

2007 International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers

Hosted by the Erotic Service Providers Union

December 17th 2007 marks the 5th Annual International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers. This event calls attention to hate crimes committed against sex workers.

Originally conceived by the Sex Workers Outreach Project as a memorial and vigil for the victims of the Green River murders in Seattle, Washington, International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers empowers workers and our supporters to come together to organize against discrimination and to remember victims of violence.

On Monday, December 17th, 2007 the Erotic Service Providers Union will be joining other sex worker rights organizations across the globe engaged in actions and vigils to raise awareness about the violence committed against this unprotected workforce. Please join us by calling attention to hate crimes against sex workers, namely prostitutes.

We will be calling attention to current trial proceedings against a Vancouver B.C. farmer who is charged with the murders of twenty-six street based prostitutes who were killed on their jobs. We will also be calling attention to a recent ruling in by a female Philadelphia judge who dismissed charges of rape of a prostitute at gun point because she, didn't believe that a sex worker could be raped.

This year we will be holding our vigil at Noon on Thursday, December 13th, 2007 on the sidewalk on Grove st. between Cole and Parker in San Francisco, California to call attention to the unethical practice by USF Ethics professor for video taping massage parlor workers without their permission to promote his idea of forced labor, with no regard that he violated their privacy rights under the guise of rescuing workers.

And another vigil will be held at Noon on the sidewalk at Bancroft and Telegraph in Berkeley, California on Monday, December 17th, 2007 to call attention to a recent incident of violence against a sex worker while attending a UC Berkeley event hosted by the Ethics Department that depicted sexually violent graphic images of sex workers as normal.

We will be asking the universities to host forums to make sure that students and teachers have access to facts from actual sex industry workers and our supporters about what forced labor actually looks like in the sex industry. All Erotic Laborers must be supported in accessing our own agency to report theft, assault, battery, rape, coercion and murder. Existing laws that criminalize prostitution and migration as well as other forms of regulations of erotic labor prevent workers from reporting violence.

By demanding the end to laws that ban prostitution, we will end the stigma, discrimination and violence against us. The Erotic Service Providers Union demands that all workers have the ability to negotiate for our labor and work conditions irregardless of our legal status as workers, our country of origin or documentation or lack of thereof.

An injury to one is an injury to all.

"Violence against prostitutes is violence against women."-- Taliesin the Bard, author and part time porn personality

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<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2007/11/11/18460264.php>

Anti Prostitution Group Commits Violence On Sex Worker At UC Berkeley Performance

<http://video.nbc11.com/player/?id=184134>

NBC News aired a 15-minute feature on an operation to investigate and map the commercial people trade in San Francisco by USF professor and students.