



Press Release

International Day to End Violence Against Sex workers

December 17, 2023

Sex workers will not be divided

On December 17, the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, the Allianz Pro Sexwork* (Pro Sexwork Alliance) would like to draw attention to the violent structures that affect sex workers as well as to the current division of sex workers into "good" (because they are specially trained) sex workers and "bad" (non-specifically trained) sex workers.

Violence against sex workers is primarily structural in origin and can be traced back to sexist and religious-moralising ideologies, among other things, which also have an impact on legislation. Laws that regulate sex work are therefore often moralising and promote stigma against this group. As a result, stigma and restrictive legislation lead to violence against sex workers, as they cannot practise their profession freely, have to work in secret and are therefore more likely to become dependent on someone.

The Vorarlberg (region in Austria) parliament is currently discussing the legalisation of home visits for a certain group of sex workers – “sex assistants” (Sexualassistent:innen) - and for a certain group of clients - people with care level 4. This would lead to a division between "good" (because they are specially trained) sex workers and "bad" (non-specifically trained) people who offer other forms of sex work, because these other forms of sex work would not be legalised.

We see this as another form of structural violence against sex workers. House calls should be possible for all sex workers and sexual assistance should be made available to all people with disabilities. This is also provided for in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

"Once again, no self-organisations or counselling centres were included in the drafting of this law," said a spokesperson for the self-organisation Sexworker.at.

We demand

- **sex workers should have a say in laws that affect them**
- **the abolition of discriminatory laws**
- **the abolition of compulsory examinations**
- **an end to the criminalisation and illegalisation of sex work**

*In everyday life, sex work is almost always understood as a purely female, heteronormative field of work. Sex work is not only offered by women. However, they currently make up the majority of sex workers in Austria. Due to multiple discriminations, people affected by racism and queer sex workers are even more confronted with direct and structural violence.



Counselling for
sexworkers in
Salzburg

<http://www.frau-und-arbeit.at/index.php/schwerpunkte/pia>

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Counselling for
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Autonomous Centre
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Counselling for
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Counselling for
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Sexworker Forum
Self-Organisation

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