



TAMPEP Newsletter 17th December 2019

The International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers | IDEVASW

“None of us are free until all of us are free”

On the 17th of December each year, sex workers and our allies come together to commemorate the lives of sex workers lost at the intersection of unjust laws, repressive practices and deeply engrained social stigmatisation of sex workers.

The day is also marked with a renewed commitment by those of us fighting for the rights of all sex workers to live and work free from violence and to be protected by the laws. This year it is particularly important for us to reflect on the effects of legal frameworks in promoting an environment of increased hostility towards sex workers in which state-sanctioned and perpetuated violence with impunity can flourish.

The increased engagement across European state governments with the failed Swedish approach to sex work, which adds further criminalisation by making it illegal to purchase sex, has led to a year of sex worker led groups and networks having to step up efforts to protect our rights, particularly in the vein of protecting those of our community who are most marginalised, including migrant sex workers.

This newsletter marks the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers 2019 by highlighting the struggles, resistance and resilience of sex worker groups across our network, while commemorating lives lost in the ongoing struggle to achieve sex workers rights.

The more attempts to divide us, the closer we come together.

Attempts to silence us, only make our voices louder.

As they deny us our rights, we take to the streets, to parliaments, to government buildings.

Our voices will not be diminished. Our spirits will not be dimmed.

TAMPEP, 2019
in Marking the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers

TAMPEP was founded in 1993 in response to the needs of migrant sex workers across Europe. As a sex worker-led network, it unites sex worker groups and allies in building stronger partnerships to advocate for the rights of migrant and mobile sex workers in Europe.

Migrant sex workers face multiple forms of discrimination and exclusion due to the convergence of repressive measures against migration, health, and sex work. This situation is compounded for those belonging to marginalised minority groups across all categories.

TAMPEP has a tripartite approach to human rights, advocacy and networking: **the right to work, the right to health, and the right to move freely**, with the diversity of migrant and mobile sex workers as a foundational and crosscutting value. This year, TAMPEP will develop our Strategic Plan in consultation with our members and allies to ensure our efforts at regional level are supporting our member groups to include and platform the needs and rights of migrant sex workers and work to support the wider regional sex worker led fight for all sex workers' rights. We will renew our call for sex worker-led member groups and hold our first election process inviting sex workers, particularly those who are migrant, to lead TAMPEP's work as part of our Steering Committee. We will also open a call for in country groups working specifically on migrant sex worker-related issues to join TAMPEP in a funded partnership process to conduct an in-country documentation process. Our efforts as a migrant sex worker-led network will be enhanced and strengthened through these partnerships so as a movement, our focus on the rights of migrant sex workers will continue to grow stronger.

SWEDEN

The Failed Criminalisation Model that Continues to be Exported Despite Grave Harms to Sex Workers

2019 marked Twenty years of the failed Swedish approach that criminalises the purchase of Sex in a stated attempt to abolish prostitution. This newsletter is dedicated to highlighting the devastating effects of the legal model, particularly for sex workers most marginalized, including those of us who are migrant, and show sex workers' resistance to other country engagement with the model.



Marking 20 years of the Sexköpslagen, sex workers and allies from Europe and beyond gathered in Stockholm, Sweden for three days of sex workers-only events, a large protest and an international conference. The events were organised by sex worker-led organisation [Fuckförbundet](#) and co-hosted by [RFSL](#), the Swedish LGBTI organisation and the International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe ([ICRSE](#)).

Almost 100 sex workers gathered to learn from one another on a range of topics; strategies for confronting criminalisation, including and platforming the needs and rights of sex workers experiencing intersectional discrimination and stigma, engaging in ethical research and self-defence. There was also a large demonstration led by sex workers protesting the dangerous effects of the Swedish model and demanding rights!

The conference was then opened to allies on Monday 30th, when 140 people attended the first international sex worker's rights conference in Sweden. Sex workers and researchers working in countries where the Swedish Model has been exported to (a stated aim of the Swedish Government!) spoke with representatives from diverse NGOs about the dangerous conditions such a legal framework has fostered for sex workers, who now [evidence](#) increased violence, decreased autonomy and bargaining power with third parties and clients, an increase in trafficking for sexual exploitation purposes, and an increasing hostility towards sex workers, particularly those who are migrant and trans.

Importantly at the conference, Swedish sex worker-led organisation [Fuckförbundet](#) [launched its report: '20 years failing sex workers'. The report](#), developed in partnership with ICRSE, shows key findings regarding the impact of the sex purchase ban on the living and working conditions of sex workers in Sweden and includes vital policy recommendations including the decriminalisation of sex work and the meaningful involvement of sex workers in policies and services that concerns them.

TAMPEP was proud to be represented by some of our Steering Committee members at the conference and present specifically on the experiences, needs and rights of migrant sex workers. Those of us who could not attend watched as the conference began trending on social media, marking a truly empowering tide shift in sex workers' rights activism in Europe! We are here. We are fighting. And we will not give up until ALL sex workers' rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. If you missed it, check out Hashtag [#FFConf](#)

FINLAND

As Sweden continues to try to engage other Nordic countries and beyond in adopting their criminalization model, sex workers are building allies across academia, interest groups, political parties and other human rights based network. In Finland for example, the Green Party's Women's Wing released a statement on Friday the 29th of November, calling for a human-rights-based approach to the protection of sex workers' rights and condemned the Swedish approach. The statement was a response to a call for the Nordic Model, released earlier in the week by the National Council of Women in Finland, an umbrella organization for women's associations. The Green Women are the first political women's organization in Finland to take an opposing stance to the Nordic Model.

In their statement, written in collaboration with the Green Youth, the Green Women insist all policy made must be human-rights and research-based, and centre the opinions of sex worker-led organizations, including the new Finland sex worker led organisation FTS (link to

website: (<https://fts.fi>). The Statement can be found in Finnish:

<https://www.vihreatnaiset.fi/blog/2019/11/29/vihreat-nuoret-ja-vihreat-naiset-seksin-oston-kielto-ei-auta-ihmiskaupan-uhreja-ja-vaarantaa-seksityolaisten-turvallisuuden/>

AUSTRIA | GERMANY | SWITZERLAND

Academic research networks are continuing to build and produce evidence related to sex worker experiences. This growing body of evidence is vital for sex worker networks and organisations to use for advocacy purposes. This year, an exciting new research network has been developed between academics and researchers in Austria/Germany/Switzerland! The "society for sex work and prostitution research" connects young sex work researchers from all disciplines and organizes a workshop every year that gives undergraduate and postgraduate scholars the opportunity to present their projects and learn from each other. <https://kritischesexarbeitsforschung.wordpress.com/>

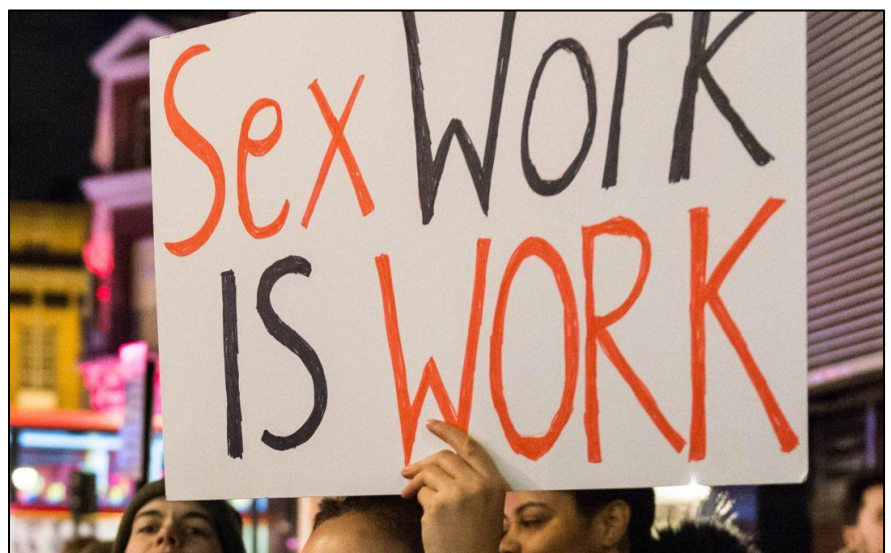
DEUTSCH

Spannendes neues Forscher_innen-Netzwerk in Deutschland/Österreich/Schweiz!

Die "Gesellschaft für Sexarbeits- und Prostitutionsforschung" bringt junge Sexarbeitsforscher_innen aller Disziplinen zusammen und organisiert jedes Jahr einen Workshop, bei dem studentische und graduierte Forscher_innen ihre Projekte vorstellen und voneinander lernen können. <https://kritischesexarbeitsforschung.wordpress.com/>

THE NETHERLANDS

In a devastating move towards political changes that would infringe upon the rights of sex workers, the Dutch Government recently drafted a **new Sex Work Regulation Bill (Wrs)**. The stated purpose of the bill is to combat human trafficking and other abuses. It also states that the aim is to improve the position of sex workers.



At the same time, the cabinet acknowledges that it puts sex workers in a position that is different from any other workers. In their opinion, this is justified because, according to them, prostitution is not a normal job and cannot be compared with other work. Sex worker groups are in the process of resisting such legal changes that would serve to undermine the rights to health, dignity and privacy.

This is what the bill says:

Licensing system for sex workers

- All sex workers must have a license, even if they work via the opting-in or behind the window
- In order to obtain a license, sex workers must be over 21 years of age and be allowed to work in the Netherlands
- All sex workers are obliged to have an interview with a civil servant who will decide whether they are 'self-reliant' enough to be allowed to work as a sex worker. If the official has no 'major objections' against the sex worker entering or continuing sex work, she or he will receive a license
- If the official thinks that the sex worker is not 'self-reliant' enough or that she or he may be working under duress, a license will not be granted. A license will also not be issued to sex workers who are not yet 21 years old or do not have the right papers to work in the Netherlands
- Sex workers are only allowed to advertise with their license number and a work phone number
- A license is valid for five years

Home-based sex workers

- A license does not mean that sex workers have a permit to work home-based
- The bill is very vague about home-based sex workers. On the one hand it says that municipalities may not treat independent sex workers different from other self-employed workers, such as hairdressers or pedicures. On the other hand, municipalities have the power to set extra rules, and most zoning plans and housing corporations prohibit home-based prostitution

Withdrawal of the license

- The license may be revoked:
- when the authorities believe a sex worker is no longer sufficiently 'self-reliant' or may be working under coercion
- when a sex worker repeatedly advertises without their license number and work phone number or has not immediately reported a change in their work phone number

National register of sex workers

- All licensed sex workers will be listed in a national register with their social security number, their work phone number and their license number
- It is mandatory to provide a work phone number. Any change must be reported immediately
- The national register will also include the following information about sex workers:

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- When they were caught working without a license
 - When they advertised without a license number and registered phone number
 - When they did not immediately report a change in their work phone number
 - When the officials think they may be working under duress or have doubts about their self-sufficiency
 - Anyone can check in the national register whether a license number actually exists and whether a particular license number and telephone number belong together
 - Only the authorities can also see the social security number of the sex worker

Criminalization of unlicensed sex workers and their business relations (the bill calls this "illegal prostitution")

- Sex workers who work without a license or do not comply with the rules, may face a penalty up to € 20,750. This also applies to sex workers who (still) work while their application for a license was rejected
- Business relations of sex workers without a license are criminalized. They can face up to two years' imprisonment or a fine up to € 20,750. In the bill they are called "facilitators of illegal prostitution"
- This applies, for example, to drivers, bodyguards, cleaners and other service providers of unlicensed sex workers. Possibly, it may also apply to partners of sex workers who drive them to work, take care of their safety or with whom the sex worker shares her or his income. It may also apply to sex workers who work together with a colleague. The bill is not clear on this point.

Criminalization of clients of unlicensed sex workers

- Clients can check in the national register whether a license number actually exists and whether a particular license number and telephone number belong together
- Clients who have sex with an unlicensed sex worker or a sex worker who works for an unlicensed sex business, can face up to one year imprisonment or a fine up to € 8,300

Licensing system for sex businesses

- All sex businesses must have a license, including, for example, escort services
- Municipalities can set a maximum to the number of licenses
- Municipalities may also decide not to issue any licenses (so-called 'zero-option')
- Only licensed sex workers are permitted to work in sex business which hold a license
- There will be a national register of all sex work businesses

What do sex workers' rights advocates think of the bill?

“ *We think adoption of this bill is a bad idea as it will not combat abuses. Instead it will make sex workers more vulnerable to abuse and violence. Sex workers who cannot register because of their age or because they don't have the right papers, as well as sex workers who are unwilling to register because of privacy concerns and distrust in the governments ability to properly protect their data, will be pushed into the illegal circuit. They can no longer safely go to the police when they, or a colleague become a victim of intimidation, extortion, coercion or violence because they are punishable themselves. They can no longer advertise on websites such as Kinky. Consequently, they will have to rely on others to find clients.*

Clients and working relations of unlicensed sex workers are also criminalized. They will therefore no longer report abuses. Abusers know this and will take advantage of it.

The criminalization of clients and working relations of unlicensed sex workers has nothing to do with coercion, violence or deception. It only has to do with sex workers' unwillingness or their inability to comply with the obligation to register. Coercion, violence, exploitation and deception are already punishable, irrespective whether it concerns forcing someone into prostitution or forcing someone to hand over their money or sex work under unfree conditions. The bill will not change that.

The bill was made without sex workers and fails to meet their needs. Sex workers' warnings against the bill were not listened to. It treats sex workers as children who cannot make decisions about their own body, life and work. It increases the stigma on sex work and further marginalizes them.

We see sex workers as partners in addressing abuses rather than as unmanageable children who must be controlled by the police, the state and the brothel owners. Sex workers are adults, they are the first to have an interest in a clean sector and they know best what is good for their sector. Sex workers are not the problem, they are part of the solution.

Read the TAMPEP Response here: <https://www.internetconsultatie.nl/sekswerk/reacties>

GERMANY

Germany contemplates adoption of the failed Swedish criminalisation approach, despite stacking evidence of grave harms caused to sex workers. On November 7th 2019 a symposium took place at the Hamburg State Representation in Berlin, under the title **‘Sex work and human trafficking between regulation and abolitionism – from the perspective of the ProstSchG (the new German law on Prostitution) and the Nordic Model’** (*Sexarbeit und Menschenhandel im Spannungsverhältnis zwischen Regulation und Abolitionismus – im Spiegel des ProstSchG und Nordischem Modell*)

The new law on Prostitution – Prostitutes' Protection Law (*ProstituiertenSchutzGesetz*) – came into force in July 2017, bringing, among other harmful measures, the mandatory registration of all sex workers in Germany.

Sex workers' organisations, NGOs, human rights organisations and allies' that support sex workers' rights in Germany have been pointing to the negative outcomes for sex workers of the law since before it passed and have since documented such harmful effects.



Two years after this laws introduction, abolitionist groups and some voices inside the Governmental Coalition between the CDU (conservatives) and the SPD (social democrats) are calling for the adoption of the so-called 'Nordic Model', which would bring in further registration that makes it a legal offence to purchase sex. The argument used for changing the laws from the ProstSchG are that it did not yield expected results as a very low number of workers could actually register given the strict measures in place associated. Hamburg, a city-state, was one of the few states that voted against the law in 2017.

BASFI, the Hamburg Department for Labour, Social Affairs, Family and Integration (*Behörde für Arbeit, Soziales, Familie und Integration*), responsible for putting into practice the ProstSchG in the city, decided to organise a symposium in Berlin, to open space to discuss the issues with the ProstSchG and call attention to the evidenced negative consequences of the 'Nordic Model'. Amongst those Invited were policy makers, journalists and other stakeholders.

Following the presentation of Susanne Dodillet from the University on Gothenburg, Sweden, about the intentions behind the Nordic Model, TAMPEP presented on the actual realities of this model of repression on the rights, health and safety of sex workers across Europe who work under such legal regimes. TAMPEP and spoke of the grave situation for all sex workers under the Nordic Model, but particularly the harmful effects on the most marginalised of sex workers, including migrant workers and LGBTQ.

Further presentations were given by representatives of the BesD (Professional Association for Erotic and Sexual Services, www.berufsverband-sexarbeit.de), BUFAS (Alliance of counselling centres for sex workers, www.bufas.net), KOK (Nationwide Coordination Group against Trafficking in Human Beings, www.kok-gegen-menschenhandel.de), academics, and the coordinator of a Hamburg counselling centre for migrant sex workers and sex workers who are using drugs.

Sex workers took to the streets to protest the Prostitutes' Protection Law in Hamburg and protest continued conversations leaning towards engaging with the failed Swedish approach. On Monday's, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, demonstrators took to the streets to protest in front of the Hamburg City Hall against the criminalisation of prostitution.

The law on Prostitution – Prostitutes' Protection Law (*ProstituiertenSchutzGesetz*) – came into force in July 2017, bringing a wealth of harmful and discriminatory measures against sex

workers in Germany. In addition to mandatory health counselling, prostitutes must undergo a registration procedure and carry the certificate issued by the authorities. The identity card, simply called a “whore’s passport”, officially identifies sex workers on the basis of their real names, photo and address.

“A prostitution card discriminates against and stigmatises people”, said Julia Buntensch-Henke, head of the specialist counselling centre for prostitution at Diakonie Hamburg, in an interview with [ZEIT](#).

Sex workers’ organisations, NGOs, human rights organisations and allies’ that support sex workers’ rights in Germany have been pointing to the negative outcomes for sex workers of the law since before it passed and have since documented such harmful effects.

Statements against the current law and current debates engaging with the Nordic criminalisation model as an alternative have been made by [BesD](#) and [BUFAS](#)

SPAIN



The climate of repression of sex work was devastatingly proved to increase violence towards sex workers in Spain this year. Sex workers globally mourned the tragic murder of Paloma, a 38 year old trans woman, a Brazilian migrant, sex worker. Sex worker-led group OTRAS released this [statement](#) [Spanish text] outlining the reality of a series of harmful policies based that curated the events and pressures leading to Paloma’s murder in 2019. Rest in Power Paloma.

ITALY

In June 2019 the Senate's Constitutional Affairs Commission launched fact-finding missions on the topic of prostitution, analysing the Nordic neo-abolitionist model and considering the Merlin law (law of 1958 which abolished the regulation of prostitution in Italy).

About a dozen people, who had been invited listened during the first two months of work, and who were in favour of the criminalization of clients, were members of catholic and/or feminists; all except for one person.

The representatives of the Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostitute (CDCP) wrote to the Senators and insistently asked to be heard. Finally, after some months (in October), the CDCP's President, Pia Covre, along with Massimina Lizzeri, a transgender comrade and lawyer Giulia Crivellini, an activist from the association, Certi Diritti, were heard. The activists emphasized that the movement, around the world, says: "*Nothing about us without us*" and the representatives emphasized the determination to stand against exclusion from the political debate. The sex workers' rights advocates brought all available facts from research evaluating the Swedish, French and Irish laws, noting their impact on increasing violence against sex workers. The damages that these policies have on the lives of sex-workers were reiterated and calls were made for the need to decriminalize prostitution and recognize the status of self-employed workers for those who choose sex-work, respecting self-determination and fighting against stigma.

The interviews are available on the website of the Senate, at this link:

https://www.senato.it/application/xmanager/projects/leg18/attachments/documento_even_to_procedura_commissione/files/000/030/501/COMITATO_PER_I_DIRITTI_CIVILI DELLE PROSTITUTE.pdf



IRELAND

Increased efforts by sex worker led group Sex Workers Alliance Ireland (SWAI) to reverse the laws implemented to criminalise the purchase of sex in 2017 based on failed Swedish criminalisation approach. Following a spat of assaults and robberies on sex workers following the law change, SWAI released this important press release, with links to recent research highlighting the increased violence against sex workers now clients are criminalised, alongside a decrease in trust in police (gardai) to report crimes.

Sex workers lives at risk amid fear of reporting assaults due to bad and misguided legislation, says SWAI.

Both sex workers and Gardaí have known about these criminals for some time but sex workers refuse to contact the Garda because trust in Gardaí is at an all-time low since the law changed in 2017.

"The increased assaults and robberies on sex workers currently being investigated by gardaí are a direct consequence of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017, which specifically prohibits sex workers from working or even living together for safety, so-called brothel-keeping, and makes the consensual purchase of sex a criminal offence" says Kate McGrew, current sex worker and Director of Sex Workers' Alliance Ireland said today.

Commenting on the announcement that gardaí are investigating a systematic series of physical assaults and robbery of sex workers, she said:

"The 2017 law, which is due for review in early 2020, should be scrapped. It should be replaced by legislation that decriminalises sex work and to provide labour law, health and safety guarantees instead."

"Under the 2017 legislation, sex workers have faced ever greater physical threats due to increased stigma and isolation. This has directly facilitated the type of attacks now being investigated by Gardaí because criminals can realistically assume that sex workers will be alone and defenceless if attacked. If they are working together for safety the criminals know the worker is unlikely to call the Gardaí because they fear being prosecuted for so-called brothel-keeping. These fears are not unfounded since two migrant workers working together for safety were jailed during the summer this year.

"The fact that these attacks are being carried out by gangs of people means that sex workers lives are now at risk from criminals gangs. The negative impact of the law is vividly shown by the fact that gardaí have had to issue the ludicrous assurance that sex workers who have been violently assaulted and robbed will be treated with the 'utmost sensitivity and confidentiality.' Such a statement would never need to be issued for any other worker or person subject to violent attacked and theft," Kate McGrew said.

"Asking sex workers to only see known clients to them shows the disconnect that the Gardaí have from the lived experiences of sex workers. A worker needs to pay rent, pay bills and feed themselves, just like everyone else and is not in a position to turn away clients. Many sex workers are single mothers and on the run up to Christmas, they cannot afford to follow this advice."

Through our safety networks, SWAI and sex workers have known about these criminals for some time but workers refuse to contact the Garda because, at best, they fear surveillance of their workplace or clients and their livelihood taken away.

“The law is placing the gardaí in an impossible position. If they encounter a sex worker living alone it is ‘legal’, but if contacted by sex workers living together for safety they must prosecute them as criminals,” she said.

“Declan Daly, Detective Chief Superintendent from the Garda National Protective Services Bureau said on Morning Ireland that this is a vulnerable population but the law is what is making the workers vulnerable.

It doesn’t have to be like this. In New Zealand sex work is decriminalised. Sex workers can take legal action for assault or exploitation, without being ‘shamed’ for their profession. A similar approach should apply in Ireland.

We all deserve to be safe and we all should have laws that work to make us safer. Sex workers deserve this too. The egregious waste of Gardaí resources used to prosecute consensual sex work and workers working together for safety could be better used in prosecuting criminals such as these. We have worked previously with Gardaí to successfully prosecute serial rapists in the past.

We need assurances from the Gardaí that if workers who have been working together for safety are attacked they will not be prosecuted under brothel-keeping laws. We need removal of brothel-keeping laws that mean that workers can work together safely. We need to be included in the review of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 and we need sex work fully decriminalised.”

Follow the Hashtags to support SWAI and other UK based groups calls for Decriminalisation: #DecrimforSafety #SupportSafeSexWork

FRANCE

In France, prior to the criminalisation of sex workers’ clients in 2016, sex workers were directly targeted by the criminalisation of public soliciting, which had been reinforced by the 2003 Law for National Security (LSI). The legislation adopted in 2016, inspired by the Swedish legal framework, sought to

end prostitution via criminalising clients rather than sex workers. However, despite the stated aim of the law to protect sex workers, the majority of the sex workers reveal that the criminalisation of clients has in practice been more detrimental to themselves than the



previous laws against soliciting. Greater violence against sex workers has ensued, alongside increased reports of loss of livelihood and subsequent poverty, especially among people already living precariously, namely undocumented migrant women working in the street. The law has had a detrimental effect on sex workers' safety, health and overall living conditions.

Medicins Du Monde, in partnership with local sex worker led groups detail the impact of the failed Swedish criminalisation approach in this report:

<https://www.medicinsdumonde.org/sites/default/files/ENGLISH-Synthèse-Rapport-prostitution-BD.PDF>

In other 2019 end of year news...

RESEARCH UPDATE



A further exciting research project has been undertaken by Niina Vuolajarvi (pictured above): 'Governing in the Name of Caring –The Punitive Consequences of the "Nordic Model" of Prostitution'. The research is based on 35 months of ethnographical fieldwork in Sweden, Norway and Finland and seeks to understand the broader cultural and social context of the Nordic Model.

Niina Vuolajarvi on her research:

"My research findings unpack the "Nordic" model's humanitarian claims and demonstrate that targeting sex buyers functions as a smokescreen for punitive practices executed through third party regulation and immigration law that target sex workers and lead to evictions, deportations, and the deterioration of their working conditions. These

practices especially target migrant sex workers and have resulted in racialized policing. These findings illustrate how the influx of migrants in sex work globally has shifted the regulation from prostitution law to immigration policy. This has resulted in bifurcated regulation of nationals and foreigners where nationals are mostly targeted with soft measures (rehabilitative and social support) and foreigners with punitive measures (criminal policies). Moreover, I argue that especially in Sweden the understanding of prostitution as exploitation has made the abolition of sex work the ultimate goal of societal efforts. In addition to the surge in police resources, the fights against prostitution and trafficking has justified the forging of public-private partnerships that extend policing of sex work to private individuals, hotels, taxis and landlords.

All in all, my findings reveal a tension between the stated feminist-humanitarian aims of the model, to protect and save women, and the punitive governance of sex work. I argue that when examined in practice the Nordic

model is a form of humanitarian governance that I call punitivist humanitarianism, or governing in the name of caring."

The core findings of the study can be found in an article "Governing in the Name of Caring—the Nordic Model of Prostitution and its Punitive Consequences for Migrants Who Sell Sex" published in Sexuality Research and Social Policy in June 2019 (Volume 16, Issue 2, pp 151–165) and can be downloaded for free from:

https://www.academia.edu/36984226/Governing_in_the_Name_of_Caring_the_Nordic_Model_of_Prostitution_and_its_Punitive_Consequences_for_Migrants_Who_Sell_Sex

BELGIUM

Congratulations to UTOPSI, The Union for Sex Workers in Belgium who celebrated their official inauguration this year. More Information about the group can be found on their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/utsopi>

FELICITATIONS!!

SEX WORKERS TOOK TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

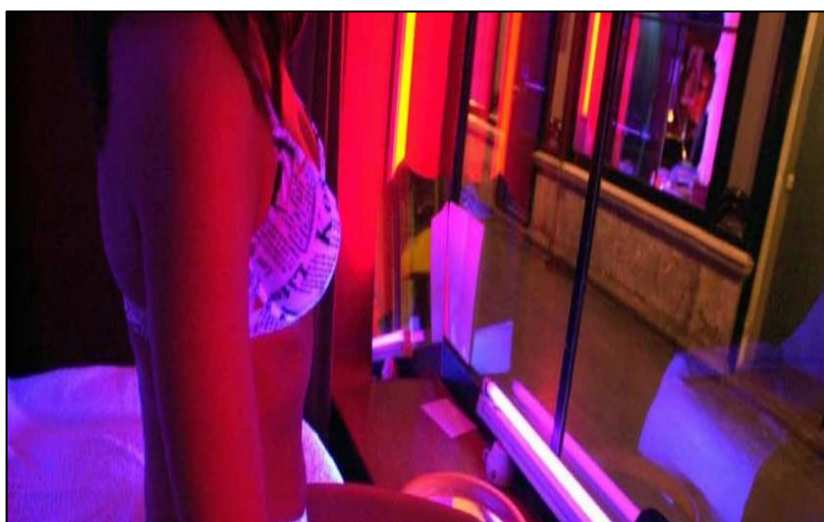
TAMPEP Joins Sex Workers and our Networks in The European Parliament on 15th October 2019.

At the invitation of MEP Sophie in't Veld (D66), there was an exhibition and a round table discussion about sex work in the European Parliament this week.

The exhibition consisted of photo portraits and personal stories of sex workers from all over the world. The exhibition is based on the book "United under a red umbrella – sex work around the world" by former sex worker Mariska Majoor and her daughter Robin Haurissa from Amsterdam.

MEP Sophie in't Veld stated in the lead up to the event:

"Many of my colleagues, both from the right and from the left, tend to see sex workers only as victims or as an unwanted phenomenon. As a result, sex workers are often not seen as a discussion partner in politics. By bringing them to the EP, we are talking to them, not about them. Politicians sometimes speak tough language about curbing sex work, unfortunately often without considering the consequences of this for the position and safety of sex workers"



AUSTRIA

Cristina Boidi, one of TAMPEP's founders was awarded the Käthe Leichter prize 2019 in Austria, for her work at Lefö with migrant women, which includes migrant sex workers. This is a national prize, given by Austrian Ministries to women that stand out in this area. It is an Austrian State Prize for research in the field of women, gender studies and gender equality in the world of work.



We continue to fight for the rights of sex workers who are migrant, to work, to love, to organise, to demand our rights, to cross borders and to live without repression, scaling the network Christina helped to found. Congratulations Christina!



To all the sex workers and organisations commemorating the lives lost in our global community, we stand with you in remembrance and renewed calls for sex workers' rights to live and work safely and free from violence.

"Only Rights Can STOP The Wrongs!"