

Sex-work and human rights

Sex-work: Criminalization, discrimination and human rights

In May 2016 Amnesty International released the report “*The human cost of crushing the market*”. The report documents how sex-workers in Norway are victims of a comprehensive human rights violation, including harassment, discrimination and violence. Amnesty International’s report shows how human rights violations against people who sell sex in Norway is reinforced or directly caused by the criminalization of sex-purchase and facilitation of sex-work.

The same day, Amnesty International also presented country-reports regarding the living conditions of sex-workers, and the legal regulation of sex-workers in Honk Kong, Papua New Guinea and Argentina. The four reports are essential base for Amnesty International’s policy regarding sex-workers.

PION – Interest group for organization for prostitutes, Amnesty International Norway and Pro Center is inviting to debate concerning Amnesty’s report and the consequences of decriminalization of sex-work. The debate will take place at Litteraturhuset in Oslo, on Tuesday 13th of December, from 08.30-16.00.

Amnesty Internationals researcher Catherine Murphy will present the main conclusions of the report and give further recommendations. She has interviewed sex-workers, police officers, social assistance workers, interest organizations, lawyers, NGOs and researches, and concluded that the government is violating their commitments regarding the protection of human rights of persons who sell sex in Norway.

Researchers from various Nordic countries will clarify how the various forms of legal regulations are reasoned and how various forms of criminalization affects the access to rights.

Representatives of the governments and lawyers will deliberate the legal perspective, including the government objective of the prostitution policy, the reasoning behind the criminalization of sex-work, and the sifted and not-sifted consequences of such policy.

Representatives of sex-workers, both national and international NGOs, including PION, International Committee of he Rights of Sex-workers in Europe ICRSE and Rose Alliance will explain the consequences of criminalization, and discuss necessary measurements to secure protection of persons who sell sex, against discrimination and violation of human rights.

In the final panel discussion the young politicians from various parties are encouraged to comment on the debate, and present measures that can ensure a better protection of human rights for sex-workers.

Debate will proceed in English and Norwegian. Last date for registration **5. December 2016**.

Registration:

<https://tjenester.oslo.kommune.no/arrangement/bestilling/bestilling.aspx?Arrangement=85c9cb79-b612-4292-a8f3-86c9d54c18a1>

Program

- 08.30-09.00 **Coffee and Registration**
- 09.00-09.15 Opening **with** Trine Schei Grande, politician in parliament and leader for Venstre
- 09.15-10.00 **Criminalization of sex work in Norway**
Catherine Murphy, researcher, Amnesty International London
- 10.00-10.15 **Pause**
- 10.15-11.30 **Perspectives from researchers**
- 10.15-10.30 May-Len Skilbrei, professor, University of Oslo, Norway
- 10.30-10.45 Petra Östergren, researcher, Lund University, Sweden
- 10.45-11.00 Sine Plambeck, researcher, DIIS, Denmark
- 11.00-11.30 Panel Discussion
- 11.30-12.00 **Lunch**
- 12.00-13.00 **Legal perspectives**
- 12.00-12.15 Jan Austad, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Justice
- 12.15-12.30 Bente Oftedal Roli, Lawyer
- 12.30-12.45 Nanna Gotfredsen, Streetlawyers, Denmark
- 12.45-13.00 Questions by moderator
- 13.00-14.15 **Discrimination and human rights**
- 13.00-13.15 Jose Ranes Colminares, PION
- 13.15-13.30 Thierry Schaffauser, STRASS, France / ICRSE
- 13.30-13.45 Pye Jacobsson, Rose Alliance, Sweden / NSWP
- 13.45-14.15 Panel Discussion
- 14.15-14.30 **Pause**
- 14.30-15.45 **Panel Discussion**
- 8 x 3 min Bjørn-Kristian Svendsrud, Chairman, FrP Ungdom
Andrea Sjøvoll, president, Sosialistisk Ungdom
Linn-Elise Ohn, president, Rød Ungdom
Ada Johanna Arnstad, president, Senterungdommen
Ina Rangønes Libak, vice-president, AUF
Louise Bårdsen, Internasjonalt Utvalg, Unge Venstre
Kristofer Stavseng, county leader, Oslo, KrFU
Unge Høyre
- 14.40-15.15 Panel Discussion
- 15.45-16.00 **Summary and closing comments**