



Sex work in France

- Sex work = legal.
- SW are supposed to be decriminalized. But municipal bylaws criminalizing SW are still in force + regular identity checks.
- Criminalization of clients.
- Pimping laws very broad. Helping prostitution without getting money = pimping.

Jasmine. Combating violence against SW

- Information on rights (leaflets, workshops, etc.).
- Self defense + training of self defense trainers.
- Trainings for NGO, social workers, etc.
- Volunteers specialized on GBV doing the outreach with the partners.
- Psychological support drop in in partnership with NGO.
- Network of lawyers.
- Developing an alert and information website available in 10 languages.

Work done with SW to support them when they want to report a crime

- Information about their rights.
- Supporting them when they want to file a complaint.
- Supporting them all the way through the judicial proceeding.
- Giving them access to a lawyer working pro bono.
- If eligible, facilitating access to a residency permit.

Obstacles for safe reporting

- Impact of migration policy : identity check and control of the residency status. SW don't trust the police.
- Very difficult for migrant SW to file a complaint. In Paris, it is usually OK but everywhere else in France, the police often refuses to take the complaint ignoring the fact that they have to.
- Clearly France, even if they have transposed the directive as they were obliged to, didn't took "the necessary measures to ensure that the rights set out in this Directive are not made conditional on the victim's residency status on [the] territory".
- Access to an interpreter : very difficult even if it is a right since November 2015.

Obstacles for safe reporting

- The problem is not the law in itself but its enforcement. Possibility of an individual assessment. But it is never done.
- Victims are supposed to be informed about the support they can get, but it is done only through the minutes of the complaint. At the end of it, it is mentioned that they can get support but it is written and only in French. Most of the time, the police doesn't tell that to the victim and the interpreter doesn't translate.
- Pimping laws : SW fear to lose their working place when they report a crime.

Compensation for SW victims of trafficking

- Victims of trafficking are eligible to residency permit all along the judicial proceeding and afterwards if the offender is condemned.
- Obstacles for accessing compensation : very difficult to get compensation for all damages.
 - Psychological damage is often covered. Expert assessment needed.
 - Very difficult to get compensation for sexual damage (especially if they are still working or if they are in a relationship).
 - Almost impossible to get compensation for unpaid wages. Lawyers don't ask for them, probably because there are no proof. When they do, and when the court grant them, the CIVI (French commission for compensation) don't on the ground of lack of proof.

Compensation for SW victims of other crimes

- Victims of other offenses (rape i. a.) are not eligible for residency permit. The lack of documentation is a huge obstacle since they may be deported before the trial.
- Very difficult to get compensation for all damages.
 - Psychological damage is often covered but they get less than other victims since raping a SW is perceived to be less serious than raping a non-SW. The fact that it is going to make their work much harder is not at all taken into consideration.
 - No compensation for sexual damage.
 - Almost impossible to get compensation for economic damage. For example, when they stop working for a while, it is not perceived as an economic damage.

Impact of laws criminalizing SW

- Since it is not legal to do sex work as an employee, it is difficult for SW to present evidence (pay slip) in order to get economic damage. It's the same thing for the loss of income.
- Even when they are self-employed, it is difficult for them to get compensation for economic damage. When the Court grants it, the commission for compensation won't. They are not tied by the decision of the court.
- Whatever the Istanbul Convention can state, as long as SW is defined as a violence per se, we can't prevent violence against SW.

Impact of laws criminalizing SW

- Seizure of the assets of the victims : when inquiries against pimps are done and police do raids in working places, they seize everything, including the assets of the “victims”. They don’t consider themselves as victims. They won’t report the “crime”. The procedure is going on without them. We have to help them through the very difficult procedure to get their money back. For the so called victims of pimping, the violence don’t come from the exploiters but from the State, from the police. The most of the time, they don’t know that they can claim a restitution of their money.
- Conflation between trafficking, sex work, pimping only brings more and more violence against sex workers.



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