

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS...

## AGAINST DEPORTATION

**STOP AND SEARCH** -- the police can only search you on the street if they suspect that you are likely to commit an offence or are carrying a weapon. They can arrest you for not giving your name and address only if they suspect you of anti-social behaviour, if you are driving, or if they want to summons you to court for an offence.

**IMMIGRATION OFFICERS** can't just stop you because of how you look. You don't have to answer their questions or show them your ID. You can walk away. Before asking questions, they should tell you your rights: that you don't have to answer questions and are free to go when you want. They must also show you their ID and say why they are stopping you.

**POLICE HAVE BEEN THREATENING SOME SEX WORKERS**, especially Romanian women, with deportation even though women have the right to be in the UK as EU citizens.

**POLICE HAVE BEEN TAKING PASSPORTS OR ID** and refusing to return them unless women produce a ticket back to their home country. You have a right to refuse to give them these documents.

**REMOVAL NOTICES** claim that sex workers are not exercising their "treaty rights" – that is aren't earning money or people can't prove how they are supporting themselves.

**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO STAY IN THE UK** and can appeal against the removal notice by showing evidence that you are either:

- a worker
- self-employed (this includes as a sex worker)
- a jobseeker
- a student (with comprehensive sickness insurance)
- a self-sufficient person (with comprehensive sickness insurance)
- a family member of an EEA national exercising their treaty rights

**YOU CAN APPLY FOR A NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER.**

**IF THE POLICE HARASS YOU** tell them: "I have the right to be here because I am exercising my treaty rights as a self-employed sex worker".

**IF YOU GET A DEPORTATION NOTICE**, get in touch with us. There is no legal aid for a lawyer but some lawyers are ready to work for free.

**IF YOU HAVE A CRIMINAL CONVICTION** that resulted in a prison sentence of over 12 months, the Home Office may use this to remove you. You have the right to appeal on human rights grounds.

**SOME POLICE ACT ILLEGALLY OR ABUSE THEIR POWERS** for example, by demanding free sex, stealing money or being racist and/or violent. Don't put up with it. Get in touch with us. Corrupt officers must be stopped.

*The English Collective of Prostitutes is a network of women who work or have worked in different areas of the sex industry – both on the streets and indoors. We campaign for decriminalisation and safety and work with sex workers who are defending themselves against criminal charges. We also fight for resources so that any of us can leave prostitution if and when we want.*



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