Our right to be safe at work

• As a sex worker, you have every right to be safe at work. Sexual assault is not part of the job or an occupational hazard. It is illegal behaviour.
• You have the absolute right to say NO to any form of sexual contact with clients; you don’t need an excuse.

• You have the right to stop a booking at any time, even if you previously consented.

**If rape or any form of sexual assault occurs, these are some ideas for consideration**

• It is not your fault. Don’t blame yourself.

• Your immediate reaction to rape or sexual assault at work will vary.

• It can be a rollercoaster time, you may not feel like telling anyone or you may look for support straight away from fellow workers, managers, or receptionists.

• Give yourself time to think.

• Remember, who to tell, and what kind of support you need should remain your choice.

• Ask others to respect your choices. Some people may advise you to call the Police, NZPC, Rape Crisis, or HELP straight away.

• Remember you don’t have to call the Police or other support agencies and people unless you want to. If you choose to seek support from these agencies, they will respect your wishes and not force you to do anything you don’t want to do.

• **However, the earlier you feel able to report a sexual assault to the Police, the better the chance of holding the offender to account and preventing further assaults.**

**At the brothel**

• Close up the room where the sex worker was assaulted, and do not touch the towels or sheets.

• Don’t confront the client, it could be very dangerous to do so.

• Gather as much information as possible about the client. Does he have any distinguishing features like scars, tattoos? Does the brothel have his numbers, name, texts or security footage? Write this information down.

• Make sure the other workers know to keep details confidential – they may warn others about the client, but avoid talking about the worker.

• Ask others to respect your choices. Some people may advise you to call the Police, NZPC, Rape Crisis, or HELP straight away.