

RED UMBRELLA MARCH FOR SEX WORK SOLIDARITY

The Red Umbrella March for Sex Work Solidarity has been organized to show public support for Toronto sex workers, Bedford, Lebovitch, and Scott in their courageous fight against Canada's unjust prostitution laws.

On September 28, 2010, sex workers and allies celebrated Justice Himel's landmark ruling that would strike down three major Criminal Code of Canada provisions that make prostitution against the law:

- Section 210 – Common bawdy house
- Section 212(1)(j) – Living on the avails; and
- Section 213(1)(c) – Communicating for the purposes of prostitution.

Justice Himel ruled that these laws violate the right to liberty and security that is guaranteed in Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Himel's decision states that the harm done to sex workers through this criminalization of prostitution outweighs any harm done to the community.

This decision was appealed by the Attorney General, and the case will be heard at the Supreme Court of Canada on June 13, 2013.

TRIPLE-X
WORKERS' SOLIDARITY
ASSOCIATION OF B.C.

WHY SEX WORK SHOULD NOT BE A CRIME

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