Template for a Letter to Potential Allies

[Your Address]

[Recipient Address]

Date

Dear *[Name of Ally Individual/Organisation]*

[My organisation] is concerned that the *[name of law]* that is due to be debated in parliament in *[Month]* will have damaging consequences for sex workers health, rights and living conditions.

We are currently making contact with organisations who we believe have an interest in defending sex workers against laws that are likely to undermine their safety and autonomy and lead to arrests, detainments and deportations.

There is no conclusive evidence to suggest that legal measures criminalising clients, brothel-owners, managers and support staff within the sex industry eliminate or significantly reduce sex work. The available evidence suggests instead that such measures increase repression, violence and discrimination against sex workers. This diminishes sex workers' access to health care, housing and social services.

In Sweden, where laws to criminalise the clients of sex workers have been in place since 1999, street-based sex workers have reported greater competition, declining prices and harsher conditions. To compensate for fewer clients, women accept clients who are drunk, aggressive or refuse condom use. Studies have also shown that since client criminalisation in Sweden, sex workers are at greater risk of violence and infectious diseases.

We attach/enclose *[delete as appropriate]* a briefing paper that outlines our case against the *[name of law]* and we invite you to join us *[our campaign / in lobbying the government – what is it you would like them to do?]*

Should you wish to know more about our campaign, a member of *[my organisation]* is happy to come and speak with you or at a meeting of *[your organisation]*.

[We would also like to invite you to our next campaign organising meeting on:

DATE: TIME:

PLACE: ADDRESS:

(nearest transport: XX)]

Please let us know whether you would like to work with us on this issue.

In unity

[Name]

[My organisation]

[contact detail]