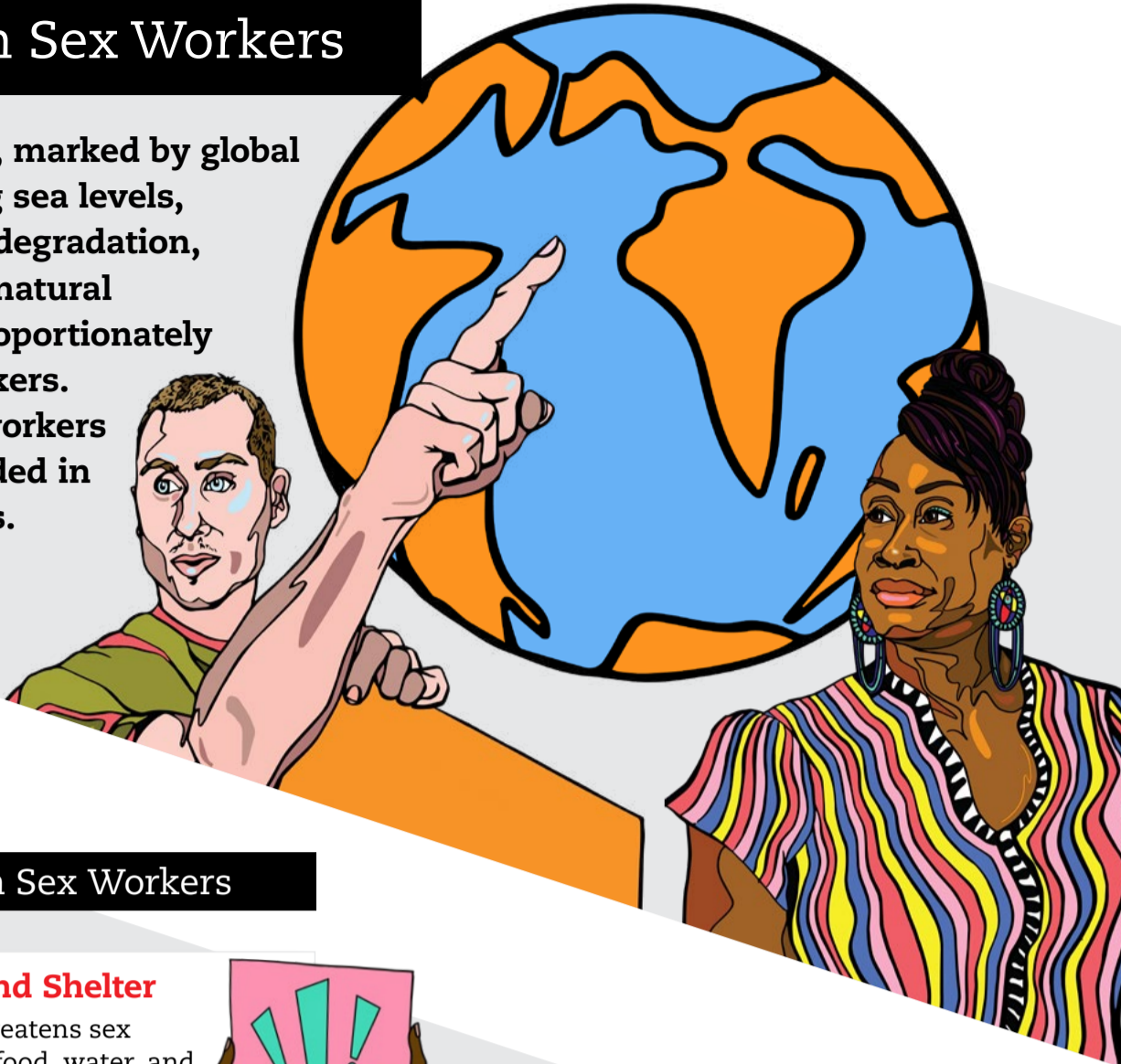


The Impacts of Climate Change on Sex Workers

Climate change, marked by global warming, rising sea levels, environmental degradation, and increasing natural disasters, disproportionately affects sex workers. However, sex workers are rarely included in response efforts.



Key Impacts on Sex Workers

Food, Water, and Shelter

Climate change threatens sex workers' access to food, water, and shelter. Disruptions to agriculture drive food insecurity, creating shortages and raising prices. Floods and droughts limit access to safe drinking water and sanitation, while extreme weather damages sex workers' homes. During disasters, sex workers are often excluded from emergency responses and shelters, and face increased discrimination from service providers.



Health and Essential Services

Extreme weather, pollution, and resource shortages harm health and disrupt access to services. Power outages, damaged infrastructure, and transportation disruptions prevent sex workers from reaching care. Life-saving HIV treatment and prevention services may be disrupted due to climate-related crises, and overwhelmed health systems may reprioritise care, leaving sex workers behind.



Migration and Displacement

Climate change drives displacement, forcing sex workers to migrate within countries or across borders. Migrant sex workers face added stigma, discrimination, and criminalisation, while displacement disrupts vital community support systems.



Many migrant sex workers are also excluded from government emergency response measures due to restrictive documentation requirements.



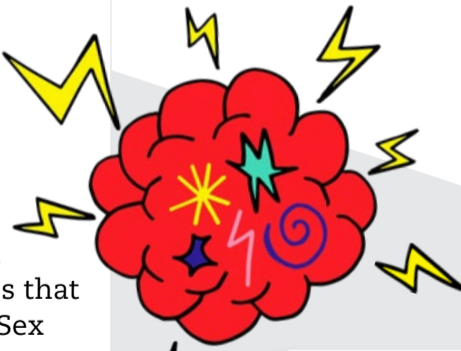
Financial Security

Climate change increases the costs of essentials while reducing income security. Sex workers report clients having less money or relocating, leading to reduced earnings. Some sex workers exchange their services for food, water, or shelter.



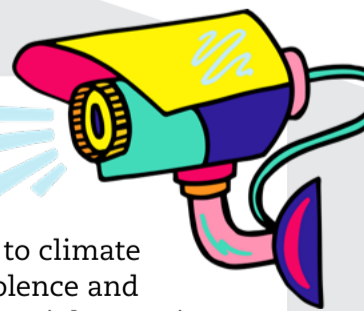
Working Conditions

Extreme heat, cold, and flooding also make working conditions more dangerous, and can prevent clients from seeking services. Sex workers working outdoors face health and safety risks due to extreme weather, often exacerbated by water shortages that make hygiene difficult to maintain. Sex workers who work online may also be affected by power and internet outages due to extreme weather.



Violence, Surveillance, and Policing

Economic stress linked to climate change can increase violence and police surveillance. Financial precarity reduces sex workers' control over safety and working conditions, pushing them into more isolated and precarious situations. During extreme weather events and natural disasters, police crackdowns, under the guise of maintaining "public order," can intensify harassment of sex workers.



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