

To: Mr. Salil Shetty
Secretary General,
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London
WC1X 0DW, UK

CC: The Members of International Council, Amnesty International

Monday, August 3, 2015

Re: Draft Policy on Sex Work

Dear Mr. Shetty,

The Canadian Alliance For Sex Work Law Reform (CASWLR) is a broad-based coalition of sex-worker groups and sex-worker advocacy organizations working for the protection of sex workers' human rights in Canada.

Many of our member groups met with Amnesty International during your extensive consultations world-wide, which resulted in the "Draft Policy on Sex Work" to be voted on at the 32nd International Council Meeting.

Members of CASWLR commend Amnesty International's commitment to put the experiences of those working in the sex industry at the core of your human-rights policies regarding sex work.

CASWLR heartily endorses Amnesty International's assertion that:

"states have an obligation 'to reform their laws and develop and implement systems and policies that eliminate discrimination against those engaging in sex work."

In particular, CASWLR applauds Amnesty International's call for states to:

"actively seek to empower the most marginalised in society, including through supporting the rights to freedom of association of those engaging in sex work, establishing frameworks that ensure access to appropriate, quality health services and safe working conditions and through combatting discrimination or abuse based on sex, sexual orientation and/or gender

identity or expression."

CASWLR members and supporters beseech the International Council to stand firm on Amnesty International's commitment to base your human rights policies regarding sex work on the evidence you documented; the experiences of those most affected - sex workers themselves.

Amnesty International's "Draft Policy on Sex Work" will be a crucial and necessary tool in the fight for sex workers' human rights in Canada and in many, many countries where sex work is criminalized, depriving sex workers of their fundamental freedoms.

Do the right thing. Adopt the "Draft Policy on Sex Work". Support the struggle for sex workers' human rights everywhere.

M Shetty,

L'Alliance canadienne pour la Réforme des Lois sur le Travail du Sexe/ The Canadian Alliance For Sex Work Law Reform (CASWLR) est une coalition élargie de groupes composés travailleuses et travailleurs du sexe et d'organisations de défense des droits des travailleuses du sexe qui travaillent pour la protection des droits humains des travailleuses et travailleurs du sexe au Canada.

Plusieurs de nos groupes membres ont rencontré Amnistie Internationale durant les vastes consultations effectuées partout dans le monde, ce qui a donné forme à la position politique à propos du travail du sexe qui sera votée prochainement lors de la 32^e Rencontre du Comité International.

Les membres de CASWLR saluent l'engagement d'Amnistie Internationale de mettre les expériences de celles et ceux qui oeuvrent dans l'industrie du sexe au cœur des politiques de droits humains en ce qui concerne le travail du sexe.

Spécifiquement, CASWLR applaudit l'initiative d'Amnistie Internationale de demander aux États de :

« Chercher activement à responsabiliser les personnes plus marginalisés de la société, notamment en soutenant les droits à la liberté d'association des personnes qui exercent le commerce du sexe, l'établissement de cadres qui garantissent l'accès à des services de santé appropriés et de qualité ainsi que des conditions de travail sécuritaires et de combattre la discrimination ou l'abus basés sur le sexe, l'orientation sexuelle et/ou identité de genre ou

d'expression. »

Les membres et supporteurs de CASWLR supplient le Conseil International de rester ferme concernant l'engagement d'Amnistie Internationale de baser ses politiques de droits humains à propos du travail du sexe sur les preuves accumulées et documentées; les expériences de celles et ceux qui sont les plus affectées – les travailleuses et travailleurs du sexe eux-mêmes.

La position politique à propos du travail du sexe d'Amnistie Internationale sera un outil crucial et nécessaire dans la lutte pour les droits humains des travailleuses et travailleurs du sexe au Canada ainsi que dans plusieurs pays où le travail du sexe est criminalisé, privant les travailleuses et travailleurs du sexe de leurs libertés fondamentales.

Faites le bon choix. Adoptez la position politique à propos du travail du sexe. Supportez la lutte pour les droits humains des travailleuses et travailleurs du sexe partout dans le monde.

Respectfully,

Jenn Clamen, Coordinator
Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform

Signatures from Members of the Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform:

1. Action Putes et Allié.es du Québec (APAQ), Montréal, QC
2. Action Santé Travesti(e)s et Transsexuel(le)s du Québec, Montréal, QC
3. BC Coalition of Experiential Communities and West Coast Cooperative of Sex Industry Professionals, Vancouver, BC
4. Big Susie's, Hamilton, ON
5. Butterfly (Asian and Migrant Sex Workers Support Network), Toronto, ON
6. Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Canada
7. FIRST Decriminalize Sex Work, Vancouver, BC,
8. Maggie's Toronto Sex Workers' Action Project, Toronto, ON
9. PACE Society, Vancouver, BC
10. Peers Victoria Resources Society, Victoria, BC
11. Pivot Legal Society, Vancouver, BC
12. Prostitutes Involved, Empowered, Cogent – Edmonton (PIECE), Edmonton, AB
13. Projet Lune, Québec, QC
14. Prostitutes of Ottawa, Gatineau, Work, Educate, Resist (POWER), Ottawa, ON
15. Rézo, projet travailleurs du sexe, Montréal, QC

16. Safe Haven Outreach Project (S.H.O.P.), St John, Newfoundland
17. Sex Professionals of Canada (SPOC), Toronto, ON
18. Sex Workers Action Group (SWAG), Kingston, ON
19. Sex Workers' Advisory Network, Sudbury, ON
20. South Western Ontario Sex Workers, London, ON
21. Stella, l'amie de Maimie, Montréal, QC
22. Stepping Stone, Halifax, NS
23. Stop the Arrests! Sault Ste Marie, ON
24. Strut, Toronto, ON
25. Supporting Women's Alternatives Network (SWAN), Vancouver, BC
26. Winnipeg Working Group for Sex Workers' Rights, Winnipeg, MB

Signatures from Supporting organizations':

1. AIDS ACTION NOW!, Toronto, ON
2. AIDS Community Care Montreal (ACCM), Montréal, QC
3. Operation Snatch, Canada
4. Triple-X Workers' Solidarity Association of British Columbia
5. Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) Canada
6. Bad Date Coalition, Toronto, ON
7. Families of Sisters in Spirit (FSIS), Ottawa, ON, Traditional Algonquin Territory
8. Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN)
9. Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation, Canada
10. BAYSWAN, Bay Area Sex Worker Advocacy Network, San Francisco, US
11. Elizabeth Evans May, OC MP, Leader of the Green Party of Canada
12. Ellen Woodsworth, Former Vancouver City Councillor, Vancouver, BC
13. Immigrant Workers Centre, Montreal, QC
14. Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Ontario
15. SafeSpace London, ON
16. CAYA Co-operative, Toronto, ON
17. School of Labour at George Brown College, Toronto, ON
18. Assaulted Women & Children Counselor/Advocate, Toronto, ON
19. Gender & Sexual Health Initiative, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS
20. COCQ-SIDA, Montreal, QC
21. CATIE, Canada
22. Libby Davies, Member of Parliament, Vancouver East, BC
23. Ontario Association of Interval & Transition House
24. Centre for Addictions Research of BC, University of Victoria, BC
25. Migrant Sex Worker Project, Toronto, ON
26. WARNING!, Montreal, QC
27. SPACES Project and BC Coalition of Experiential Communities, Vancouver, BC

28. Cactus Montreal, QC
29. Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), Local 607, Sault Ste Marie, ON
30. @AfterBedford and SlutWalk Toronto, ON
31. Canadian Treatment Action Council, Toronto, ON
32. Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, Montréal, QC
33. Students for Sex Worker Rights, Ottawa, ON
34. The Naked Truth, Surrey, BC
35. The Canadian Harm Reduction Network, Canada

*115 individual supporters' names have been removed for privacy. The letter with full signatures was sent to M. Shetty and other members of the Amnesty International Secretariat have been sent the letter with all signatures.