

Response of MEP Honeyball to 560 organisations who oppose criminalisation of clients: "they are comprised of pimps".

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

This morning you received a communication by Ms Honeyball.

In this email, Ms Honeyball suggests that the 560 organisations who oppose her report and the criminalisation of clients "*are in fact organisations comprised of pimps etc...*"

We consider it a lack of dignity to disqualify the voices of those who do not share her ideology by denouncing them as "pimps". If the report had been based on evidence and the experience of all those who directly work with sex workers and victims of trafficking instead of on her personal ideology, she would not have needed to take refuge to this unworthy accusation against hundreds of organisations, academics and other professionals - for the sole fact that they disagree with her views. It only underlines the core of our message: "Ideology: no. Evidence: yes"

We are also shocked. We had never expected that – by lack of arguments - a representative of the European Parliament would lower herself to attack the integrity, the professionalism and the good name of such an extensive representation of civil society in Europe.

Amongst the signatories, you will find:

- **La Strada International**, a major European network of anti-trafficking organisations and the **Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW)**, an alliance of more than 100 non-governmental organisations from Africa, Asia, Europe, LAC and North America. From the statement of La Strada International, signed by GAATW:
"The partners of the LSI NGO Platform have supported many women and men who were trafficked in the sex industry in the past nearly two decades. (...) Criminalisation stigmatises and marginalises both domestic and migrant sex workers and it deprives them of the tools to protect themselves from violence and seek redress. It drives the sex industry even more underground, which results in less access to health, social and legal assistance for sex workers, and significantly lower chances to identify individuals who have been trafficked."
- Many **women's rights organisations** like **Planned Parenthood Federation Europe** and the **German Women's Council**, which represents 50 organisations in Germany
- **HIV organisations**, like **Aids Action Europe** and the **European Aids Treatment Group**.
- Social exclusion networks, like **Correlations**, and **hundreds of service providers** who work every day with some of the most vulnerable and stigmatised members of our communities: homeless, street –based sex workers, drug users, people living with HIV, undocumented migrants....

Finally, the letter is signed by **sex workers-led organisations** which represent the voices and experiences of sex workers themselves. The very persons Ms. Honeyball pretends would "benefit" from her proposals and to whom she pretends to have listened when drafting her report.

The list of 560 NGOs and civil society organisations makes clear that many professionals who know the reality on the ground are opposed to this report. Criminalisation, either of the seller of sexual services or the buyer only serves to increase the vulnerability of sex workers and further exposes them to abuse.

As an elected representative of the people, Ms Honeyball should welcome the involvement of such a large number of Civil Society Organisations in the debate. This is a fundamental principle of our democratic societies.

The lack of credibility is on Ms Honeyball's side. Remarkably she forgets to mention that 70 academics have signed a counter-report demonstrating the complete lack of evidence behind her report. She includes a letter from a global network of researchers but the letter fails to provide evidence about the actual impact of the Swedish Model. It just re-iterates the ideological position that "prostitution should be abolished", without looking at the negative consequences of the criminalisation of clients, including loss of income, increased vulnerability to HIV and stigmatisation.

We urge MEPs to support the Alternative Resolution brought forward by Ms Yannakoudakis (read her open letter to Ms Honeyball [here](#).)

Sincerely,

The International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe – network of 59 organisations in 28 countries in Europe and Central Asia.

Organisations endorsing this letter:

Regional and international networks: [NSWP](#), Global Network of Sex work Projects (represents 128 organisations in 28 countries); [APNSW](#), Asia Pacific Network of Sex Work projects (represent 58 member organisations in 25 countries) ; [SWAN](#), Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (represents 23 organisations in 21 countries); [TAMPEP International Foundation](#), European Network for HIV/STI Prevention and Health Promotion among Migrant Sex Workers; [AIDS Action Europe](#), [CORRELATION network](#), European Network Social Inclusion & Health; [EATG](#), European Aids Treatment group; [INPUD](#), International Network of People who Use Drugs; International Planned Parenthood Federation –[IPPF European Network](#) (includes 40 members organisations in 40 countries); [Transgender Europe](#) (represents 79 organisations in 31 countries); ICW, [International Community of Women living with HIV/Aids](#); [La Strada International](#), European NGO network against Trafficking in Human Beings (represents 12 NGOs), [GAATW](#), Global Alliance against Trafficking in Women (Alliance of more than 100 non-governmental organisations from Africa, Asia, Europe, LAC and North America).

Funders: [Red Umbrella Fund](#), [Mama Cash](#)

National organisations in Europe:

Albania: [Stop AIDS](#)-Action Plus, Humanitarian organization

Austria: [maiz](#), autonomous centre for and by migrant women in Linz; [LEFÖ/TAMPEP](#), Support and European Network for Migrant Sex Workers, [Sexworker Forum Verein](#) [sexworker.at](#), sexworker forum association sexworker.at, Vienna; [Aids Hilfe Wien](#), AIDS/HIV Service Organisation

Belgium: [vzw Pasop](#), service provision for sex workers in Ghent; [Espace P](#), sex workers' service providers, Bruxelles; [Ghapro](#), health care and assistance for male and female prostitutes, Antwerpen

Bosnia and Herzegovina: [PROI](#)

Croatia: [NGO Flight](#)

Denmark: Sexarbejdernes Interesse Organisation

Estonia: [AIDS Tugikeskus](#), Aids information and support center

Finland: [Pro-tukipiste](#); Feminist Initiative -network , Finland

France: ARAP-Rubis Nîmes, Action communautaire avec les personnes prostituées, service provider for sex workers, Association Grisolidis, community-based health organisation, Toulouse; [ACCEPTESS-T](#) transgender rights organisation; [STRASS](#), French union of sex workers; PASTT; [Autres Regards](#), sex workers service provider, Marseille; [Collectif Droits et Prostitution](#), collective of 9 organisations for the rights of sex workers; Support Transgenre Strasbourg

Germany: [BesD](#) - Trade Association Erotic and Sexual Services; [Hydra e.V.](#), Meeting and counselling centre for prostitutes, Berlin; [Deutscher Frauenrat – Lobby der Frauen](#), National Council of German Women’s Organisations (umbrella organisation of more than 50 nationwide women’s associations and organisations); [Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe e.V.](#) (DAH) is the umbrella association of 130 organisations in Germany, including ASOs, prevention projects, drug help centres, residential and health-care projects, and self-help networks; [move e. V.](#), association for education and communication between sexwork; [Online-Magazin “menschenhandel heute”](#) Online magazine for a critical and human rights based approach to human trafficking and related topics, like sex work and migration; [Projekt „Nachtfalke“](#), Support for Male Sexworkers in Essen; [Niedersächsische AIDS-Hilfe Landesverband e.V.](#) (NAH) (AIDS Service Organization in Lower Saxony); [Nitribit](#), Meeting and counselling centre for prostitutes, Bremen; [Madonna e.V.](#), Meeting and Counselling Centre for Sexworker, Bochum; [BSD](#), German association of sexual services; [Münchener AIDS-Hilfe e.V.](#), AIDS Service Organization in Munich; [Phönix](#), counselling centre for prostitutes, Hannover; [Theodora](#), (Consulting for prostitutes ad job changing for women an girls, Herford; [AIDS-Hilfe Aachen e.V.](#)’ AIDS Service Organization in Aachen; [Ban Ying e.V.,Koordinations- und Beratungsstelle gegen Menschenhandel](#), Coordination- and consultation office against trafficking, Berlin; [Regenschirm e.V.](#), Self-help organisation for people, who work in the field of prostitution; [Ban Ying Zufluchtswohnung e.V.-Zufluchtswohnung für Migrant innen](#), shelter for Migrant Women; [Ratschlag Prostitution Hamburg](#), Advice Group on Prostitution, Hamburg; [TAMPEP-Germany](#), European Network for HIV/STI Prevention and Health Promotion among Migrant Sex Workers; [BASIS-Projekt](#) - Health Care Prevention for Male Sex Workers and their Customers, Hamburg; [ragazza e.V.](#) Support for drug using female prostitutes, Hamburg; [Ver.di Fachbereich](#) 13 Hamburg- trade union verdi, area 13 for special services; [OPERA BildungsRaum](#), basic vocational courses, job-related qualification, support, counselling and information for sexworker, Nuremberg; [Kassandra e.V.](#) counselling, information, professionalization and support for sexworker, Nuernberg; [bufas e.V.](#) Union of conselling organisations for prostitutes; [HAW](#), Hamburg University of Applied Sciences,department social work; [DSTIG, GSSG](#) – Charitable Foundation Sexuality and Health, as legal body of the project [sexsicher.de](#), Foundation for Sexuality and Health

Greece: [Positive Voice](#)

Hungary: [SZEXE](#), sex workers advocacy association

Ireland: [UglyMugs.ie](#), Working together for sex workers' safety in Ireland

Irish Sex Workers Alliance, alliance of individuals (sex workers, ex-sex workers and others) and organisations involved in health and social support services

Italy: Associazione radicale [Certi Diritti](#); Rete Italiana della Riduzione del Danno, Italian network of harm reduction; [LILA Onlus](#), Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro l'Aids -Italian League for Fighting Aids. Centro Antiviolenza Antistalking [La Nereide Onlus](#), Siracusa; [MIT-Movimento Identità Transessuale](#), Bologna; [ARCI GAY nazionale](#), [Associazione XXD](#), association publishing monthly feminist e-magazine; [Progetto Stella Polare](#), project North Star, Paths of Social Protection to facilitate processes of self-determination and to support those who are asking to get out of situations of serious sexual and labor exploitation; Le Grazie - CDCP Genova; [Comitato Diritti Civili delle Prostitute Onlus](#), Committee for the Civil Rights of Prostitutes; [PIAM Onlus](#), project migrant integration, Asti; [Associazione culturale Etnoblog](#)- Trieste; [Equality Italy](#)

Lithuania: [Demetra](#), Association of HIV affected women and their families;

Macedonia: [STAR-STAR](#), sex workers' rights organisation; [Healthy Options Project Skopje](#); [Coalition Sexual and Health Rights of marginalized communities](#); [ESE](#), Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women in the Republic of Macedonia; [Opcija – Ohrid](#); [Open Gate – La Strada](#); [Reactor](#) - Research in Action; NGO HELP Gostivar, work with sex workers and needle exchange

Netherlands: The Dutch Platform on Sex Work; [Rights4Change](#), making human rights work; [Buro Brycx](#), advice on prostitution; Sex Work Projects STI Aids Netherlands, <http://www.prostitutie.nl>; [Tampep](#) International Foundation; SHOP (Welfare work and shelter facility for sex workers and trafficked persons), The Hague; Humanitas Prostitution Welfare Work and shelter for victims of trafficking 'De Lucia', Rotterdam

Norway: [PION](#), association for the interests of prostitutes

Poland: [Sex Work Polska](#), Coalition for sex workers' rights; [Social AIDS Committee](#); Stowarzyszenie Program [STACJA](#), 'Program STACJA' Association; [La Strada Poland](#)

Portugal: [APDES](#); RTS, Portuguese sex worker network; Associação Acompanha; Associação Existências; Associação Novo Olhar; Associação Positivo; [GAT](#), HIV/AIDs organisation; Liga Portuguesa Contra a Sida; Obra Social das Irmãs Oblatas do Santíssimo Redentor; [Médicos do Mundo](#); Panteras Rosa; SOS Racismo; UMAR

Romania: [Carousel Association](#), Romanian human rights and harm reduction NGO; [ACCEPT Association](#), the first LGBT rights NGO in Romania; [Romanian Harm Reduction Network](#), Romanian network formed by 11 harm reduction NGOs; [ARAS – Against-AIDS Romanian Association](#), HIV/AIDS service NGO in Romania; [Spiritual Police](#), Human Rights NGO aiming to raise awareness on active civic consciousness and solidarity; [Feminist Centre SofiaNadejde](#), antisexist, antiracist, antitransfob, antihomofob, anti-ableist and anticapitalist group, Bucharest; [H.arta group](#), knowledge production and (re)writing histories to gender issues in global capitalist times, Timisoara, Romania; [Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives](#), supports public initiatives in promoting human rights and non-discrimination; [Society of Contraceptive and Sexual Education \(SECS\)](#), sexual education, HIV/AIDS prevention, family planning and maternity services, Romania; [Solidarity for Freedom of Conscience Association](#), fights discrimination based on faith and religion in [Foundation Center for Critical Consciousness](#), official branch of [Center for Inquiry, Transnational](#) in Romania; [CeRe Resource Center for Public Participation](#), fighting for a political environment where citizens actively participate in the decision making process, Bucharest; [Foundation Family and Child Protection](#), protection to children in need of assistance, Bucharest; [Center for Action and Responsibility in Education CARE](#), community development and provider of opportunities for students, teachers and parents,

Bucharest; [Alliance to Fight Alcoholism and Drug Addictions ALIAT](#), prevention, care and treatment services in addictions, Bucharest; [Parada Romania Foundation](#), services for homeless children, young people and families

Russia: Silver Rose, sex workers' rights organisations; UHRA, Ukraina and Assistance

Spain: [Projecte dels NOMS-Hispanosida](#); [Fundación Triángulo](#), LGBT rights' organisation [hetaira](#), sex workers' rights organisation, Madrid; [Comite de Apoyo a las Trabajadoras del Sexo \(CATS\)](#)

Slovakia: [Odysseus](#), Harm reduction organisation; Zuzana Pachová, Civic organization Helping Hand

Switzerland: [ASPASIE](#), association for prostitutes and their rights, Geneva; [Verein Lysistrada](#), health improvement and consultation for sexworkers in Olten; [Prokore](#), swiss network for improvement of working conditions of sexworkers; [FIZ](#), FIZ Advocacy and support for migrant women and victims of trafficking, Switzerland; [MariaMagdalena](#), Conselling center for women in sexwork, prevention an health promotion in kanton St.Gallen; Association Boulevards, Geneva

Sweden: [Rose Alliance](#), sex workers' rights organisation

Turkey: [Red Umbrella Sexual Health and Human Rights Association](#), [MoreL LGBT](#), LGBT rights organisation, Eskisehir

Ukraine: All-Ukrainian League "Legalife"

United Kingdom: [English Collective of Prostitutes](#), for sex workers' rights and better wages and welfare for women; [Sex Worker Open University](#), advocacy, support and events by and for sex workers, London, Leeds, Glasgow; [International Union of Sex Workers](#), campaigning organisation for the human, civil and labour rights of those who work in the sex industry; [X-TALK](#), sex workers-led cooperative offering english classes to migrant sex workers and interventions on themes of migration, labour and gender; [Scot-PEP](#), promoting health, dignity and human rights for all involved in sex work, Scotland; UK Network of Sex Work Projects, [UKNSWP](#) (represents 60 front line service providers in the UK); GNGS - Glasgow Network for Gender and Sexuality (network of feminist and LGBT orgs in Glasgow)