:
    - i. promoting the understanding and acceptance of sex workers as individuals with rights and dignity,
    - ii. use international channels that could sensibelize different segments of the world;
6. Requests the establishment of comprehensive exit programs for individuals wishing to leave sex work, including:
  - a) education, job training, career development resources to help people not to become involuntarily involved in sex work,
  - b) temporary financial aid for individuals to transition out of sex work, so that sex workers can leave their work line at any time;

7. Urges member states to address the need for non-discriminatory and respectful interactions with sex workers by:
  - a) ensuring equal access to services for sex workers,
  - b) promoting initiatives aimed at eliminating societal stigma against them and can be enhanced by including testimonies from sex workers to provide real-life perspectives and challenge misconceptions,
  - c) creating training sessions to invite sex workers to share their experiences to foster empathy and understanding by:
    - i. monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of training programs that are established,
    - ii. including feedback mechanisms from sex workers themselves to ensure that training is genuinely improving their interactions with authorities and service providers;
8. Recommends expanding access to healthcare services responsive to the needs of sex workers by:
  - a) establishing special clinics offering:
    - i. non-judgmental and confidential service provision,
    - ii. comprehensive services for sexual and reproductive health including contraception and STI testing,
    - iii. counseling and psychosocial support,
  - b) capacity building for service providers on the need to treat FSWs in a manner that is non-judgmental and providing dignity of service at the point of care with equity of access.