

RED UMBRELLA MARCH FOR SEX WORK SOLIDARITY

Is a show of public support for sex workers and their courageous fight against the Harper government's new unjust prostitution laws. In December, 2013, The Supreme Court of Canada unanimously struck down Canada's old prostitution laws ("Bawdy House," "Living on the Avails" and "Communicating in Public").

On June 5, the Conservative government tabled Bill C-36 replacing the struck-down laws with much broader laws which make "Obtaining Sexual Services for Consideration," "Material Benefit from Sexual Services" and "Advertisement of Sexual Services" crimes.

If Bill C-36 is passed, anyone who talks to a known sex worker could be breaking the law. It would be a crime to discuss obtaining sexual services with anyone in any place — including on the telephone or Internet — leaving clients vulnerable to police entrapment stings.

Anyone (other than legitimate living arrangements) who receives any material benefit — derived directly or indirectly — is guilty of a crime. As well, any material — visual representation or written — that advertises any sexual service is outlawed.

These new laws would violate our *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and would force sex workers into an environment of crime where their rights are not protected.

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

WHY SEX WORK SHOULD NOT BE A CRIME

1. Stigma and violence against sex workers are fueled when sex work is a crime.
2. When 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. When sex work is a crime, sex workers must work alone or incriminate their associates.
5. When sex work is a crime, sex workers are discriminated against and face social exclusion.
6. When 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 when 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. When 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.