

From: [Tony Sievers](#)
To: [Jennifer Buckley](#)
Subject: FW: RE DECRIMINALISATION OF PROSTITUTION
Date: Friday, 4 October 2019 9:36:57 AM

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 3 October 2019 9:02 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Subject: RE DECRIMINALISATION OF PROSTITUTION

“ If pimps celebrate full decriminalisation, you really have to question to whom the law is catering. And if traffickers hate the Nordic Model, you really have to wonder why governments, obliged to protect against sexual exploitation, still aspire to full decriminalisation. ”

Dear the Honorable Ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly,

We are writing you to provide information regarding the proposed bill to “Decriminalise sex work”. We are a group of women currently and formerly in the sex trade.

Between us we have a combined experience of more than half a century of prostitution including under prohibition, partial decriminalisation, full decriminalisation and legalisation.

We are comprised of indigenous and non-indigenous women and approach you with a commitment to the rights of the vulnerable and marginalised in this country comprised of more than 300 indigenous nations. Our regard for our trafficked sisters,

domestically and internationally is unwavering. Our commitment to ending our criminalisation is unwavering.

Our right to be free from sexual exploitation must be taken seriously.

Our right *not* to be tabled under 'tolerance zones' and planning permissions, brothels, and the entitlement of (primarily) white or any men, to rent our bodies for sexual use is at stake.

The history of prostitution is the history of colonisation. The first people to ever be colonised in history of the world were women. The first claim of ownership was not of land but of our bodies. Then came the colonisation of others, and lands. That colonisation swept indigenous women here and in the Third World into prostitution.

We write to you with tears, but we write to you with courage. Many of our sisters have died because of what prostitution has done to us. Yet here sit ministers and Attorney Generals, listening to the lies of SWOP, Scarlet Alliance, the Sex Industry Network and all the other groups with their red umbrellas and hollow slogans. 'Sex work is work!' they say on radio, TV and committee hearings. 'Sex work is work!' they shout at rallies, and at venues holding spaces for survivors, of the system they claim is their right, with no care for us.

Here sit ministers and Attorney Generals, acknowledging the country they meet on – whether it is the Larrakia, Kulin, Wadjuk, Arrente, Waradjeri, Latji Latji and on and on- while they decide the fate of women in prostitution. While they listen to words created by white women, call us 'sex workers', claim our pain is a form of labour. That it is our work!

They talk about New Zealand, not knowing how the girls and women suffer there since the prostitution reform act- taking their 'facts' from the NZPC. They talk about the Nordic Model, saying it 'pushes prostitution underground' when it has liberated our sisters. Listen to lies, comfort themselves to believe that the men who rent our bodies are our human right!

Listen to those who talk on and on about anti-discrimination- all the time saying it is our, us women's, right to be exploited – as long as we are paid. As long as we are paid, you say, we are not being exploited. As long as men use condoms to protect the rest of society. As long as our suffering is away from schools, not in your backyard, not in your constituent's back yard, anywhere but where 'decent people' live. Or you put us in brothels everywhere, like in NSW and New Zealand, where little children grow up thinking that this is a way of life, that this is a life.

We want to be decriminalised, not the men who buy us, not the brothel madams, not the pimps. We want no sister trafficked here from China or Thailand or the Phillipines, to live this hell here on our land. Let us be free. Free from the men. Free

from sexual abuse.

Do not let your territory, Honorable Ministers and Members, become a pimp state.

Yours Sincerely,

Spokewoman for Survivors West Australia Against Prostitution

(SWAAP)

#ListenToSWAAPnotSWOP!