A BRIEF HISTORY

The English Collective of Prostitutes is a self-help organisation of sex workers, working both on the street and in premises, with a national network throughout the UK. We campaign for the decriminalisation of prostitution, for sex workers’ rights and safety, and for resources to enable people to get out of prostitution if they want to.

020 7482 2496 • ECP@PROSTITUTESCOLLECTIVE.NET • WWW.PROSTITUTESCOLLECTIVE.NET
Inspired by church occupations and a strike of sex workers in France, two immigrant women living in England formed the English Collective of Prostitutes to campaign for the abolition of the prostitution laws.
On 6 March, Maureen Colquhoun MP introduced the Protection of Prostitutes Bill. The English Collective of Prostitutes “applauded and shrieked their approval from the visitors' gallery”.

The Protection of Prostitutes Bill, which has almost no chance of becoming law in this session of Parliament, amends the 1956 Sexual Offences Act and the 1959 Street Offences Act to give prostitutes better protection from exploitation and victimisation.

It would abolish prison sentences for soliciting, establish a single offence to cover all street offences with evidence from those annoyed, and get rid of the term “common prostitute.”

Mrs COLOUHOUN said the law which classified more than two women living together as a “brothel” should be amended.

carry the stigma “common
Know Your Rights

By JULIE BAILEY

THE English Collective of Prostitutes launched a campaign for “rights” at a Camden meeting at the weekend.

A spokeswoman for the Collective told the meeting: “Women are forced into prostitution because they are short of money. It makes a difference between poverty and a reasonable standard of living.”

For some it is a job like any other, but for others sheer desperation forces them to the streets: “More and more women see this as an option forced upon them,” said the speaker.

One woman spoke out at being treated “unfairly” by the police. “If they know you’re a pro they will hassle you and pick on you,” she stated.

Any woman, claimed speakers, can be cautioned for soliciting if she is found in a public place with contra-
crimes, including most prostitution.

Looking for help to defend your rights?
Need to know about:
- Police immigration raids
- Soliciting
- “prostitute coahions”
- ASBOs
- Closure orders
- Engagement & Support Orders
- Working with other women
- Charges of “brothel-keeping” or “controlling”
- How to work more safely
- What to do if you are threatened or attacked
- Helping someone who is being beaten or forced to work against their will
- Police seizing your assets
- Are your clients breaking the law?

English Collective of Prostitutes
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Our A-Z was the first time the laws were put down by sex workers in our own words, for our own defence.
1981

Picket of the High Court in London

We protested the horrific murders of 13 women by the Yorkshire Ripper and the official disregard for sex workers’ lives.
Following in the footsteps of sex workers in France who occupied churches across the country to protest serial murders and police abuse, we occupied the Holy Cross Church, King's Cross for 12 days.
Prostitutes put faith in posters

By Maggie Brown
Media Editor

The advertising industry yesterday teamed up with one of the country's most prominent advertising agencies to lobby for the abolition of the laws regulating prostitution.

Barclay Plage Egere, the Soho-based agency responsible for Levi jeans advertisements, yesterday unveiled four posters designed free for the English Collective of Prostitutes.

It was a part of a display of charitable neighbourliness, according to the agency chairman John Iggo. Workers in the sex industry are one of Soho's main community groups.

The hard-hitting slogans, in shocking pink letters on a bright blue background, read as follows:

“No one screws more prostitutes than the Government. In 1990 prostitutes were fined £1.2 million.”

“What’s the difference between a phone company and a prostitute? Our charges 48p per min for sex, the other gets charged in court.”

“Practising safe sex can get you arrested. Prostitutes are arrested for carrying condoms.”

“What do you call men who take money from prostitutes? Magistrates.”

The posters will appear in London at over 70 sites provided free by their owners. The Advertising Standards Authority said yesterday that the public was often prepared to tolerate shocking slogans if they were used for campaigning and not commercial purposes.

The object of the campaign is to seek the repeal of the 1956 Sexual Offences Act and 1959 Street Offences Act, which make it illegal to solicit or sell sex on the streets, advertising, or share working premises. The 1995 Sexual Offences Act extended the law to cover kerb crawling.

A site has been booked in Lower Richmond Road, on the corner of the road in which David Mellor, MP for Putney, lives. The collective said this was because he voted for the 1985 Act, and spoke in 1990 in favour of strengthening it. Yesterday the collective leaders, Niki Adams and Nina Lopez-Jones, were seen wearing sweatshirts with yet another slogan (“No bad women, only bad laws”), said women were forced into prostitution because of poverty, then when they tried to earn money were considered to be criminals. The collective, which would oppose legalising, said this was because the rest of society.

With an advertising company we ran a poster campaign for decriminalisation.
1995 First private prosecution for rape

Private case brings rapist to justice

Prostitutes succeed with prosecution after CPS refuses to pursue attacker for lack of evidence

Sally Weale

With the support of ECP and Women Against Rape, two sex workers brought a private prosecution putting a rapist behind bars.
Sex workers in the ECP working in Soho go on strike on International Women’s Day and take legal action to stop the closure of flats.
The tragic murders of five young women in Ipswich caused an unprecedented outcry. Each of us deserves to be safe regardless of gender, occupation, sexual preference, race, age, nationality, immigration status or lifestyle.

When prostitute women are not safe, no woman is safe. Serial rapists & killers often have a history of attacks on partners & prostitutes. (The conviction rate for reported rape is a shocking 5.7%. Over 200 women are murdered each year.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decriminalisation of sex work would:</th>
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<td>• Increase safety – sex workers could work together and report violence without fear of arrest.</td>
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<td>• Enhance health – sex workers could access services without discrimination.</td>
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<td>• Recognise sex workers as workers with rights to fight for better working conditions and wages.</td>
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<td>• Free police time and resources to tackle violent crimes such as rape, trafficking and racist attacks.</td>
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<td>• Protect immigrant sex workers from being targeted for raids and deportation.</td>
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<td>• Recognise that sex workers, mostly mothers, contribute to the survival of families and communities.</td>
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<td>• End criminal records which bar access to other jobs.</td>
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<td>• Reduce police corruption enabling sex workers to report wrongdoings.</td>
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<td>• Stop the government profiteering from fines and confiscation orders.</td>
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<td>• Help end the hypocritical stigma attached to sex work.</td>
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I support decriminalisation of sex work.

Name __________________________________________________________________________
Email __________________________________________________________________________
Organisation if any __________________________________________________________________

Issued by the Safety First Coalition, co-ordinated by the English Collective of Prostitutes
Safety First includes anti-rape and anti-poverty campaigners, women’s groups, church representatives, residents in red-light areas, members of the medical and legal professions, prison & drug law reformers.
ecp@prostitutescollective.net 020 7482 2496

Following the murders of five young women in Ipswich, we initiated the Safety First Coalition - to decriminalise sex work and prioritise safety.
2013 Soho raids

Soho sex workers protest against forced evictions in London red light district

We mobilised against mass police raids and prevented the closure of flats in Soho, Central London.
Victory against deportations

2016

Anti-trafficking legislation raids & deportations for sex workers not protection

English Collective of Prostitutes

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 taking passports or ID and refusing to return them unless women produced a ticket back to their home country. You have a right to refuse to give them these documents.

Some police not illegally or abuse their powers for example by demanding free sex, demanding money or being racist and/or violent. Don't put up with it. Get in touch with us. Corrupt officers must be stopped.

If you have a criminal conviction that resulted in a prison sentence of over 12 months, the Home Office may see this to remove you. You have the right to appeal on human rights grounds.

If you are fighting for asylum or for the right to stay in the UK on human rights grounds, there is a useful self-help guide available from Legal Action for Migrants (www.legalactionformigrants.net)

Rights of EU National Sex Workers

If the police threaten you with deportation, you have the right to:

Refuse to give them your ID and documents.

Challenge removal (deportation) notices. You have the right to be in the UK as EU nationals. If the police claim that you are not exercising your “right of residence” you can appeal against the removal notice by showing evidence that you are either:

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

Resist Police Harassment. Tell the police, “I have the right to be here because I am exercising my treaty rights as a self-employed sex worker.”

Apply for a National Insurance Number.

If you get a deportation notice, get in touch with us.

English Collective of Prostitutes

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020 7745 2542
Prostitutescollective.net

Romanian sex workers challenge UK immigration policy

Women targeted by Operation Nexus, which aims to deport foreign offenders, say they are legitimately self-employed

Migrant sex workers in the ECP fought Brexit-inspired deportation orders.
We organised with the International Women’s Strike and drafted the global declaration from the sex worker movement with Empower, Thailand.
2017  End violence against sex workers

With Sex Worker Advocacy and Resistant Movement (SWARM) we gathered outside Parliament to build a memorial on International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers for sex workers who have lost their lives.
WE ARE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEX WORKER-LED MOVEMENT FOR

DECRIMINALISATION

For more information and to pledge your support for sex workers' safety please visit:
www.pledgedecrim.com