

## **Sex worker rights underly foundational rights that are critical for women.**

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Laws that criminalize sex workers and their communities are used to limit women and girl's freedom of movement, association, and expression.

Prostitution is policed by trying to control where women go, what they say, who they associate with and what they are wearing.

Many laws criminalizing and censoring sex work have been passed under the guise of "protecting" women and children, but these laws inevitably result in more arrests of vulnerable people.

**Policing prostitution is not protection, it's patriarchy.**

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## **Reducing criminal penalties for sex work has been shown to dramatically lower STI rates and violence against women.**

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A study on the impact of Craigslist Erotic Services found that **the female homicide rate dropped an average of 17%** when sex workers were able to easily advertise their services, schedule, and screen their clients.

When indoor sex work was decriminalized in Rhode Island, **reported rapes dropped 30%**, and gonorrhea cases were reduced nearly 40%.

New Zealand decriminalized sex work in 2003.

A study conducted in 2015 found that:

- Over 90% of sex workers reported having more rights and **better access to services**
  - 64% of sex workers found it **easier to refuse clients**
  - 57% said that police attitudes toward sex workers had dramatically improved, making it easier and more likely that sex workers would **report crimes** committed against them
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