REMOVE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR SEXUAL EXCHANGE IN DC

LGBTQ+ folks of color, who have fewer opportunities for housing, employment, and legal protections, are overrepresented among those engaged in sexual exchange. Existing criminal penalties and police practices around sexual exchange exacerbate the discrimination, stigma, and violence already experienced by these individuals and communities.

37% of DC’s trans sex workers are homeless

10x

Trans women engage in sex work at a rate ten times that of cisgender women

85% of DC’s trans sex workers are Black and Latinx

Trans people who have experienced homelessness are 2.5 times more likely to have been incarcerated than those with stable housing

Over 80% of street-based sex workers reported experiencing violence in the course of their work.

Removing criminal penalties for sexual exchange reduces discriminatory treatment of DC’s most marginalized. This increases sex workers’ ability to access supportive services, negotiate safer sex practices, and seek legal recourse for incidents of sexual and physical violence.

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Reducing harm in the nation’s capital since 1993