



migrant  
**SEX**  
workers  
call for  
**rights**



On December 17<sup>th</sup> 2021, on the **International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers**, TAMPEP, the *European Network for the Promotion of Rights and Health among Migrant Sex Workers*, gives continuity to its campaign **Europe has forgotten the Human Rights of Migrant Sex Workers.**

**TAMPEP presents a video with migrant sex workers voices regarding the covid-19 period, their demands for rights and the improvement of their working conditions.**

The video can be seen and downloaded under:  
[www.tampep.eu](http://www.tampep.eu) and <https://youtu.be/9xV-aSeXIN4>

This booklet contains the full testimonies of eleven migrant sex workers working in Europe:

- 2 Brazilians in Italy
- 1 Colombian in Italy
- 2 Macedonians in North Macedonia
- 3 Romanians in Germany
- 1 Russian in Finland
- 1 Spanish in Norway
- 1 Thai in Finland

## Brazilian in Italy

# 1



A crise de covid-19 para mim, que sou trabalhadora sexual, afetou praticamente 100% da renda que eu tinha.


No início eu não podia sair porque tinha hora para voltar, para sair você tinha que ter uma autorização. Por isso eu não tinha clientes, não tinha como trabalhar, principalmente para mim que trabalhava na rua.

Fiquei sem trabalho.

A solução que encontrei para sair dessa situação difícil foi me apoiar em amigos, em clientes que me ajudaram, e nas associações que distribuíram pacotes de comida, preservativos, lubrificante, máscaras e gel desinfetante contra a covid.

Infelizmente o governo esqueceu dos trabalhadores sexuais, não falaram da gente, não propuseram nenhum tipo de ajuda.

Eu gostaria de fechar o vídeo dizendo que o trabalho sexual também é um trabalho.



he covid-19 crisis for me, as a sex worker, affected practically 100% of the income that I had.

In the beginning I couldn't go out because there was a curfew. To go out you had to have a permit. So I had no clients, I had no way of working, especially for me who worked on the street.

I was left without work.

The solution I found to get out of this difficult situation was to rely on friends, on clients who helped me, and on associations that distributed packets of food, condoms, lubricants, masks and disinfectant gel against covid-19.

Unfortunately the government forgot the sex workers, they didn't talk about us, and didn't propose any kind of help.

I would like to close the video by saying that sex work is also a job.

Meu nome é Melissa Campos, sou uma mulher trans-escort.

O que mais me chamou a atenção nessa pandemia foi a falta de estrutura sanitária, a invisibilidade, o abandono e o esquecimento de nossos representantes políticos com relação ao nosso segmento.

A criminalização e a perseguição de uma sociedade que exclui, que discrimina, mas que também sustenta e consome esse comércio, através de nossos corpos.



Gostaria de pedir aos nossos representantes que tivessem maior sensibilidade à nossa causa.

Que se recordassem que também somos cidadãos, que pensem e criem políticas públicas que garantam direitos para todos e todas, sem distinção.

M

My name is Melissa Campos, I am a trans-escort woman.

What most caught my attention in this pandemic was the lack of health structure, the invisibility, the abandonment and forgetfulness of our political representatives regarding our segment.

The criminalization and persecution of a society that excludes, that discriminates, but also sustains and consumes this trade, through our bodies.

I would like to ask our representatives to be more sensitive to our cause.

That they remember that we are also citizens.

That they think about it and create public policies that guarantee rights for all, without distinction.

## Colombian in Italy

Soy Vanesa de la Torre, tengo 35 años, soy de Colombia. Estoy ahora aquí en Italia.

En la pandemia fue muy difícil para mí estar siempre encerrada y no tener donde ir. Siempre estuve teniendo mis precauciones, siendo responsable. Soy una persona que hace el trabajo sexual.



He tenido que hacer mis duras pruebas, pero gracias a la atención que me han brindado en la asociación (Stella Polare), he tenido alguna ayuda, alguien con la que puedo hablar. Me han ayudado psicológicamente. Estoy aprendiendo meditación para la depresión y la ansiedad.

Espero que se mejoren las cosas, estar bien, aquí en este país que me ha acogido con los brazos abiertos.

Pero siempre existe la estigmatización, de que soy una chica trans y no poder tener privilegios como las demás personas.

Espero que puedan ayudar a las asociaciones para poder estar mejor todas nosotras, las trans, las chicas trans y tener una vida mejor y estar lo mejor posible aquí, en Italia, y que nos ayuden.

Somos muchas las que estamos en dificultades y en grandes problemas.



I'm Vanesa de la Torre, 35 years old, I'm from Colombia.

I am now here in Italy.

During the pandemic it was very difficult for me to always be locked up and have nowhere to go.

I was always taking my precautions, being responsible. I am a person who does sex work.

I've had to go through hard moments, but thanks to the care I've been given at the (Stella Polare) association, I've had some help, someone I could talk to. They have helped me psychologically.

I am learning meditation for depression and anxiety.

I hope that things will get better, to be well, here in this country that has welcomed me with open arms.

But there is always the stigmatisation, that I am a trans-girl and cannot have privileges like other people.

I hope that they can help the associations so that all of us, trans-women, trans-girls, can have a better life and be as well as possible here in Italy, and that they can help us.

There are many of us who are in difficulties and in big problems.



## Macedonian in North Macedonia

# 1



Со зафаќањето на пандемијата предизвикана од КОВИД - 19, работата како сексуална работничка ми се намали за 80% бидејќи не можев да патувам надвор од мојата земја каде што најчесто нудам сексуални услуги.

На почетокот имаше рестриктивни мерки како што се органичено движење, полициски час но и неможноста за патување.

Во меѓувреме се намалија мерките, но проблемот со нудењето на сексуални услуги остана ист, бидејќи се плашев да работам токму поради стравот од пренос на коронавирусот.

Проблемот беше исто и патувањето надвор од земјата бидејќи ми беа потребни или негативен тест за КОВИД-19 или сертификат за примена вакцина кои кај нас беа достапни од јуни 2021 година.

Во тој период освен невладините организации, никој друг не излезе со помош за сексуалните работници.

Исто така работата надвор од мојата земја ми придонесува други проблеми со кои што се соочувам како што се здравствени прегледи кои што се многу скапи.

Па затоа барам декриминализација на сексуалната работа во мојата земја, но и насекаде каде што не е декриминализирана за да сексуалните работници ги имаат истите бенифиции како и останатите луѓе, но и препознавањето на сексуалната работа како работа.

A large, stylized white letter 'W' is positioned on the left side of the page, set against a solid red rectangular background. The 'W' is bold and occupies the upper portion of the text area.

With the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, my work as a sex worker reduced by 80% because I was not able to travel outside of my country, where I offer my sex services.

At the beginning there were restrictive measures such as limitations of movement, police curfews and ban on traveling abroad.

In the meantime restrictive measures were reduced, but offering sex services was still problematic, because I was afraid of coronavirus transmission.

Traveling to other countries was also a problem because I needed a negative COVID-19 test or a vaccination certificate, which became available only in June 2021.

In that period, besides the civil society organisations, nobody else came to help sex workers.

Also, working outside of my country makes me face other problems such as healthcare check-ups, which can be quite expensive.

This is why I demand the decriminalisation of sex work in my country, and also everywhere where it is criminalised, so that sex workers can enjoy same rights and benefits like everyone else.

I also demand the recognition of sex work as work.

## Macedonian in North Macedonia

# 2

Како сексуална работничка која работи само на затворена сцена, КОВИД-19 пандемијата имаше големо влијание.

Најпрво беа донесени рестриктивни мерки односно забрана за работа на јавни објекти како хотели, ресторанти, кафичи и слично, а тоа го попречуваше функционирањето на мојата работа и во мојот град.

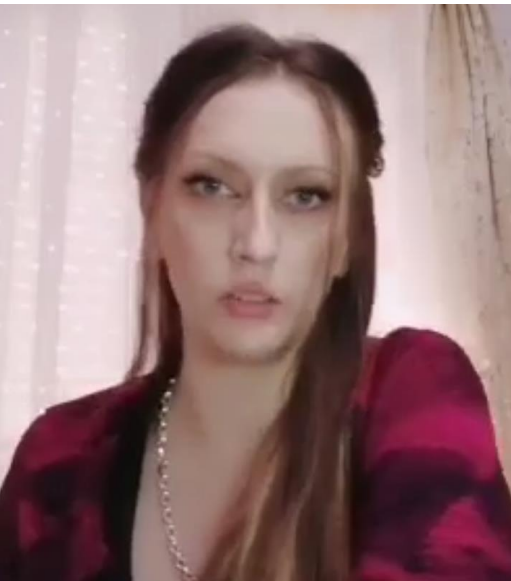
и не можев да мигрирам во други градови во државата, а тоа значеше немање приход од сексуалната работа.

Благодарение на ангажманот во СТАР-СТАР успеав некако да функционирам, иако државата имаше пакет мерки ние како заедница, како сексуални работници не бевме вклучени во нив.

После укинувањето на оние првични мерки, беше воведена мерката задолжителна вакцинација при посета на јавни објекти, а тоа е пречка и за нас како сексуални работници, но и за клиентите.

Освен мерките, пречка за работа е и стравот од инфицирање од КОВИД 19.

За безбедна и сигурна сексуална работа, потребно е декриминализација на сексуалната работа во Република Македонија.





s a sex worker who only works indoors, the COVID-19 pandemic affected me greatly.

Restrictive measures were imposed at the beginning, such as ban on work of public places including hotels, restaurants, cafés and so on, which made it impossible to work in my city.

And I couldn't migrate to other cities in the country, which meant no income from sex work.

Thanks to the engagement at STAR-STAR I was able to function somehow, and although the state offered relief measures, we were not considered as a community, that of sex workers.

After initial measures were lifted, mandatory vaccination certificate was introduced as a measure when going to public places, which was a great obstacle for us as sex workers, but also for our clients.

Regardless of the measures, the fear from COVID-19 infection was also a barrier to work.

For safe and secure sex work, sex work must be decriminalized in the Republic of North Macedonia.

# Romanian in Germany

# 1

Bună!

Sunt transexual din Europa de Est, mai precis din România.

Am venit în Germania în anul 2015.

Am plecat... M-am gândit să vin într-o țară unde să nu mai întâmpin probleme gen homofobie, discriminare, să îmi caut o viață mai bună.

Am început în Germania ca lucrătoare sexuală, într-un bordel.

Am lucrat o perioadă de 1 an și ceva.

După care, în 2016, am făcut o pauză, am încercat să îmi caut un job normal.

Am depus diferite CV-uri, la anumite firme de make-up și am mai încercat și prin multe locuri să fiu ajutată cu locuință și să fiu ajutată pentru un job normal, dar am primit numai răspunsuri negative.

Adică am întâmpinat homofobie, discriminare și acolo, adică nu numai în România.

Aș dori ca statul să se implice mult mai mult în cazul femeilor lucrătoare sexual și al transexualilor, când vor să înceapă o viață nouă să fie un pic ajutați.



Că de unii singuri nu reușesc, vor întâlni foarte multe uși închise.

Și marea problemă a transexualilor în general este că nu își pot găsi o locuință.

Multe persoane sunt reținute a oferi o locuință genurilor de tip transexual, persoanelor transexuale.

Și aș dori ca statul să încerce un pic mai mult.

În ce ține pe timpul pandemiei, a fost foarte dificil, ca pentru toată lumea cred. A fost un șoc.

Noi a trebuit să plătim chirii integrale.

Am avut doar 2 săptămâni reducere, în rest a trebuit să plătim camera foarte scump, niciun fel de reducere, niciun fel de ajutor.

Clienți nu au fost, pentru că pe toată lumea a afectat pandemia.

Am fost nevoită, pentru că nu am mai avut bani suficienți să pot locui în continuare, am fost nevoită să mă reîntorc în România pe perioada pandemiei.

Și să mă reîntorc în Germania când se vor mai liniști un pic lucrurile.

Nu știu ce aș mai putea să mai spun decât în rest ca statul să se implice mult mai mult și când vrem să începem o nouă viață, să fim ajutate.

Să nu avem uși închise.

Mulțumesc.



ello!

I am a transsexual from Eastern Europe, more precisely from Romania.

I came to Germany in 2015.

I left... I thought of coming to a country where I would not have to face problems such as homophobia, discrimination, and look for a better life.

I started in Germany as a sex worker in a brothel.

I worked for 1 year and something.

Then, in 2016, I took a break and I tried to find a normal job.

I sent CVs to different make-up companies and I tried in many other places, to get a house and to get a normal job, but I received only negative answers.

Meaning I faced homophobia, discrimination there too, not only in Romania.

I wish the state got more involved in the case of sex workers and of transsexuals, when they want to start a new life, to help them.

Because they cannot succeed by themselves, they will meet many closed doors.

And the big problems for transsexuals, in general, is that they cannot find housing.

Many persons are reticent to giving a house to persons like transsexuals.

I wish the government tried a little harder.

As for the pandemic, it was very hard, as it was for everyone, I think. It was a shock.

We had to pay our rents in full.

We had only two weeks of discount, for the rest we had to pay the room very expensively, without any deduction, without any help.

We did not have clients, because everybody was affected by the pandemic.

As I did not have enough money to continue to pay the rent, I was forced to return to Romania during the pandemic.

And I will get back to Germany when things calm down a little.

I do not know what I could add, except that the state should get more involved and that, when we want to start a new life, we must be helped.

No more closed doors.

Thank you.



## Romanian in Germany

# 2



Bună ziua! Mă numesc Andra.

Lucrez de 8 ani de zile în prostituție în Germania.

În prim plan, pandemia m-a făcut să îmi fie frică să întâlnesc alți oameni.

După care a urmat o perioadă de acomodare, clienții fiind tot mai puțini, nu am mai răzbit cu costurile, cu chiriile, cu toate cele necesare, ceea ce m-a făcut să mă gândesc la o nouă viață, la un nou început.

Am încercat să îmi găsesc apartament, am încercat să mă înscriu la școală.

Toate foarte, foarte, foarte, foarte greu, din cauza faptului că sunt româncă și sunt discriminată pentru acest fapt.

Mi-aș dori să nu mai întâmpine și alți români sau colege de breaslă problemele pe care eu le-am întâmpinat.

Mi-a fost foarte greu să îmi găsesc un apartament în care să locuiesc. Mi-a fost foarte greu să mă înscriu la o școală.

Mi-a fost foarte greu să răzbat în această pandemie care efectiv ne-a distrus, cu ghilimelele de rigoare, toate planurile pe care le aveam pentru viitor.

Mi-aș dori ca în această țară să nu mai fie acest rasism.

Mulțumesc mult, o zi plăcută!



Good afternoon! My name is Andra.

I have been working in prostitution in Germany for 8 years.

First of all, the pandemic made me be afraid of meeting other people.

Then came a period of getting used to the situation, but, as the clients were fewer and fewer, I couldn't afford the costs any more, the rent and all the rest, and this made me think of a new life, of a new beginning.

I tried to find an apartment, I tried to go to school.

Everything was very, very, very hard, because I am Romanian and I am discriminated because of this.

I wish other Romanians or other colleagues will not have the problems that I had.

It was very hard to find an apartment where to live. It was very hard to be enrolled in a school.

It was very hard to succeed in this pandemic that simply destroyed, to use a strong word, all the plans we had for the future.

I wish there was no more racism in this country.

Thank you, have a nice day!

Bună ziua!

Mă numesc Carla și sunt muncitoare în branșa sexului în Germania.

Pandemia m-a afectat bineînțeles pe mine și pe colegile mele financiar.

Foarte multe colegi de-ale mele au rămas izolate în Germania, au acumulat foarte multe datorii pentru că chiriile au fost scăzute doar câteva săptămâni la jumătate de preț, după care, bineînțeles, și-a revenit totul la normal.

Mi-aș dori ca în viitor pentru branșa asta să nu mai fie atâta discriminare.

În afara faptului că oricum, ca româncă, ai o etichetă, dacă mai ești și prostituată, deja e dezastru.

Nu toate fetele sunt pescuite și nu toate fetele sunt obligate și nu toate fetele fac ceea ce nu-și doresc.

Ba chiar mai mult. Cunosc foarte multe fete, ba îmi permit să spun să majoritatea femeilor o fac conștient.

Fac conștient acest job.

Mie îmi place ceea ce fac. Și sper să o pot face mulți ani.

Pentru mine, este ca un job social. Dau și primesc.

Fiecare client și fiecare fată are un standard de servicii și fiecare este în măsură să își selecteze cu atenție persoana pe care vrea să o atingă sau cu care vrea să petreacă un anumit timp limitat.



Mi-aș dori foarte tare ca pentru persoanele care vor să iasă din branșa asta, pentru fetele care vor să schimbe modul de viață, să existe mai mult ajutor să se integreze în alt tip de viață.

Adică, să-ți găsești un apartament, ai nevoie de un contract, de un job cu un venit fix.

Iar noi, fiind legal în Germania și lucrând ca autonome, plătim taxe la stat, dar totuși ești autonom, nu îndeplinim condiția asta și ne este foarte, foarte greu să ne găsim o locuință aici.

Așa că mi-aș dori un ajutor în special pentru persoanele care își doresc să o facă, să lase acest tip de muncă.

Și mi-aș dori mai puțină discriminare.

Nu toți oamenii sunt la fel și între noi nu suntem la fel.

Nu toate avem aceleași hobbyuri, nu toate avem aceleași plăceri.

Suntem oricum oameni.

Orice muncă am presta, că ești gunoier sau că ești secretară, sau că ești asistent medical, sau că ești doctor, ești om.

Și fiecare om avem nevoi.

Că sunt nevoi sexuale, sau că sunt nevoi financiare, sau că sunt alte tipuri de nevoi, suntem conștienți și le luăm conștient pe fiecare.



ood afternoon!

My name is Carla and I work in the field of sex work, in Germany.

It is obvious that the pandemic affected me and my colleagues, from the financial point of view.

Many of my colleagues were isolated in Germany, accumulated huge debts because the rents were reduced only for a few weeks to half the price, and then, of course, everything got back to normal.

I wish for the future not to have so much discrimination in this field.

Besides the fact that anyway, as a Romanian, you already have a label, and, moreover, if you are also a prostitute, then it's the disaster.

Not all girls have pimps, and not all girls are forced and not all girls do this without wanting it.

Even more. I know a lot of girls, I can even say that most women do this consciously.

They do this job consciously.

I like what I do. I hope to do it for many years from now on.

For me, it's like a social job. I receive and I give.

Every client and every girl have their own standard of services and each of them can carefully select the person he or she wants to touch or with whom they want to spend some limited time.

I strongly wish the persons who want to get out of this field, the girls who want to change their life style to receive more support to integrate in another type of life.

I mean, if you want an apartment, you need a contract, a job with a fixed revenue.

In our case, even if we have a legal status in Germany, we work autonomously, we pay taxes, but still we are autonomous, we do not fulfil this condition and it is very, very difficult for us to find a house.

Therefore, I would like a special support for people who want to leave this field, to give up this type of work.

And I want less discrimination.

Not all people are alike, and not all of us are alike.

We do not have the same hobbies, we do not like the same things.

But we are all human beings.

Irrespective of the work you do, if you collect the garbage, you are a secretary, or you work as a nurse, you are still a human being.

And every human being has needs.

They might be sexual needs, financial needs, other types of needs, we are aware of them and we take them consciously.

## Russian in Finland

Вначале было немножко шоком то, что все вдруг остановилась. Никто ни к кому в гости не ходит. Улицы пустые. Я как раз приехала с отпуска. В моей семейной жизни на тот момент произошли большие перемены. Мне надо было съехать со старой квартиры. Я переехала в Еспоо к своему другу. У меня появилась официальная работа. Он предложил мне стать работником по озеленению ландшафтов. Я купила рабочую одежду, и мы вместе ходили, работали. Это был первый этап Короны. А по осени, когда вроде как все восстановилась, я решила съехать от него. Думаю ладно, работа опять



началась, и я переехала обратно в центр. Но работы практически не было, так как все боялись встречаться по работе. Клиентами были только свои знакомые и друзья. Хочу сказать, что в корону хоть я и была в минусе, но с другой стороны она повлияло положительно, потому что можно было заниматься своими делами. Больше встречаться с детьми, с семьёй, как-то и голова посвежее, когда ночью спишь. Потихоньку уже начали привыкать к тому, как идёт жизнь. Сейчас по-прежнему затишье. Из клиентов знакомые и друзья. С кем попало уже самой не хочется. Свое

здоровье ,семья, дети - это все намного дороже. Со своим другом я занимаюсь строительными работами, так что в моей жизни произошли положительные результаты. Я довольна тем, что у меня есть. Так-то конечно хотелось бы, чтобы это всё закончилось, но иногда надо подумать, стоит ли рисковать встречаться с посторонними людьми, когда можно заболеть коронавирусом заболеванием.

A large white letter 'A' is centered on a yellow rectangular background that spans the width of the page.

At first it was a bit of a shock that everything suddenly stopped. No one was visiting anyone. The streets were empty. I had just come back from holiday.

There were big changes in my family life at that time. I had to move out of my old flat and moved to Espoo with a friend of mine.

I got an official job. My friend offered me a job as a gardener. I bought work clothes and we went around together, working. That was the first stage of covid-19.

In autumn, when things had sort of recovered, I decided to move out.

I thought okay, work started again, so I moved back to the centre. But there was practically no work, as everyone was afraid to meet for sex work. The only clients were my acquaintances and friends.

Although I was in disadvantage regarding covid-19, on the other hand it had a positive impact because you could do your own thing. I got to see more of my children, my family, and somehow my head was fresher when I slept at night.

Slowly we began to get used to the way life was going.

At the moment there is still a lull. Clients are acquaintances and friends.

I do not want to work with just anyone. My health, my family and my children, they are much more important.

I still do construction work with my friend, so there have been positive results in my life. I am content with what I have. Of course I wish it were over. Sometimes you have to think whether it is worth the risk to meet strangers and get the corona virus.



## Spanish in Norway

Hola, buenas, soy Daniel, trabajo para Pion, Noruega, una organización que vela por los derechos de los trabajadores sexuales.

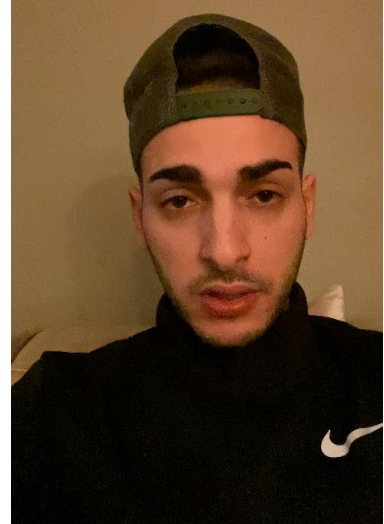
Y pienso que durante la pandemia nos dimos cuenta que por ser Noruega un país ejemplar, lleno de organizaciones que trabajan por los derechos del trabajo sexual, este grupo ha sido bastante olvidado, no han recibido ningún paquete de ayuda económico.


De hoy a mañana ya no podían trabajar, pagar sus gastos, su alquiler y por eso han tenido que recurrir a encontrar proxenetas que les ofrecían alquiler o vivienda o lugares de trabajo y bien compartir con éstos el 50% de sus ganancias.

A parte, muchos no podían regresar a su país y tuvieron que quedarse aquí.

Y de la otra manera se empezaron a deportar a muchos trabajadores sexuales, cuando no había ninguna ley que concretaba si es legal o ilegal ofrecer sus servicios.

Entonces yo pienso que si el Estado hubiera estado un poco más de su lado y hubiera ofrecido un apoyo, un paquete económico, no habrían pasado este tipo de cosas.





i, my name is Daniel, I work for Pion, Norway, an organisation that advocates for the rights of sex workers.

And I think that during the pandemic we realised that for Norway being an exemplary country, full of organisations working for sex workers' rights, this group has been quite forgotten, they have not received any financial support package.

Suddenly they could no longer work, pay their expenses, their rent, and so they had to resort to finding pimps who offered them rent or housing or workplaces, or share 50% of their earnings with them.

In addition, many could not return to their country and had to stay here.


On the other hand, many sex workers started to be deported, when there was no law specifying whether it was legal or illegal to offer their services.

So, I think that if the state had been a bit more on their side and had offered help, an economic package, this kind of thing wouldn't have happened.

## Thai in Finland

ปัญหาที่หนักที่สุดของโควิดตอนนี้ การทำงานในด้านนี้  
ก็คือว่าไม่มีลูกค้า ลูกค้าไม่เข้าร้าน  
และเราก็ต้องจ่ายค่าเช่าร้านและค่าเช่าบ้าน เสร็จแล้วไม่มีค่าเช่าบ้าน  
ก็ต้องย้ายไปทำงานที่ต่างจังหวัด เพราะว่าในจังหวัดที่เราอยู่มันลำบาก  
ไม่มีลูกค้าเลย แล้วก็อีกอย่าง  
ก็อยากจะให้งานบริการของเราในด้านนี้มันดีขึ้น  
อยากให้รัฐบาลช่วยเหลือ และก็จะมีหลายๆอย่าง  
ที่ว่าต้องการความช่วยเหลือในด้านนี้ แต่บางคนเขาก็ไม่ชอบ  
และก็ดูถูกงานของเราในด้านนี้ บางคนเขาก็ให้เกียรติ  
และก็ยินดีที่จะใช้บริการของเรา





The most difficult problem with Covid-19 in this type of job today is that there are no clients, no one comes into our massage parlours and I have to pay my work premise leasing fee and the rent.

If I can't pay the rent, I have to relocate to another province because things are difficult where we are now, and there are no clients.

Furthermore, we would like to see public services improve.

We want the government to help us, and there are many things that require assistance, but...

Some dislike and disrespect our job, some show us some respect. They are, nonetheless, willing to use our services.



**European Network for the  
Promotion of Rights and Health  
among Migrant Sex Workers**

For the Campaign

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