

ITALY: Appeal to the Italian Government

Coronavirus: no one's staying behind, including sex workers

Comitato per I Diritti Civili delle Prostitute | Associazione Radicale Certi Diritti

In these days, we are witnessing the extraordinary health emergency that requires our country - and the entire planet - to adopt extraordinary measures to counter the spread of Coronavirus. The adoption of such emergency measures has had serious economic, as well as social consequences for all parts of the population. In the face of this situation, the Government has considered it essential to intervene with Decree n. 18/2020, so-called "Cura Italia".

It is our concern to remind through this appeal of some categories excluded from the support contained in the act in question: workers in the underground sectors, with particular regard to workers and sex workers, among whom many are migrants and some potential victims of trafficking. Coronavirus has thrown millions of people into crisis. For sex workers, forced by criminalisation, stigma and discrimination to live in the shadows, the crisis is more hidden and makes their condition more dramatic. Much of sex work involves personal contact - exactly what we should not do if we want the spread of the virus to be contained.

To this end, our associations join the call of ICRSE, the **International Committee for the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe** and TAMPEP, the **European Network for the Promotion of Rights and Health of Migrant Sex Workers**, calling on governments across Europe to take concrete measures for those who see their marginalised status in society worsened.

The closure or inaccessibility of workspaces and the lack of access to social safety nets lead to drastic income reductions for these workers, increasing their exposure to risk and making those already suffering the highest rates of violence even more vulnerable.

We call on the Government and parliamentarians in both Houses to urgently consider, in full respect of democratic procedures, the following recommendations¹:

- Introduce easily accessible financial support for sex workers: financial measures for income support should also be able to include people who - by the legislator's political choice - find themselves in an unprotected environment;
- Ensure, in this period of emergency, the regularisation of migrant workers and sex workers and their inclusion in reception centres to those who request it;
- Release those under confinement measures related to immigration policies in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the relevant structures (CPR);
- Adopt specific measures for the housing emergency concerning sex workers and more generally homeless people, where protection and possibly treatment are guaranteed;
- Suspend the sanctions for the containment of travel for those who can demonstrate that they cannot comply with the regulations due to force majeure, as in the case of guests of dormitories who cannot stay in the facilities during daylight hours.

We add to these recommendations the invitation to further enhance the capillary work of the street units belonging to the anti-trafficking network that are already working tirelessly and that in this phase find themselves facing, in solitude, a situation unprecedented in recent history.

Support this call at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3_XAllqZarRBT1Id3vPQ8tYsYyujil0UYtvlW4vQ2DW44cA/viewform/

¹ see the call in Italian:

<https://www.certidiritti.org/2020/03/29/coronavirus-nessuno-resti-indietro-compresi-i-sex-worker-appello-a-parlamento-e-governo/>