



RUM 2019
SEX WORK SOLIDARITY

Vancouver
Saturday
June 8

7th Annual
Red Umbrella
March

RALLY: 1 P.M. – 1130 JERVIS ST. (AT PENDRELL)
WEST END SEX WORKERS' MEMORIAL

IN JANUARY 1983, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that all city bylaws used to prohibit sex workers from “loitering” were unconstitutional and against the law. In May 1984, to circumvent the Supreme Court ruling, the City of Vancouver teamed up with the community policing group, “Shame The Johns” and filed for an injunction that named 30 people as prostitutes and public nuisances that would ban them from Vancouver’s West End. Copies of the injunction application were posted on neighbourhood lamp posts.

ON JUNE 8, 1984, 300 sex workers and supporters descended on the West End with whistles and noise-makers, proclaiming themselves the thirty-first “public nuisance!”

CELEBRATE
THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY
OF CANADA’S 1ST
MODERN-DAY
PROSTITUTES’ PROTESTS

WHY BUYING SEX SHOULD NOT BE A CRIME

1. Laws that make buying sex a crime infringe upon our sexual freedom, in particular, the freedom to set the terms under which we agree to have sex.
2. Sex buyers' access to healthcare that is relevant and non-judgmental is hindered when buying sex is a crime.
3. When buying sex is a crime, sex workers are denied protection under labour law.
4. When buying sex is a crime, sex workers' choices for work are severely limited.
5. When buying sex is a crime, sex workers are discriminated against and face social exclusion.
6. When buying sex is a crime, sex workers must work alone or incriminate their associates.
7. When buying sex is a crime, our families are torn apart.
8. Stigma and violence against sex workers are fueled when buying sex is a crime.
9. Risks that sex workers may face — such as violence, extortion, kidnapping or confinement— are already against the law.
10. Any law that makes buying sex a crime limits sex workers' ability to earn a living and does not protect sex workers from harm.