



COYOTE RI SEX WORKER RIGHTS TRAINING

FREE HER FELLOWSHIP 2022

WHAT IS A SEX WORKER?

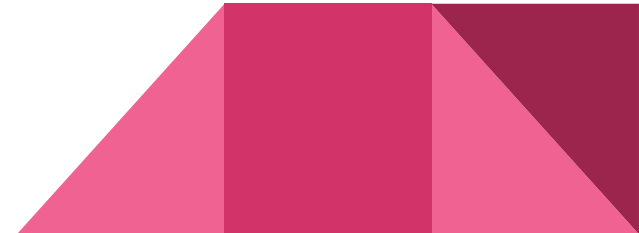
Sex workers are adults who receive money or goods in exchange for consensual sexual services or erotic performances, either regularly or occasionally.

Legal sex workers = dancers, cam models, porn performers, massage workers, sex phone operators or who work online (onlyfans).

Criminalized sex workers = street based workers, online escorts, spa workers/massage workers and sugar babies.

Sex Trafficking= using force, coercion or fraud to get someone to engage in prostitution.

Domestic Sex Trafficking= Any minor engaging in any type of paid sexual services, even if they are under their own control.

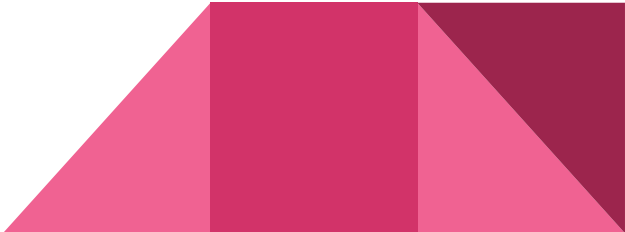


NATIONAL SEX WORKER ANTI-CRIMINALIZATION PRINCIPLES 6/28/2018 Part 1

We offer up these principles to our movement as a working template for a national platform.

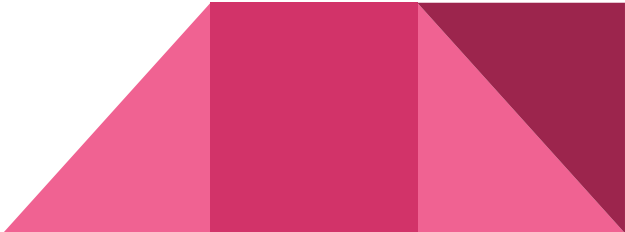
We advocate for people impacted by labor issues, social stigma, and criminalization, and we condemn any attempts at restricting our autonomy and self-determination.

Recommendations for all people –

- 1. Support us in our struggle for justice and human rights and against those who would deny us access to the same services or rights because of our work.**
 - 2. Respect us as the experts in our lives without assuming we are flawed in some way.**
 - 3. We do not want punitive intervention.**
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NATIONAL SEX WORKER ANTI-CRIMINALIZATION PRINCIPLES 6/28/2018 Part 2

Recommendations from sex workers –

- 1. We insist on sex worker leadership at every level of decision making on policies around sex work.**
 - 2. We reserve the right to maintain our own health.**
 - 3. We demand the right to speak, access all public channels of communication, to choose those who speak for us, and to be recognized by the media, public officials and others as the authorities based on our own experience.**
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NATIONAL SEX WORKER ANTI-CRIMINALIZATION PRINCIPLES 6/28/2018 Part 3

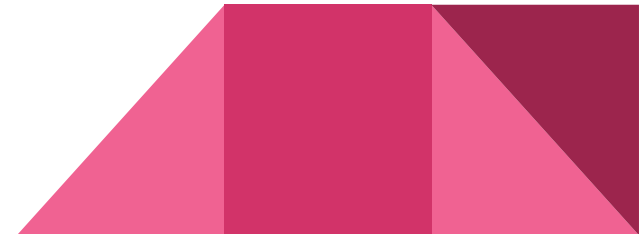
Rights of sex workers.

1. To make our own sexual and relationship choices without others invalidating our consent.
 2. To access social, medical, and justice services without discrimination in any form including but not limited to gender, sexuality, race, citizenship status, or the way we choose to work.
 3. To have our choices and bodily autonomy respected, including the right to decline services.
 4. To be free to work in a manner of our own choosing without onerous regulation that is disrespectful of our agency and autonomy
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The 4 Legal Models

1. **Criminalization**
2. **Partial Decriminalization:** known as the Swedish or Nordic model, which criminalized buying sexual services and decriminalized selling sexual services.
3. **Legalization:** Government regulated, creates a 2 tier system of legal workers and illegal workers.
4. **Full Decriminalization:** The best model that promotes the health and safety and the labor rights of sex workers.

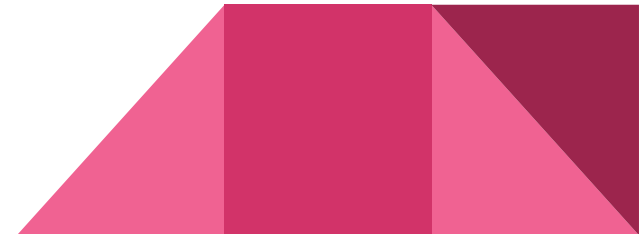
This short 4 minute video explains the 4 models. <https://youtu.be/dg4l3X9rJHw>



How Police Profile and Shame Sex Workers by Molly Crabapple

The criminalization of sex work is most often policed against trans women, WOC, street based workers, migrant spa workers and poor women.

Please watch this short 4 minute video <https://youtu.be/k-dU9R3tME0>

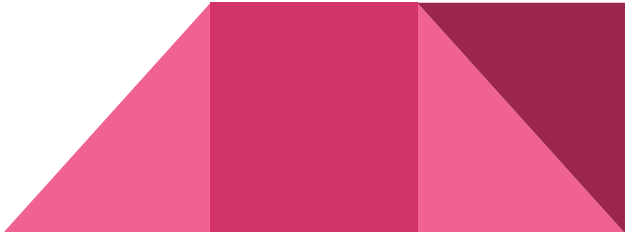


LAWS: PART ONE

Prostitution is a misdemeanor, however when sex workers work together from the same location to ensure their safety, they can be charged with felony pandering or promoting prostitution.

If a sex worker has an adult child living at home, their adult child can be charged with a felony for living off the proceeds of a prostitute. If a sex worker has minor children, their children can be taken by child services without any proof that they are an abusive or neglectful parent. This has even happened to legal dancers and cam models.

The 3rd party support staff of consensual adult sex workers can be charged with felony pandering or promoting prostitution. Often, the headlines will read “TRAFFICKING VICTIMS RESCUED.” 3rd Party support staff can be drivers, bookers, spa managers, escort agencies or safe buddies that sex workers give their locations to and check in with after they have finished a session with a client.



LAWS: PART TWO

If two sex workers do a double with a client, the police will tell the media that this was a prostitution or trafficking ring.

Sex workers are being hunted by ICE, Homeland Security, FBI, DEA who partner with local police to run prostitution stings under the guise of rescuing trafficking victims. During these raids and rescues, sex workers are told that unless they cooperate and snitch on their coworkers, massage manager, etc., they will be arrested for prostitution and broadcasted on the local news with their name and photograph.

If the sex worker is undocumented, they are told if they just cooperate they can be issued a T-Visa. This is often false; the US is allowed to provide up to 5000 T-visas per year, and yet $\frac{2}{3}$ of the migrant women who claim victim status are deported.



RI H5250 LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION

In preparation for the study commission, COYOTE reviewed thousands of pages of charging documents and ran a focus group in order to better understand how these laws are applied and who they are applied to.

We are still updating our reports because we still have charging documents coming in from our FOIA & APRA requests. <https://tinyurl.com/4jtvdjms>

We have also documented the state failing to provide adequate services to minors, who often engage in survival sex as it is the only option they have to access safe housing and food.

Our report “Policing Modern Day Slavery: Carceral Care in RI” can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/2ds3589a>



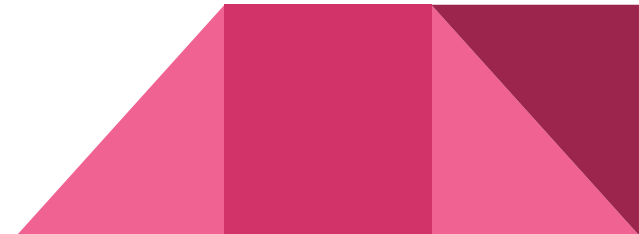
COYOTEs PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

Over the past several years COYOTE has conducted several sex worker surveys. We have archived the data at the “Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women- Coyote RI Survey Collection.”

<https://tinyurl.com/5a46cjzv>

We have also created a 3 part “Continuing Medical Education” course for healthcare providers

<https://tinyurl.com/5t46heas>



THE WAR ON SEX WORKERS

The war on sex workers started in 2000, with Congress passing the 2000 Trafficking and Persons Act.

Beyond Strange Bedfellows: [How the “War on Trafficking” Was Made to Unite the Left and Right](https://tinyurl.com/2wt36579)

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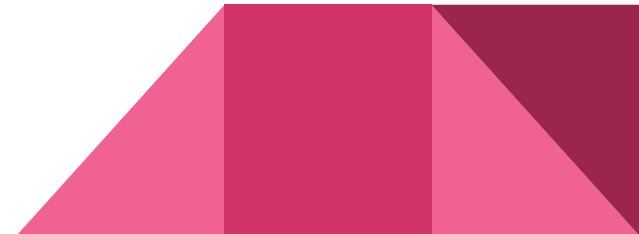


WHO DID CONGRESS FUND TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING? Part 1

In 2015 Truthout.org published a report, highlighting that Congress provided 676 million in funding to nonprofits that would “create awareness about trafficking” and host public trainings on “how to spot trafficking” encouraging society to become community vigilantes and call the police on sex workers, under the guise of rescue.

These nonprofits are prohibited from supporting the decriminalization of prostitution and are encouraged not to engage with sex worker rights led organizations

They also published that trafficking was the biggest sector of growth, other than low paying jobs, since the 2009 recession.



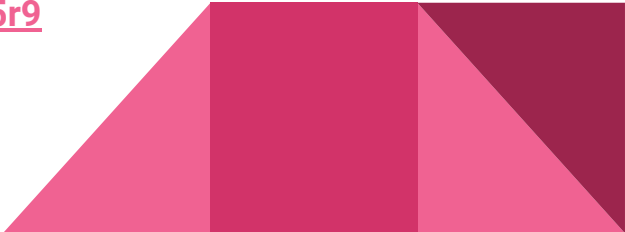
WHO DID CONGRESS FUND TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING? Part 2

COYOTE tracked many of these nonprofits' funding, and when we reviewed their 990 tax filings, we found that the majority of the funds are being spent on their salaries, offices and for fundraising. They are not providing “people involved in the sex industry with any services that could help lift them out of poverty. They refer victims to public or trafficking shelters. <https://tinyurl.com/2p97tave>

Many law enforcement agencies are also eligible for grants to combat trafficking to do prostitution stings under the guise of rescue. In Fact, a nonprofit based in MA called “Demand Abolition” was found giving prosecutors, hundreds of thousands in grants if they would sign a MOA that they would do reverse stings to arrest a certain number of clients of sex workers, under the guise of reducing demand by 20%.

<https://tinyurl.com/yjysze8e>

The arrested clients are often court ordered to attend and pay for “John School” where they are shamed, and these organizations get to keep the profits. <https://tinyurl.com/bdfm45r9>



HOW THE SEX TRAFFICKING HYSTERIA BECAME LIKE QANON

“Suspect in Florida quadruple homicide falsely believed he was saving sex-trafficking victim” <https://tinyurl.com/cdrmrbs>

Troy Burke admitted to killing his wife, Jessica by shooting her three times in the head in their Michigan home. A judge allowed Burke to enter a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity after psychiatric evaluations by both the state and independent experts concluded that he was not fit to stand trial. Burke believed his tablet device was sending him signals from QAnon members who told him that his wife was working for the CIA. The messages directed him to kill his wife to save the world from child sex trafficking. It's unclear if the messages Burke was speaking about were real or imaginary, but QAnon was built on false claims about child sex-trafficking spread for the past two decades by politicians, cops, the news media, sex work prohibitionists, and amoral profiteers. <https://archive.is/nefVn>

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Please register for the DECRIMPACT Symposium. This virtual event will be held on Saturday February 27th, from 11am to 2:30 PM. EST. <https://tinyurl.com/2p8fr8hp>

HOW ABOLITION GETS TRAFFICKED <https://tinyurl.com/2543jnm2>

COYOTES Sex Worker Story Telling Podcast and more at <https://linktr.ee/coyote.ri>

Sex Trafficking: A Media Guide <https://tinyurl.com/ru3jkwfb>

BOSTON REVIEW- Is There a Constitutional Right to Sex Work? <https://tinyurl.com/2r6pmmsy>

More about Bella Robinson COYOTES Executive Director <https://tinyurl.com/29uzb6xn>

More about Tara Burns, COYOTES Research Director <https://tinyurl.com/zvxnb5a>

