SexWorkCall Romania

with Rox and Antonella

28.09.2020, Bucharest
Our mission and values

- A collective of sex workers focusing on the advancement of our rights and improvement of our living and working conditions

- Intersectional approach. Sex workers’ rights are also the rights of women, Roma, POC, LGBTQIA+, migrants, people living with disabilities, people living with HIV, people using drugs

- Full depenalization and decriminalization of sex work (and migration)

- Intra- and inter-community mutual support

- Involvement of sex workers in all matters concerning our lives and our work

- Horizontal organizing, community growth and mobilization, building the capacities of sex worker activists
History

• March 2019, SWC horizontal informal group emerges.
• June 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2019: First public protest in Romania, calling for decriminalization of sex work. Organized in front of the Parliament.
• July: registration as NGO, SWC Association
March 2019, first public event as SexWorkCall. Film projection “Crossings”

Fundraising soli-party, April 2019

First SWC office (tiny)

May 2019, first outreach visiting our colleagues working on the street
June 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2019. First public protest calling for the decriminalisation of sex work
June 22nd, 2019: Sex workers’ bloc @ Bucharest Pride
Activities within the community

• Grassroots emergency shelter and drop-in
• Outreach indoors/outdoors
• Condom and sanitary products distribution
• Assistance with navigating the medical system, state administration and legal system
• Assistance with IDs and/or procuring other documents
• Assistance with HRT
• Freeshops (sex worker-only, or sometimes also open for everyone)
• Emergency financial aid
• Regular meetings and organizing events within/for the community
• Community dinners, parties
Visibility

• Public events: solidarity events (ie: TDOR), participation in exhibitions/conferences/debates, film screenings, protests, street actions
• Press releases
• Media apparitions
• Tshirts, pins
• In the future: online and offline campaigns
• Online presence (website, FB, Instagram)
Transnational solidarity

SWC is part of various regional networks:

- **ICRSE** (International Committee for the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe)
- **NSWP** (Global Network of Sex Work Projects)
- **PICUM** (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants)
- **TGEU** (Transgender Europe)

Participation in international programmes coordinated by ICRSE (2019-2020), ILGA Europe (2020-2021)

Participation in international trainings, conferences, workshops and events --- building solidarity with other sex workers collectives
SexWorkCall Romania @ First protest in Sweden calling for decriminalisation of sex work, Stockholm, September 2019
During the pandemic

- Sex workers facing severe financial problems, no state aid, more difficult to work, police violence, precarization and loss of housing
- SWC initiated an Emergency Fund, aided other sex workers with money, shelter, groceries, access to state aid (in case of disability or living with HIV)
- Community events and public events moving online
- Social distancing measures affecting community mutual aid and organization
Thank you

• [www.sexworkcall.ro](http://www.sexworkcall.ro)
• [www.facebook.com/swcro](http://www.facebook.com/swcro)
• Instagram: @swcallro
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