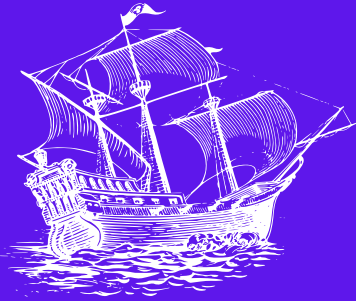


**SEX WORKERS SHOULD
HAVE RIGHTS TOO!!**





Sex work is one of the oldest professions in the world. It was and has continued to be one of the only ways for women to make a decent wage independently*.



In Colonial America sex work was largely legal. The Colonizers were mostly men that had come over without their wives and families**.



The U.S. started to criminalize sex work for multiple reasons in the latter part of the 18th century, including churches seeing sex work as immoral, racism towards the asian women that had come over with the railroad workers, and the fear of "white Slavery." **

[*https://www.dressember.org/blog/what-the-history-of-prostitution-can-teach-us-about-human-trafficking](https://www.dressember.org/blog/what-the-history-of-prostitution-can-teach-us-about-human-trafficking)

[**https://oxfordre.com/americanhistory/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-121](https://oxfordre.com/americanhistory/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-121)



Sex Worker Rights Movement

- Sex workers have been **fighting for their rights** and the decriminalization of sex work for decades.
- In **1917** more than 300 sex workers marched on **Central Methodist Church** in San Francisco.

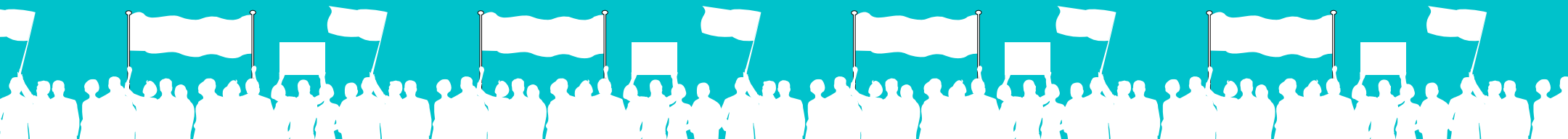
https://www.foundsf.org/index.php?title=Prostitute_March_1917



- In the **1960's** sex workers participated in the **Compton Cafeteria Riot** and the **Stonewall Uprising**.



<https://www.vox.com/2019/8/2/20692327/sex-work-decriminalization-prostitution-new-york-dc>



LGBTQIA2S+ individuals were some of the biggest contributors to the Sex Worker Rights Movement. In Fact at the Stonewall Uprisings, 2 trans women who were sex workers (Marsha P. Johnson & Sylvia Rivera) are known to have thrown the proverbial "first brick"

The term "Sex Work(er)" was coined by activist Carol Leigh to bring awareness to the labor rights that sex workers should have.



Carol Leigh Marsha P Johnson Sylvia Rivera

As of 2022, there are
42 Million sex workers
worldwide.

There are approximately
1-2 Million sex workers in the
United States

***Criminalizing Sex Work
Doesn't get rid of Sex Work!***

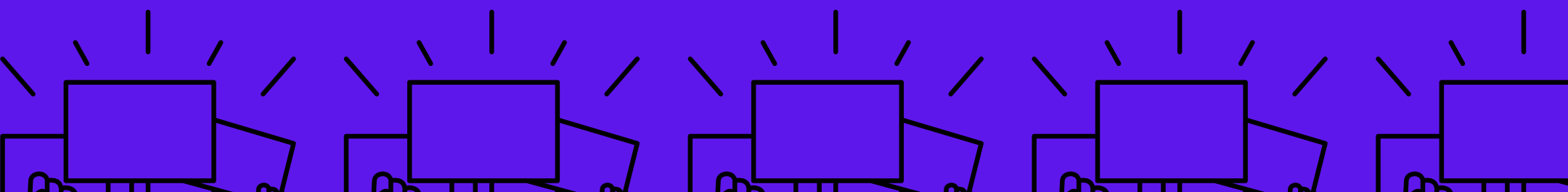
<https://prostitution.procon.org/questions/how-many-prostitutes-are-in-the-united-states-and-the-rest-of-the-world/>



Criminalizing sex work does...

- **Target** already **marginalized groups** (*LGBTQIA2S+ especially Trans Women, people of color, and immigrants*).
- **Affect** safety, health, financial independence, and labor protections
- **Health outcomes are worse** where sex work is criminalized. Studies have shown that places where sex work is criminalized have lower rates of condom usage, higher rates of drug use, higher rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), among many other poor health outcomes.

<https://www.aclu.org/news/topic/its-time-to-decriminalize-sex-work>



Legalization comes with strict regulations like requiring vigorous health checks, putting a limit on how much a sex worker can work or how much they can charge.

Legalization

Vs.

Decriminalization

Decriminalization gives sex workers more autonomy and freedoms such as: how much to work, when, whom for, with whom, and how much to charge.

It has also been shown to reduce the feelings of fear that sex workers experience about reaching out for help from the police.



Laws Regarding Sex Work in Nevada

Sex work is outlawed in all of the United states with the **exception of 11 counties in Nevada**, where it has been legalized with strict regulations.

Nevada law prohibits the sale of sex unless it is in a licensed "house of prostitution" (also known as a brothel) and prohibits licensed brothels to operate in counties with 700,000 or more inhabitants.



Pros & Cons of Nevada's Legal Brothel Model

Pros

- **More safety:** nobody has ever been diagnosed with HIV/AIDs who worked in a legal brothel.
 - No woman has been killed working at a legal brothel.
 - Patrons are required to use condoms.
- Sex Workers are able to negotiate their own pay
- Sex workers choose whom they want to see and can turn anyone away.

Cons

- **Limitations on advertising:** cannot advertise in any place that prostitution is not legal. *Even in places where it is legal you cannot advertise in the streets, in a theater, or on a public highway*
- **No benefits:** The sex workers **do not** get health insurance, vacation pay or retirement and are **liable** for the **costs** of the required weekly STD tests.

Laws Regarding Sex Work in Maine

Promoting the selling of sex:

In Maine "Promoting" the selling of sex by "causing or aiding another" person to sell sex (excluding the patron) is a crime. (class D)

Public "solicitation":

Soliciting people for the selling of sex in a public place is a crime under the charge of "Engaging in prostitution". (Class E)

Providing a place for the selling or buying of sex to take place:

providing a place for the sale and buying of sex is a crime as well under the charge of "Engaging in Prostitution" (Class E)

Laws Regarding Sex Work in Maine Continued...

- **Maine law prohibits the buying or selling of sex.**
- **Selling sex is a class E crime** *(if the person has a prior similar charge within the last 2 years then it is elevated to a class D crime).*
- **Buying Sex (solicitation) is a class E crime** *(unless the person has a prior solicitation charge or a similar charge within the last 2 years then it is elevated to a class D crime)*
- **Charges for solicitation can be even higher if it involves a minor or a person with an intellectual impairment.**

**** A class E crime carries up to 6 months in jail and a \$1000 fine**

**** A class D crime carries up to 1 year in jail and a \$2000 fine.**