

Standing up for Student Sex #PledgeDecrim

This Union notes:

1. Sex work refers to escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, web-camming, adult modelling, phone sex, and selling sex (on and off the street).
2. Currently prostitution (the exchange of sexual services for money) is not illegal, but associated activities (soliciting in a public place, kerb crawling, operating a brothel) are.
3. Financial reasons, and any criminal record gain due to the criminalisation of sex work, are usually cited as the main reason for staying in sex work.
4. The Student Sex Work project report (2015) showed that significant numbers of students are turning to sex work in order to avoid debt and cover basic living expenses.
5. The NUS National Executive Council passed a policy to support the decriminalisation of sex work and to campaign against any attempt to introduce the Nordic Model (which criminalises the purchase of sex) into the UK.
6. In August 2015, Amnesty International voted to adopt policy to protect human rights of sex workers. The resolution recommended that they develop a policy that supports the full decriminalisation of all aspects of consensual sex work. The policy will also call on states to ensure that sex workers enjoy full and equal legal protection from exploitation, trafficking and violence.

This Union believes:

1. Sex work is work - Sex work is the exchange of money for labour.
2. With the rise in living costs, the increase in tuition fees, the attack on maintenance grants and the slashing of benefits for disabled people, it is highly likely that some students will do sex work alongside their studies.
3. The criminalisation of sex workers' clients has been proven to lead to further distrust of the police amongst sex workers, a willingness of sex workers to engage in more risky behaviour/safety procedures out of desperation.
4. Decriminalisation would ensure that sex workers feel able to report unsafe clients or violence at work without the worry of criminal repercussions, work together for safety, and that those who wish to leave the sex industry are not left with criminal records as a result of their job.

This Union resolves:

1. To support and campaign for the full decriminalisation of sex work.
2. To campaign against any attempt to introduce the Nordic Model into the UK.
3. To support and be led by sex worker led organisations, such as the English Collective of Prostitutes, Sex Worker Open University and SCOT-PEP, who work to improve the lives of sex workers across the UK.*

*English Collective of Prostitutes is an organisation based in England. SCOT-PEP is an organisation based in Scotland. Please edit the resolves to make them appropriate to your location.

Useful links:

Q&A on the Policy to Protect Human Rights of Sex Workers - <http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/press-releases/qa-on-the-policy-to-protect-human-rights-of-sex-workers>

Decriminalise sex work for safety's sake - Sign the ECP Pledge - <http://www.pledgedecrim.com/>

