

The Safe Work & Dignity Pledge

A simple pledge: Work is work. Every worker deserves dignity, safety, and rights — no matter the industry. This pledge recognizes sex work as labor and affirms protections through decriminalization, healthcare access, labor rights, and anti-trafficking safeguards.

Why It Matters

- Criminalization pushes sex work underground, where exploitation, violence, and trafficking thrive.
- Sex workers face higher risks of assault, disease, and homelessness — and often cannot report abuse without fear of arrest.
- Treating sex work solely as a crime denies workers basic rights: the right to organize, the right to healthcare, and the right to safety.

Our belief: Human dignity does not vanish with the type of work a person does. Protecting workers protects communities.

What We're Saying

This is a **pledge of dignity and safety**: to end criminalization that harms, to extend rights that protect, and to ensure that no worker is left in the shadows. Exploitation must be stopped — but workers must be respected.

What It Guarantees

- **Decriminalization of Consensual Adult Sex Work:** Remove criminal penalties that punish workers for survival.
- **Labor Rights Protections:** Right to organize, access to benefits, and workplace safety standards.
- **Healthcare Access:** Guaranteed preventive care, STI testing, counseling, and insurance coverage.
- **Anti-Trafficking Safeguards:** Strong enforcement against coercion, exploitation, and trafficking.
- **Exit Pathways:** Support for those who choose to transition out of sex work — training, education, and housing.

Programs You'll See

1. **Decriminalization & Rights Act:** Federal and state-level protections removing criminal penalties for consensual adult sex work.
2. **Worker Safety Standards:** Occupational safety boards extend to sex work, with training, inspections, and protections.
3. **Health Without Stigma:** Free and confidential access to clinics, counseling, and mental health services.
4. **Anti-Trafficking Task Forces:** Focused enforcement against organized crime and coercion, not consensual workers.
5. **Transition & Training Fund:** Scholarships, housing vouchers, and re-training programs for those seeking other work.

How We'll Make It Real

0–100 Days

- End federal penalties for consensual adult sex work.
- Redirect enforcement to trafficking and exploitation cases.

Year 1

- Expand healthcare access programs for sex workers.
- Launch pilot re-training and housing programs.

Years 2–3

- Nationwide adoption of decriminalization standards.
- Create safe reporting channels for sex workers facing violence.

Years 4–5

- Establish worker unions and protections across states.
- Full integration of healthcare, housing, and labor rights.

Accountability & Measures

- **Safety:** Reduction in violence against sex workers.
- **Health:** Increased access to healthcare and preventive services.
- **Rights:** Number of workers accessing labor protections and benefits.
- **Justice:** Increase in trafficking convictions, decrease in wrongful arrests.
- **Exit Support:** Number of participants using re-training and housing programs.

Guardrails & Values

- **Consent is the Line:** Only consensual adult sex work is decriminalized; trafficking and coercion remain crimes.
- **Worker Voice:** Sex workers lead in designing protections and programs.
- **Stigma-Free Services:** Respect and confidentiality guaranteed in all care settings.
- **Equity:** Priority for marginalized groups disproportionately harmed by criminalization.
- **Transparency:** Public reporting on progress and protections.

Who This Helps (Snapshots)

- **Leila (30):** Can report an assault without fear of arrest.
- **Chris (27):** Gains health insurance and regular STI screenings through a local clinic.
- **Renee (22):** Uses housing voucher and scholarship from the Transition Fund to pursue college.
- **Police Task Force:** Freed from pursuing consensual cases, focuses on dismantling trafficking rings.

What Success Looks Like

In 24 Months

- Federal decriminalization enacted; pilot healthcare programs operational.
- Decline in violence and exploitation reports against sex workers.

In 5 Years

- Nationwide labor and health protections in place; stigma reduced.
- Significant increase in trafficking prosecutions.

In 10 Years

- A culture shift: sex work treated as work, trafficking crushed, and all workers protected by law.

The Commitment

The Safe Work & Dignity Pledge affirms that no worker should lose rights because of their work. By protecting sex workers through dignity, safety, and justice, we make every community safer and every promise of equality more real.

Historical Reference & Value

For much of American history, sex work has been treated exclusively through the lens of criminalization, pushing workers into the shadows and away from protection. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, “vice laws” targeted vulnerable women but did little to stop exploitation or trafficking. The anti-trafficking movement gained traction in the early 2000s with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which rightly targeted coercion but often blurred lines with consensual work. Around the world, however, nations like New Zealand and parts of Australia have shown that decriminalization paired with strong labor standards reduces violence, increases reporting, and strengthens anti-trafficking efforts. The Safe Work & Dignity Pledge builds on these lessons and declares a national shift: consensual adult sex work is work — deserving of safety, healthcare, and rights — while exploitation and trafficking remain crimes to be relentlessly prosecuted.

Referenced Acts & Initiatives (Guiding Frameworks)

- **Decriminalization & Rights Act:** Removes federal and state criminal penalties for consensual adult sex work while establishing worker protections.
- **Worker Safety Standards Act:** Extends occupational safety and health standards to sex work, with inspections and training programs.
- **Health Without Stigma Act:** Guarantees access to confidential healthcare, counseling, and preventive services for sex workers.
- **Anti-Trafficking Enforcement Act:** Directs federal and state task forces to prioritize trafficking and coercion, not consensual workers.
- **Transition & Training Fund Act:** Provides scholarships, housing vouchers, and retraining for workers who wish to pursue other careers.

Sealing Line

So it is pledged: that in America, no worker will stand in the shadows — dignity, safety, and rights shall extend to all, without exception.