

Press statement

International day to end violence against sex workers

December 17, 2023

Sex workers will not be divided



On 17 December, the International Day to end Violence against Sex Workers, the Allianz Pro Sexwork (Pro Sexwork Alliance) would like to draw attention to the violent structures that affect sex workers and to the current division of sex workers into "good" (because they are specially trained) sex workers and "bad" (non-specifically trained) sex workers.

Violence against sex workers is primarily structural in origin and can be traced back to sexist and religious-moralising ideologies, among other things, which also have an impact on legislation. Laws that regulate sex work are therefore often moralising and promote stigma against this group. As a result, the stigma and restrictive legislation lead to violence against sex workers, as they cannot practise their profession freely, have to work in secret and are therefore more likely to become dependent.

The Vorarlberg (region in Austria) parliament is currently discussing the legalisation of home visits for a certain group of sex workers – "sex assistants" - and for a certain group of clients - people with care level 4. This would lead to a division between "good" (because they are specially trained) sex workers and "bad" (non-specifically trained) people who offer other forms of sex work, because these other forms of sex work would not be legalised.

We see this as another form of structural violence against sex workers. Home visits should be possible for all sex workers and sexual assistance should be made available to all people with disabilities. This is also provided for in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

"Once again, no self-organisations or counselling centres were included in the drafting of this law," said a spokesperson for the self-organisation Sexworker.at.

We demand

- **sex workers should have a say in laws that affect them**
- **the abolition of discriminatory laws**
- **the abolition of compulsory examinations**
- **an end to the criminalisation and illegalisation of sex work**

*Sexarbeit wird im Alltagsverständnis fälschlicherweise fast immer als rein weibliches, heteronormatives Arbeitsfeld verstanden. Sexarbeit wird nicht nur von Frauen angeboten. Sie stellen aber momentan den Großteil der Sexarbeitenden in Österreich dar. Aufgrund von Mehrfachdiskriminierungen sind von Rassismus betroffene Menschen und queere Sexarbeitende noch mehr mit direkter und struktureller Gewalt konfrontiert.



Counselling for
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Sexworker Forum
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