

TAMPEP was founded in 1993 in response to the needs of migrant sex workers across Europe. As a sex worker-led network, it unites sex worker groups and allies in building stronger partnerships to advocate for the rights of migrant sex workers in Europe.

TAMPEP has a tripartite approach to human rights, advocacy and networking: **the right to work, the right to health, and the right to move freely**, with the diversity of migrant and mobile sex workers as a foundational and crosscutting value.

DECLARATION

Solidarity with sex workers that demand the right to work

The European TAMPEP network supports the demands of sex workers across Europe for equal treatment with other professions in the exercise of their services. A democratic society stands for equal treatment regarding professional rules in combating the pandemic. It is inexplicable that one profession is excluded while others, very similar, are allowed to work. There are no arguments as to why this profession would contribute more to infections. There is certainly no scientific evidence to support this. That is not acceptable and should not have happened.

- Sex workers are forbidden to work for almost one year now. Their workplaces are closed.

- Local authorities tend to persecute sex workers instead of supporting them during these challenging times. This has to stop. Authorities have to rethink their strategy in this regard.

- In the media, sex workers are mostly portrayed as super-spreaders when there is no evidence to support this allegation. These coverages harm sex workers additionally.

The closure or inaccessibility of workspaces and the lack of access to social safety nets lead to drastic income reductions for these workers, increasing their exposure to risk and making those already suffering the highest rates of violence even more vulnerable.

By banning legal sex work, lack of income support and without any prospect of improvement, there is a great risk that sex work will further be marginalised, leading to more violence against sex workers and less control of work safety during the pandemic. This is not in the interest of the sex workers, nor of public health.

The decision to exclude sex workers from the flexibilisation regarding the rules on Corona for professions that require personal contact, combined with insufficient income support, offers no perspective for many sex workers and may lead to risky behaviour. Because sex work is prohibited at the moment, sex workers will 'disappear' from sight for prevention and care, with a negative effect on their safety and health.

TAMPEP join forces with the sex workers' movement in the struggle for equal labour and human rights for sex workers.

We call the governments to readdress this social and economic injustice toward this professional category and to involve sex workers as experts in the implementation of all measures and decisions to fight Corona and minimise the risk of infection in sex work.

