Sex Workers Rights In Vermont

Hosted by New Moon Network & Ishtar Collective
AGENDA

01. INTRODUCTIONS & DEFINITIONS

02. SUBTOPIC WHEEL EXERCISE

03. ISHTAR COLLECTIVE - LOCAL ACTIVITY

04. HOW IS THIS INFORMATION RELEVANT TO YOUR WORK OR LIFE?

05. NEW MOON NETWORK - NATIONAL & GLOBAL

05. AUDIENCE Q & A

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION:
Join us at 6pm at Three Penny Taproom!
DEFINITIONS

- **Sex trade**
  - A global economy, ranging in formality and legality, encompassing a variety of sexual and erotic commercial transactions.

- **Sex work**
  - The exchange of sexual and erotic services (escorting, stripping, pornography, etc.) for money or something of value.

- **Sex trafficking**
  - Use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel another person to engage in a commercial sex act or causes a minor to engage in a commercial sex act.

- **Customer**
  - A person who purchases erotic or sexual services from someone who is providing such services.

- **Third Party**
  - Managers, booking agent, security, cleaners, or others involved in a transaction of sexual or erotic labor outside the provision of the service itself.
Nebula Fund

Supports movements advancing gender justice and LGBTQ+ rights to expand their narrative power.
EXERCISE:
How is the issue of the sex trade relevant to other issues?
The Ishtar Collective

Supports Vermont’s sex workers
And survivors of human trafficking
**FOOD JUSTICE**

**Intent:** To grow and provide produce to low income households in central Vermont.

**Result:** Food Garden is in its 3rd year of operation. Community Fridge installed in downtown Montpelier.
POLICY ADVOCACY

**Intent:** To improve legal conditions for people who trade sex in Vermont.

**Result:** Removed barriers to accessing 911 services. Removed stigmatizing language from municipal codes. Introduce bill to decriminalize sex work.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Intent:** To create opportunities for connection and amongst people who trade sex in Vermont.

**Result:** Strong core membership. Co-hosted the New England Sex Work Summit (regional gathering).
But enough about us..

Who are you?

What brings you here today?

What about this feels relevant to you?

STAY CONNECTED:

Click here to join our newsletter
New Moon Network

Advancing rights and welfare for people in the sex trade through capacity building, regranting, and donor advising.
Sex Worker Led Groups in the USA:

2023 Count:
- 200+ groups
- 120 active in past 6 months

Up 1000% from a 2015 count of ~20 groups.

1000% growth in grassroots sex worker groups in the past 8 years...WHY?
Increasing Pressure

In response to rising censorship, discrimination, and policing conducted under the banner of ending sex trafficking, sex workers are mobilizing. The movement for sex workers rights is directly tied to the major movements of our day.
The movement for sex workers rights is global

338 sex worker led members of Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP)
NEW MOON NETWORK - AREAS OF FOCUS

**Philanthropic Advising**
We open the door to dialog around one of the most entrenched issues of our time, and uplift alignment between issue areas.

**Moving Money Into Movement**
By leveraging data and relationships, we identify and fund opportunities poised to accelerate change.

**Capacity Building**
Through technical assistance and pilot programming, we fortify leaders with skills, info, and resources.
Funding Landscape

Percentage of global foundation human rights funding:

**Women & Girls - 23%**
*(sex workers commonly excluded)*

**LGBTQIA+ - 5%**

**People with Disabilities - 3%**

**Sex Workers Rights - <1%**

*Human Rights Funders, 2019*
Links for further learning:

**SEX WORK POLICY:**

Is Sex Work Decriminalization the Answer? What the Research Tells Us - ACLU, research report

Decriminalise sex work to prevent trafficking and abuse - Open Democracy, article

Preventing Sex Trafficking Requires the Full Decriminalization of Sex Work - Freedom Network USA, position paper

Associations Between Sex Work Laws and Sex Workers’ Health, PLOS Medicine

The Impact of Twenty Years of End Demand Implementation on People who Trade Sex, Reframe Health & Justice

Criminalising Clients Endangers Sex Workers and Creates Barriers to Exiting Sex Work
Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, position paper

Health Outcomes Associated with the Criminalization and Regulation of the Sex Trade - briefing paper
Center for HIV Identification, Prevention & Treatment Services & Sex Workers Outreach Project of Sacramento
Global Lab for Research in Action, UCLA Luskin

Sex Work Policy Recommendations - National LGBTQ Task Force, position paper

Debunking the Entrapment Model - Decriminalize Sex Work, research review
Links for further learning:

CONNECTED ISSUES:

Migrant Sex Workers - Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP), briefing paper

To Protect Black Trans Lives, Decriminalize Sex Work - ACLU, article

Disability & Sex Work - Decriminalize Sex Work, video and info sheet

Sex Worker Rights and Domestic Violence and Gendered Violence - Old Pros, 1 pager info sheet

Erased: The Impact of SESTA/FOSTA and the Removal of Backpage - Hacking/Hustling, research report

Financial Discrimination and the Adult Industry - Free Speech Coalition, report

FUNDING LANDSCAPE:

Defining Sex Worker Rights Funding - Sex Work Donor Collaborative, info sheet

Foundation Funding For Sex Workers, 2011-2016 - Human Rights Funders Network, info site

Shifting the (funding) power to sex workers – my years at Mama Cash - Alliance Magazine, article