



INCLUSIVE & AFFIRMING MINISTRIES

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Via email: Bills1@justice.gov.za

The Director-General,
Justice and Constitutional Development
Attention of Tsietsi Sebelemetja

SUPPORT FOR THE DECRIMINALISATION OF SEX WORK

Dear Minister and Deputy Minister

We write in support of the efforts of your Ministry to repeal the Sexual Offences Act, 1957 (Act No 23 of 1957) as well as section 11 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 (Act No. 32 of 2007) to decriminalize the sale and purchase of adult sexual services.

We understand that this reform has been informed by a wide range of local and global evidence. We appreciate that you have listened to [organized sex workers](#)ⁱ and allies who have advised on what is best for their lives and acknowledged that [sex work is work](#)ⁱⁱ. The decriminalisation of the Sexual Offences Act is the first step to engaging with communities to address stigma and attitudes towards sex workers.

We understand that this reform will go a long way to address [Gender Based Violence](#)ⁱⁱⁱ, decrease new [HIV infections](#)^{iv} and improve the [health and well-being](#)^v of sex workers their families, our communities and society.

Yours sincerely

Rev Ecclesia de Lange

Director

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ⁱ <https://asijiki.org.za/resources/fact-sheets/> also see <https://vimeo.com/273615691>

ⁱⁱ chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgiclfindmkaj/https://asijiki.org.za/wp-content/uploads/Sex-work-and-Labour_Asijiki-Fact-Sheet_Web.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.thepresidency.gov.za/download/file/fid/2667>

^{iv} https://asijiki.org.za/wp-content/uploads/Sex-work-and-HIV_Asijiki-Fact-Sheet_Web.pdf

^v

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359895049_Stevens_M_Dlamini_D_and_Louskieter_L_2022_Sex_Worker_Narratives_in_Accessing_Sexual_and_Reproductive_Justice_in_South_Africa_Sexual_and_Reproductive_Justice_From_the_Margins_to_the_Centre_p21