

RECOMMENDATIONS BY INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF SEX WORKERS IN EUROPE  
For the 2019 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

**Working Session 9 Humanitarian issues and other commitments, including:  
Combating trafficking in human beings**

International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe has been established by and is led by sex workers.

- It is important to acknowledge that **sex workers themselves build resilience against violence, exploitation and trafficking in human beings**. Such efforts that keep sex workers resilient are often developed with no or limited funding. They are, however, rarely acknowledged by the official anti-trafficking stakeholders as strategy worth to be supported. In contrary- anti-trafficking measures and policies do very often compromise sex workers' rights as documented by numerous organisations, such as Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women, Amnesty International and Doctors of the World.
- **Conflation of trafficking with sex work and systematic exclusion of sex workers** from (anti-trafficking) fora allow for greater collateral damage of some of the well-intended efforts to fight trafficking.
- Regardless of whether you agree or disagree with sex work as a work, **it is critical to evaluate the unintended effects of anti-trafficking measures on the most marginalized people such as sex workers**.
- ICRSE calls for **sex-workers inclusive anti-trafficking policies**, stressing that sex workers are best positioned to prevent trafficking and to identify victims of trafficking.

Recommendations:

For OSCE/ODIHR:

- **Consider inclusion of sex workers' view in the revision of the NRM handbook in order to achieve balanced and more nuanced recommendations for OSCE member states.** It is important to make a step forward and to acknowledge the role of the vulnerable communities such as (migrant) sex workers in building their resilience against exploitation and trafficking in the upcoming reviewed NRM handbook. As recognized by WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP and others, where sex workers' communities are empowered, supported and consulted, they can become strong allies for anti-trafficking efforts.

For OSCE OSR CTHB:

- **Consider inclusion of sex worker's voice in the Alliance Experts Co-ordination Team.** International organizations dealing with anti-trafficking agenda rarely articulate the need of community measures that empower vulnerable groups (such as sex workers) and support them to address structural and everyday constraints on their safety, access to services and measures that will reduce their vulnerability to crimes. This is proven to work in the area of HIV/AIDS and other health issues, where UN agencies dealing with HIV/AIDS call for meaningful involvement of sex workers in development, implementation and evaluation of programmes, policies and laws. However, it hasn't been the case in the anti-trafficking field because of the persistent conflation of trafficking and sex work.



For OSCE member states:

- **Include sex workers and sex worker led organisations into anti-trafficking policy development.** Anti-trafficking policies would benefit from sex workers' in-depth knowledge of the dynamics of the sex industry. Encourage sex workers to directly report on the intended and unintended effects of anti-trafficking policies.
- **Recognise and involve sex worker collectives into national referral mechanisms.** As recognised by UNAIDS, sex worker organisations are best positioned to refer women and children who are victims of trafficking to appropriate service.

Sex workers stand in a firm opposition to trafficking in human beings, exploitation in the sex industry and commercial sexual exploitation of children. The sex worker community can be one of the biggest allies in the fight against trafficking in persons, if partnerships engaging this community are developed and accepted.

In Warsaw, September 20, 2019.