

6 Wherry Road, Muizenberg

15 December 2022

Via email: [Bills1@justice.gov.za](mailto:Bills1@justice.gov.za)

## **SUPPORT FOR THE DECRIMINALISATION OF SEX WORK**

Dear Minister and Deputy Minister

Department of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

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](#)<sup>i</sup> and allies who have advised on what is best for their lives and acknowledged that [sex work is work](#)<sup>iii</sup>. The documentary 'Too Long Don't Read' (TLDR)<sup>ii</sup> of which Xanny Stevens is the narrator with SWEAT explains this well.

As the outgoing and founding Director of the [Sexual and Reproductive Justice Coalition](#),<sup>iv</sup> we conducted research to understand sex workers experiences of [accessing sexual and reproductive health services](#),<sup>v</sup>. The experiences of injustices related to health were horrific. We understand that this reform will go a long way to address [Gender Based Violence](#)<sup>vi</sup>, decrease new [HIV infections](#)<sup>vii</sup> and improve the [health and well-being](#)<sup>viii</sup> of sex workers their families, our communities and society

Yours sincerely



Marion Stevens (6605190075085) and Xanny Stevens (0412035338083)

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<sup>i</sup> <https://asijiki.org.za/resources/fact-sheets/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://vimeo.com/273615691>

<sup>iii</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://asijiki.org.za/wp-content/uploads/Sex-work-and-Labour\_Asijiki-Fact-Sheet\_Web.pdf

<sup>iv</sup> <https://srjc.org.za/about/>

<sup>v</sup> <https://medicalandhealthhumanitiesafrica.wordpress.com/2019/12/24/project-body-mapping-with-sex-workers/>

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

<sup>vii</sup> [https://asijiki.org.za/wp-content/uploads/Sex-work-and-HIV\\_Asijiki-Fact-Sheet\\_Web.pdf](https://asijiki.org.za/wp-content/uploads/Sex-work-and-HIV_Asijiki-Fact-Sheet_Web.pdf)

<sup>viii</sup>

[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](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)