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International Sex Workers' Day

Friday 1 June 2018

The criminalisation of sex work has negative impacts on the health, safety and wellbeing of sex workers, increasing the risk of physical and sexual violence and leading to poorer health, including sexual health.

International Sex Workers' Day on 1 June this year, celebrates the birth of the sex worker rights movement. The movement originated in 1975 in Lyon, France as a result of sex workers staging a church 'sit in' to protest against police brutality and a lack of police attention to crimes against sex workers. As a result of this protest, police raided the Church, sparking a national outcry and movement that spread across Europe and the world.

As part of International Sex Workers' Day celebrations this year, Adelaide sex workers, their supporters, other sex industry staff, health professionals, friends, family, and clients will rally on the steps of state Parliament House, led by SIN (previously named the Sex Industry Network) calling for the decriminalisation of sex work in South Australia.

Currently, the laws pertaining to sex work in South Australia are contained in the Summary Offences Amendment Act (1953) and the Criminal Law Consolidation Act (1935) which are seen by many to be 'archaic, dangerous, discriminatory and unworkable'. According to those in the industry, sex workers are at considerable risk of experiencing greater harm as a result of these laws.

Decriminalisation allows a highly visible focus on workplace health and safety, and is an important step towards reducing stigma and discrimination experienced by sex workers and improving health outcomes.

The rally will be take place at 4pm on Friday 1st June on the steps of the South Australian Parliament House and members of the wider community are encouraged to attend to show their support.

Anyone attending is encouraged to carry a red umbrella, the universal symbol of sex worker rights, and to wear red in order to raise awareness and draw attention to the continued struggle of South Australian sex workers who are still fighting against discrimination, criminalisation and victimisation.

For further information please contact Tracey Hutt, Director Workforce Education and Development at SHINE SA on 0434 937 036.



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