

# I WORK WITHOUT RIGHTS



Easy-to-read





**I work without rights**



Easy-to-read version



## What is sex work?

Sex work means giving sexual services in exchange for money.

This includes different kinds of work.

Sex work is not only about one kind of service.



In South Africa, sex work is not allowed.

It is a crime because of these laws:

- Sexual Offences Act 23 of 1957
- Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007
- Local laws from different towns and cities (called municipal bylaws)

These laws make life hard for sex workers.

Sex workers face:

Stigma, that means people judge them

Discrimination, that means they are treated unfairly

Abuse by some police officials



Problems getting healthcare and justice

## What is a sex worker?



In South Africa, an adult is a person who is 18 years and older.

A sex worker is an adult who chooses to give a service to another adult.

The other adult agrees to pay for that service.

Sex workers are different.

Each sex worker chooses their own:

- Rules
- Limits
- Prices

Sex workers can be:



- Women
- Men
- Transgender women
- Transgender men
- Gender fluid people

It is good to get to know the person before asking for a service.



The word “**sex worker**” is the correct word.



The word “**prostitute**” is rude and should not be used.

## Sex work and the law

### What is decriminalisation?

Decriminalisation means taking away criminal penalties for certain actions.



For Sex Work, decriminalisation means;

- Removal of rules that punish sex work
- Sex work becomes safer
- Sex workers still follow normal laws (like all other people)



If sex work is decriminalised:

- It becomes legal to run a **brothel**
- A **brothel** is a place where adults go to **buy or sell sexual services**
- It becomes legal to earn money from sex work
- People are safer
- Sex workers can get healthcare and justice



### Legalisation

What is legalisation?

This is when something is now allowed by law

There may be conditions for that

Legalisation is different from decriminalisation.





For Sex Work, legalisation means:

- The government controls sex work using strict rules
- Sex workers may be required to register and get licences
- There may be health checks

An example of this is in the Netherlands.

In legalisation, sex workers are still under pressure.

There are many rules to follow.



## Criminalisation

**Criminalisation** means the government made doing something a crime

A **crime** is something the law says is **not allowed**

For sex work, criminalisation means

- It is against the law to sell sex
- It is against the law to buy sex
- It is against the law to run a brothel



This makes sex work dangerous.

Sex workers and their clients have to meet in secret.

This can lead to abuse and violence.



Some police officials take advantage of this.  
Sex workers are often scared to report crimes.  
They are also scared to go to the clinic.

## Partial Criminalisation

This means some parts of something are made a crime, but not all.

For Sex Work, partial criminalisation is also called the **Swedish Model**.

It is the same as South Africa's model except in this model:

- Sex workers are not arrested
- But the clients and brothel owners are arrested

This does not make sex work safer.

Clients can become scared or violent.

Police can still harass sex workers.

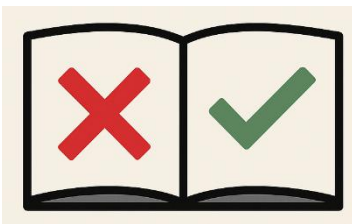
Sex workers are scared to report abuse.

Laws against having a brothel mean that;

Sex workers are unable to work together;

This makes it unsafe for them

There is **no proof** that the Swedish model works.





## About Sisonke



Sisonke National Movement is a non-profit organisation.  
This means we do not make money from our work.



Sisonke wants sex work to be decriminalised in South Africa.

We believe sex workers have human rights.



Sisonke does not support criminal activities.

We believe in reducing harm and promoting rights.

## Contact Sisonke



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Sisonke National Movement wrote this pamphlet



National Council of & for  
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