

Universal Declaration on the Legalization and Rights of Adult Sex Work

Preamble

Recognizing the inherent dignity and equal rights of all individuals as the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world,

Acknowledging that consensual adult sex work has been a part of human societies throughout history and continues to exist despite criminalization and stigma,

Concerned by the harms caused by the criminalization of sex work, including violence, exploitation, and marginalization,

Affirming the need for a legal and regulatory framework that respects the rights of adult sex workers, ensures their safety, and promotes their access to social protections,

We, the undersigned, proclaim this Universal Declaration on the Legalization and Rights of Adult Sex Work as a common standard to safeguard the dignity, safety, and well-being of individuals engaged in consensual adult sex work.

Article 1: Right to Legal Recognition and Protection

Adult sex work, defined as consensual sexual services provided for remuneration by individuals aged 18 and over, shall be recognized as legitimate work under the law, with all rights and protections afforded to other forms of labor.

Article 2: Right to Personal Autonomy and Consent

All individuals have the right to make autonomous decisions about their own bodies, including engaging in consensual adult sex work, without coercion, exploitation, or interference.

Article 3: Right to Safety and Security

Sex workers have the right to work in safe environments free from violence, harassment, and exploitation. Governments shall establish mechanisms to protect sex workers from abuse and ensure access to justice for crimes committed against them.

Article 4: Right to Health and Social Services

Sex workers shall have access to comprehensive healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental health support, and harm reduction programs, without discrimination or stigma.

Article 5: Right to Labor Protections

Sex workers shall enjoy the same labor rights as other workers, including fair wages, safe working conditions, protection from workplace discrimination, and the right to unionize or organize collectively.

Article 6: Right to Legal Equality and Non-Discrimination

No individual shall be discriminated against based on their involvement in consensual adult sex work in areas including, but not limited to, employment, housing, education, healthcare, and public services.

Article 7: Prohibition of Exploitation and Trafficking

Governments shall take measures to prevent and address human trafficking and forced labor in the sex industry, distinguishing consensual adult sex work from exploitation. Efforts to combat trafficking must respect the rights of sex workers and avoid punitive measures against them.

Article 8: Right to Freedom from Stigma

Society shall strive to eliminate the stigma and discrimination associated with sex work through public education, awareness campaigns, and policies that promote respect for the dignity and humanity of sex workers.

Article 9: Regulation and Licensing

Governments shall implement transparent, fair, and non-punitive regulatory frameworks for adult sex work, including optional licensing systems for sex workers and establishments, ensuring that regulations prioritize the rights, health, and safety of workers.

Article 10: Right to Privacy

Sex workers have the right to privacy regarding their personal and professional lives. Governments and private entities must protect their data and identities from unauthorized disclosure or surveillance.

Article 11: Right to Legal Support and Justice

Sex workers shall have equal access to legal remedies and protections. Governments must establish specialized legal mechanisms to address disputes, enforce contracts, and combat discrimination in the sex work industry.

Article 12: International Cooperation

Nations shall collaborate to create evidence-based policies and share best practices for the legalization and regulation of adult sex work while respecting the cultural and legal frameworks of each country.

Article 13: Monitoring and Implementation

Independent bodies shall be established to monitor the implementation of this Declaration, assess compliance, and provide recommendations to ensure that the rights of sex workers are upheld globally.

Conclusion

This Declaration affirms the commitment to uphold the rights, dignity, and well-being of individuals engaged in consensual adult sex work. By recognizing sex work as legitimate labor and protecting sex workers from harm and discrimination, societies can foster equality, safety, and justice for all.