



Goldsmiths Students' Union Policy

Goldsmiths Students' Union Student Assembly

Motion Proposed by Aisling Gallagher

Motion Seconded by Bahar Mustafa

Motion title:

Supporting Student Sex Workers, Supporting the Decriminalisation of Sex Work

Notes:

1. Sex work refers (and is not limited) to escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, webcams, adult modelling, phone sex, and selling sex (on and off the street).
2. The current regime of austerity, and cuts to services and support have disproportionately affected women and women's services.
3. Whilst sex work is not illegal in the UK, sex workers who work on the street can be picked up on soliciting or anti-social behavioural order charges, and sex workers who work together indoors for safety can be charged with brothel keeping.

Believes:

1. Sex work is work. Sex work is the exchange of money for labour, like any other job.
2. People should be free to choose what they do with their time, their labour and their bodies.
3. With the rise in living costs, the increase in tuition fees, and the slashing of benefits for disabled people, it is highly likely that some students at Goldsmiths do sex work alongside their studies in order to survive month to month.
4. The lack of funding for postgraduate education makes it likely that some students at Goldsmiths use sex work as a means to fund their postgraduate degrees.
5. Financial reasons, and any criminal record gain due to the criminalisation of sex work, are often the main reasons for staying in sex work¹.
6. Stigma against sex work means that sex workers are less likely to seek out help and support if and when they need it.
7. Regardless of the reasons for entering into sex work, sex workers of all backgrounds deserve to have their rights protected and to be able to do their jobs safely.
8. Goldsmiths have a proud history of standing for social justice and for the rights of workers across the world to do their jobs safely and to unionise, regardless of their student status.

1

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/303927/A_Review_of_the_Literature_on_sex_workers_and_social_exclusion.pdf



9. The pushes for legislation which would criminalise the purchase of sex (and introduce what is known as the 'Nordic Model' on prostitution) are often spearheaded by anti-choice, anti-LGBT right-wing fundamentalists, working with radical feminists.
10. Often, legislation of this kind is brought forward in the name of anti-trafficking programmes, when in reality they are laws which aim to control what people can and can't do with their own bodies, combined with dangerous anti-immigration initiatives.
11. Criminalising the purchase of sex puts sex workers, especially those who work on the street, in danger.
12. It is impossible to criminalise an aspect of someone's job without it having a negative impact on the person at work.

Resolves:

1. To support the full decriminalisation of sex work.
2. To resist and campaign against any proposals to introduce the Nordic Model in the UK.
3. To provide new Goldsmiths students with information about where they can go to get support if they are a student sex worker.
4. To support the work of the English Collective of Prostitutes and Sex Worker Open University.