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For Immediate Release

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International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers in Chicago

Who: Sex Workers Outreach Project-Chicago, sex workers and allies.

What: Vigil to call for an end to violence against sex workers

When: Sunday, December 16, 2007 3pm-4pm

Where: Corner of Addison and Halsted, outside of the police station

Why: Violence is not an occupational hazard! This December 17th marks the 5th Annual International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers. This event was created to call attention to hate crimes committed against sex workers all over the globe. Originally thought of by Dr. Annie Sprinkle and started by the Sex Workers Outreach Project USA as a memorial and vigil for the victims of the Green River Killer in Seattle Washington, International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers has empowered workers from over 100 cities around the world to come together and organize against discrimination and remember victims of violence.

"Violence against sex workers is considered "a part of the job." Since when is rape, kidnapping, blackmail, murder, as well as other forms of violence considered a JOB HAZARD?" said beth DEATH, a sex worker ally. "The current criminal laws surrounding prostitution make reports of violence and discrimination slim to none, with women of color and trans-woman feeling the brunt of sex worker hate crimes. We as a society condone this violence when we moralize the sex industry, and those who make a living in it." said kittenINFINITE of SWOP-CHICAGO.

Sunday, December 16th at 3pm, Sex Worker Outreach Project-Chicago will be staging a vigil to raise awareness about violence that is commonly committed against sex workers. Join us as we hold this vigil in remembrance of the 64 reported murders of sex workers in 2006, and stand in solidarity of sex workers worldwide. Press is invited to cover and photograph this event.