

Sex Workers Striding Forward: Strategies for HIV

New Zealand Prostitutes' Collective 1987 - 2015

Catherine Healy

Beginnings

- Formed 1987, for sex workers, by sex workers
- Most acts related to "prostitution" were illegal
- Contracted with Government in 1988 – sex workers created prevention programmes

1989

- Condoms seized as evidence
- Material produced by NZPC also used as evidence



1990s

- Right from the outset worked with female, transgender, and male sex workers.
- ONTOP and PUMP programmes delivering peer based prevention programmes.



2003

Strong, rights based, legislative model that complements HIV prevention efforts.

Reprint
as at 1 July 2013

Prostitution Reform Act 2003

Public Act 2003 No 28
Date of assent 27 June 2003
Commencement see section 2

Contents

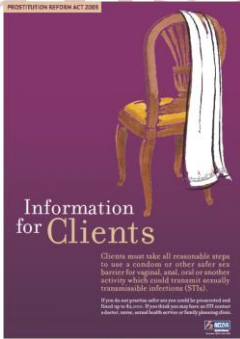
	Page
1 Title	4
Part 1 Preliminary provisions	
2 Commencement	4
3 Purpose	4
4 Interpretation	4
5 Definition of operator	6
6 Act binds the Crown	6
Part 2 Commercial sexual services	
7 Contracts for commercial sexual services not void	6
Contract for provision of commercial sexual services not void	6

3 Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to decriminalise prostitution (while not endorsing or morally sanctioning prostitution or its use) and to create a framework that—

- safeguards the human rights of sex workers and protects them from exploitation;
- promotes the welfare and occupational health and safety of sex workers;
- is conducive to public health;
- prohibits the use in prostitution of persons under 18 years of age;
- implements certain other related reforms.

2000s



- Requires brothel operators, clients, and sex workers **“to take all reasonable steps”** to ensure condom use.
- No mandatory testing.
- Against the law to advertise for commercial gain that sex workers are tested.

2000s



- OSH Guidelines
- Medical Officer’s of Health role is supportive.
- Police.

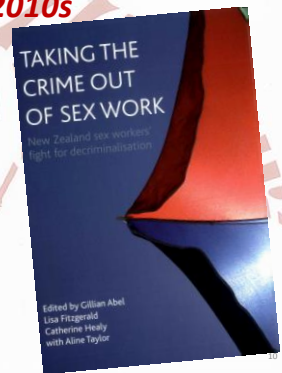
2010s

- Oxford Union debate, International AIDS Conference Hub, Praxis and experience on regulatory measures in sex work.



2010s

Research partnerships



A Review of Key Indicators of Sexual Health: A Comparison of Migrant and Non-Migrant Sex Workers

	Migrant sex workers		Non-Migrant sex workers		p Value
	Prevalence	%	Prevalence	%	
Gonorrhoea	0/51	0	0/51	0	-
HIV	0/51	0	0/51	0	-
Urinary Tract Infection	8/51	15.69%	5/51	9.80%	NS
Bacterial Vaginosis	15/51	29.41%	31/51	60.78%	0.05

2014 – World First





2014

- Lancet notes that between 33% and 46% of HIV infections could be averted if sex work is decriminalised.

13



- Chapter 1: Community Empowerment
- Chapter 2: Addressing Violence against Sex Workers
- Chapter 3: Community-led Services
- Chapter 4: Condom and Lubricant Programming
- Chapter 5: Clinical and Support Services
- Chapter 6: Programme Management and Organizational Capacity-building
 - Programme Management
 - Building the Capacity of Sex Worker Organizations

14

Government Inquiries

- Prostitution Law Review Committee
- Select Committees
 - Manukau Council Bills, 2004 and 2010: attempts to restrict street based sex work
 - Freedom from Sexual Exploitation: petition to impose the Swedish laws criminalising clients on New Zealand.

15

The future issues

- Sex Worker Pre-conference AIDS 2014 Consensus Statement:
 1. **Biomedical developments:** Sex workers are concerned that funding towards biomedical approaches will be taken from sex worker led community interventions.
 2. **Stigma and discrimination:** Sex workers are often trapped between the stigma of being perceived as 'vector of disease' without agency but still remain voiceless even within the HIV sector.

16

3. **Human Rights issues including criminalisation of HIV and sex work** - No criminalisation of sex work, our clients, work places or other laws pertaining to sex work.
4. **Migration and mobility:** Restricting our movement restricts our access to treatment, care and support.
5. **Funding:** Funding needs to have a human rights approach to HIV prevention and support, not a medicalised approach.

17



18