

Broadening the Narrative: Human Rights and Anti-Trafficking Work

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SEX WORK ~~IS~~ TRAFFICKING

It is incredibly important that we don't conflate sex work with trafficking, as not everyone who does sex work is trafficked into it. One of the ways the human rights of sex workers are violated is through not recognizing them as workers. For this reason, we encourage human rights defenders to use the language

"trafficking into sex work"

in place of "sex trafficking".

If anti-trafficking efforts are overly focused on people trafficked into sex work...

we will end up excluding and ignoring issues of trafficking in persons in other areas of work.

What about trafficking in our workplaces?



Restaurant Opportunities Centers United fights to improve the wages and work conditions in the restaurant industry. We take direct action against human trafficking and wage theft, and we believe that fair wages is the best pathway to economic justice for workers.

- Restaurant Opportunity
Centers United

www.rocunited.org



CRIMINALIZATION IS NOT THE ANSWER



There have been three UN human rights expert visits to the US in 2016. All have raised the disproportionate racial and economic impacts of policing and mass incarceration as human rights issues.

Organizations working for sex worker rights and against the criminalization of trans and gender non-conforming people call for the decriminalization of sex work to protect the human rights and safety of sex workers and those profiled as such by police. For instance, Monica Jones, a human rights leader with The Outlaw Project, was arrested for 'walking while trans' through an "anti-trafficking" program called Project ROSE.



Following these calls from the UN and grassroots leadership - we reject criminalization and more policing as a strategy to end human trafficking.

If they're not going to fight for our rights who will? It is our duty to fight for our right to thrive in this world.

- Monica Jones, The Outlaw Project
www.theoutlawproject.org

Misguided anti-trafficking efforts that rely on "ending demand for prostitution" lead police to arrest trans women, immigrants, and men of color. Criminalizing people's lives never helps. Rights do.

- Penelope Saunders,
Best Practices Policy Project
www.bestpracticespolicy.org

To end trafficking, we must work to protect and ensure the full spectrum of human rights for everyone.

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HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL WORKERS

THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT TRAFFICKING

At root of the persistent problem of human trafficking in the US is a core failure to protect the human rights of all workers. Especially for those at the margins and those who work in unprotected industries: sex workers, domestic workers, agricultural workers and restaurant workers.



In addition to basic labor protections, all workers deserve the full spectrum of rights: housing, safety, migration/ability to migrate, and the human right to live free of discrimination.



Help us broaden the narrative & strategies to end trafficking by sharing this infographic!

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