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## **ABOUT US**

### ***“The Girls’ Union”***

The ECP is a network of sex workers working both on the streets and indoors campaigning for decriminalisation and safety. We fight against being treated like criminals. We've helped sex workers win against charges of soliciting, brothel-keeping & controlling – the last two most often used against women who are working together for safety. Most sex workers are mothers trying to do the best for their children. We campaign against austerity cuts and for housing and other survival resources so that any of us can leave prostitution if and when we want.

We have an international network including sister organisations in Thailand (Empower) and the US (US PROStitutes Collective).

## **WHAT WE STAND FOR**

- Decriminalisation of sex work – on the street and in premises – as in New Zealand. The laws land us in prison, divide us from families and friends, make us vulnerable to violence, isolate us. Criminal records trap us in prostitution.
- Protection from rape and other violence.
- An end to police brutality, corruption, racism and other illegality. Prosecute police who break the law.
- No zones, no licensing, no legalised brothels – they are ghettos and state pimping.
- Self-determination. Sex workers must decide how we want to work – not the police, local authorities, pimps, madams/managers who profit from our work.
- An end to racism and other discrimination within the sex industry.
- Rights for sex workers like other workers: the right to organise collectively to improve our working conditions, a pension and to join trade unions.
- No criminalisation of clients, which would force sex workers underground and into more danger. Consenting sex between adults is not a crime.

- Free and accessible health services for all: no mandatory health checks.
- Women's (cis and trans) right to organise independently of men, including of male sex workers.
- Economic alternatives: no one should be forced into sex by poverty. People who want to leave the sex industry (or any industry) should have access to resources.
- Shelters and benefits for children/young people so they don't have to beg or go into prostitution to survive.
- No 'rehabilitation' schemes which punish us or force us into low-paid jobs.
- The right to freedom of movement within and between countries. Stop using anti-trafficking laws to deport sex workers.

## OUR WORK INCLUDES

**Protesting the horrific murders of 13 women** by the Yorkshire Ripper and the official disregard for sex workers' lives.

**A 12-day occupation of a church** in King's Cross, London in 1982 to protest police illegality and racism against street workers.

**The first ever successful private prosecution for rape in England and Wales** in 1995 which put a serial rapist behind bars.

**Forming the Safety First Coalition** in the aftermath of the tragic murder of five women in Ipswich in 2006 which includes prestigious organisations like the Royal College of Nursing and Women Against Rape.

**Defending street workers** against civil orders used to criminalise and ban us from particular areas.

**Opposing gentrification and the closure of sex workers' flats in Soho**, London, because it is safer to work inside.

**Migrant sex workers winning** against Brexit-inspired deportation orders.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Sign and share our Government petition for the decriminalisation of prostitution at [www.makeallwomensafe.org](http://www.makeallwomensafe.org)

Support our work by making a donation at [www.prostitutescollective.net](http://www.prostitutescollective.net)

Join us every Thursday 2-5pm for news, updates and to volunteer your labour! We need help with research, translations, design, drafting letters, briefings, helping distribute our Pledge or rights sheet. We are based at the busy Crossroads Women's Centre with 14 other groups, so all women can come and go without anyone knowing which organisation they are part of.