

# SAFE COMMUNITIES START WITH **RESOURCES**, NOT **ARRESTS**

## De-Mystifying the Decriminalization of Sex Work

**MYTH**



Decriminalizing sex work would lead to an increase in human trafficking.

**FACT**



Decriminalizing consensual sex work will not change trafficking laws, and in fact, decriminalization will make it easier to locate and provide resources to people who are trafficked. Without the threat of arrest, sex workers will be able to be allies in ending trafficking, and more trafficking victims will likely come forward without facing as much stigma.



## DECRIMINALIZE SEX WORK NOW!

**MYTH**



Won't decriminalization increase public safety hazards like used condoms on the street?

**FACT**



Street-based sex workers don't want to engage in sex work outside either, but this problem isn't about sex work as much as it's about homelessness. Sex workers who have a safe place to work have more options for disposing of condoms and other trash. Sex workers experiencing homelessness, however, are often forced to engage in street-based sex work, which puts them at increased risk of violence.

**JOIN THE FIGHT: [NOJUSTICENOPRIDE.ORG/DECRIM](https://nojusticenoprime.org/decrim)**



# SAFE COMMUNITIES START WITH **RESOURCES**, NOT **ARRESTS**

## De-Mystifying the Decriminalization of Sex Work

### MYTH



Decriminalizing sex work will lead to more people joining the sex trade.

### FACT



Many people engage in sex work because they have no or few alternatives. Trans people of color, for example, experience high rates of employment discrimination and find themselves with no option except to engage in criminalized work. With a criminal record, sex workers are more likely to experience further employment discrimination and find themselves trapped in this form of work. Decriminalizing the work they do to survive will help decrease the stigma associated with this work and make it easier for sex workers to access alternative opportunities.



**DECRIMINALIZE  
SEX WORK NOW!**

### MYTH



Aren't all sex workers are forced into the sex trade?

### FACT



People choose sex work for a wide range of reasons -- flexible schedules, higher pay than many other entry-level jobs, or just because they enjoy it. There are also many people who engage in sex work because it's the only option available to them while experiencing homelessness. We want to make sure people have options and resources, and that's why this bill will both decriminalize sex work and create a task force to ensure that there are next steps to ensure the health and safety of people working in the sex trade.

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