

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, September 22, 2016

**SEX WORKERS REFUSED ENTRY AT PUBLIC MEETING**

Sex workers refused entry to a public meeting about controlling sex work on City of Vancouver property. Triple-X Society director Anna Smith and Poison Pompadour from the French sex-worker syndicate STRASS were not allowed to attend an anti-sex work lecture by Swedish detective Simon Haggstrom on Tuesday night, in The Orpheum Annex (823 Seymour Street) — even though they had advance tickets. A young woman named Jocelyn was visibly upset after she was removed from the meeting for asking a question.

Other members of the public — without tickets — were allowed to enter once it was determined that they were not prostitutes or supporters of them. The event titled, “International Approaches to Prostitution: Sweden, Germany and Canada was organized by Asian Women Coalition Ending Prostitution (and sponsored by Aboriginal Women’s Organizing Network, Foy Allison Law, Formerly Exploited Voices Now Educating, Resist Exploitation Embrace Dignity, University Women’s Club of Vancouver, Vancouver Rape Relief and Women’s Shelter).

Detective Haggstrom is very proud that he has arrested more than a thousand clients of sex workers in Stockholm. He said in an interview on Roundhouse Radio that society attitudes are changing and that men are becoming ashamed of themselves — once their careers and families are damaged by their arrests.

We (Poison and Anna) are very upset by our exclusion as one of the mottos of the sex workers’ rights movement is “Nothing About Us Without Us.” It is impossible to make logical decisions without the advice of the people in question.

We have a video of us being locked out of the meeting by security. We were left on the street and the meeting went ahead without us.

For more details, contact Anna Smith – tel. & text: 604-600-3253 or email: [annasmithmar@gmail.com](mailto:annasmithmar@gmail.com); Poison Pompadour – email: [poisonpompadour@gmail.com](mailto:poisonpompadour@gmail.com)

Photo attached. credit: David Beaver

<http://triple-x.org/about/pr/PoisonwAnna-01-300dpi.jpg>

– 30 –

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Attached photo, credit: David Beaver

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