

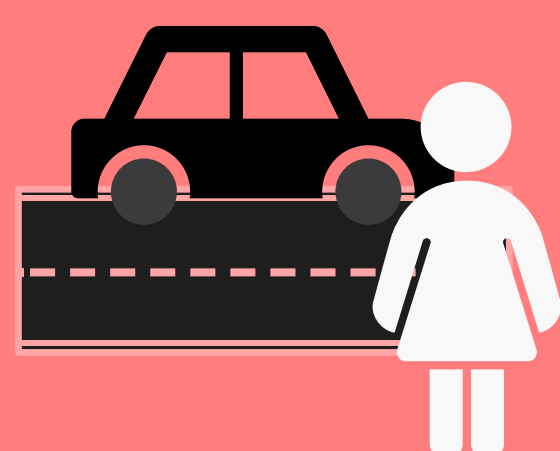
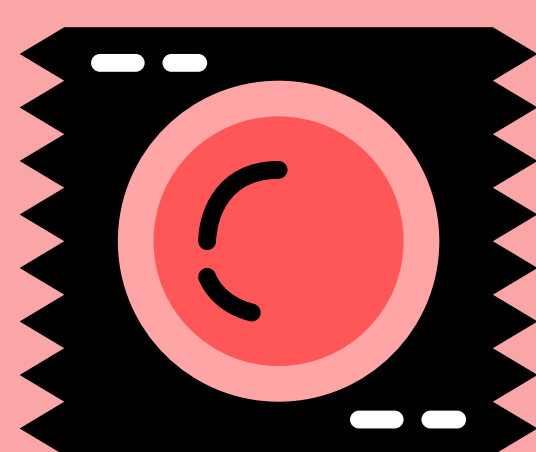
THE DECRIMINALISATION OF THIRD PARTIES

The term 'third parties' includes managers, brothel keepers, receptionists, maids, drivers, landlords, hotels who rent rooms to sex workers and anyone else who is seen as facilitating sex work. Criminalising these relationships necessitates that they be hidden from authorities and placed outside the bounds of regulation. Decriminalising third parties will help sex workers organise to root-out exploitation, oppression, and violence (from both state and non-state actors), and to address unfair or abusive working conditions.

IMPACT OF THIRD PARTIES' CRIMINALISATION:

Obstruction of HIV prevention.

To avoid police detection, third parties hide the fact that sex is sold on the premises that they manage. Brothel owners and other facilitators avoid having condoms and other supplies on their premises.



Working outside equals higher vulnerability to violence.

Working indoors is safer for sex workers, but the criminalisation of third parties results in shutting down brothels and other venues, forcing many sex workers to work outside.

Sex workers are prosecuted under third party laws.

States often use third party laws to harass sex workers. E.g. sex workers who work together for safety can be arrested for brothel-keeping.



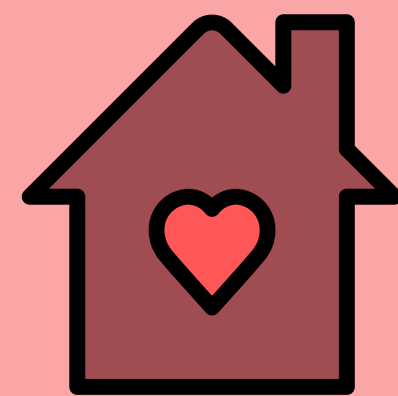
Family and friends of sex workers are prosecuted under third party laws.

A number of third party laws around the world state that men 'who live with or are habitually in the company of' sex workers are deemed to be 'living on the earnings of prostitution', a criminal offence. This effectively criminalises any male partner of a sex worker. Such laws force sex workers to isolate themselves to protect their loved ones. Isolation significantly increases vulnerability to violence.



Third party laws can be used by the police to limit sex workers' access to services such as housing.

Many third party laws across the world criminalise landlords for leasing a property knowing that sex may be sold on the premises. This often results in forced evictions of sex workers, making them lose deposits paid for apartments, and even leading to homelessness.



NSWP CALLS FOR THE DECRIMINALISATION OF THIRD PARTIES

because the evidence indicates this is the most effective way to ensure that sex workers have greater control and power in their working relationships.



NSWP believes that third party involvement in the sex industry should be regulated in line with existing labour laws and business regulations, with criminal law reserved only for instances of force, violence, and coercion.



**SEX WORK IS WORK:
SEX WORKERS CALL FOR
FULL DECRIMINALISATION,
INCLUDING THIRD PARTIES!**



To learn more, read NSWP's Policy Brief: The Decriminalisation of Third Parties
www.nswp.org/resource/policy-brief-the-decriminalisation-third-parties
or at <http://bit.ly/nswp-decrim>



nswp

Global Network of Sex Work Projects
Promoting Health and Human Rights