

To whom it may concern,

12.12.2019

The Dutch government proposes a new sex work law, the Sex Work Regulation Act (WRS). I and all sex workers share the concern of human trafficking and violence against sex workers, but the proposed law will not combat against those issues. It will only make the issues worse, if you take a look at countries like Germany, which have implemented forced registration. There according to officials; "It is to be feared that many prostitutes have retreated into the dark field of prostitution, where they are difficult to reach for authorities and counseling institutions."

I am convinced that this kind of law will only lead to more violence against sex workers and especially against trans sex workers and other sex workers, who belong to a minority groups. This is quite evident when you take a look at any other country, which has implemented laws and regulations, which makes it more harder to do sex work. It will hurt us the most, the trans sex workers, migrants and other minorities!

The law, if coming into effect, will result many sex workers not being able to meet the requirements and will then have to work illegally, or underground so to speak, which has already happened in countries like Germany.

Sex workers between 18 and 21 have no choice but to work illegally.

Migrant sex workers, like me, have to work illegally, if we loose our residence permits.

Sex workers will also have to face an interview, where someone else decides can we work or not. Trans people are already subjected to interviews and examinations to determine, if we can be who we are. Now you are subjecting us to yet another interview, where again someone else decides for us can we do the work we have decided to do for ourselves! I'm sorry, but no! No trans person in the world want's to face yet another interview, where someone else decides our fate! We can decide for ourselves! We are not children!

Storing sex workers personal information into a database also poses a huge risk for our personal information. It has been proven time and a time again, that no database is 100% safe from hackers, from nosy officials who have access to the database or just from accidents where someone press a wrong button. It will happen that one day all that data is released to public by a hacker or by an accident. Due to these kind of fears, many sex workers will choose to not to register and then work illegally and face the violence and problems that it will bring.

I moved to the Netherlands to do sex work in a safe place where I'm appreciated as a sex worker and as a trans woman. So far I have been extremely happy in the Netherlands and this country feels like a home to me!

Your law proposal is making me fear for my future and well-being in the Netherlands. I would therefore ask you to reconsider and withdraw this law proposal.

Sincerely;

Henna
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Migrant trans sex worker
Board member of FTS Finland

This letter has been approved by the whole board of FTS Finland.