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MEDIA ADVISORY:

Candlelight Vigil on December 17th, International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers

New York, NY-- SWANK [Sex Workers Action New York] announces a candlelight vigil to be held December 17th, 5-7 PM, on the steps of Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square Park South, calling attention to the global hate crimes committed against sex workers for International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers. This year's list of names of murdered sex workers will be read aloud, participants will be encouraged to speak or offer a prayer, and a moment of silence will be observed.

Originally conceived by Dr. Annie Sprinkle and SWOP-USA [Sex Workers Outreach Project USA] after the conviction of serial killer Gary Ridgway (the "Green River Killer"), who was responsible for the murder of at least 48 prostitutes in Washington State, this day has been embraced by sex workers and their allies in over 100 cities as a chance to raise global awareness about the assault, rape, murder and institutional violence that is routinely committed against sex workers.

Vigil attendees are asked to wear red and to bring a red umbrella. Media and the public are encouraged to attend. For further information regarding the details of the vigil and other actions related to International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, please visit: <http://www.swopusa.org/dec17>.