

#### 4. PROMOTION OF THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF PROSTITUTES

##### *YES Feminist Network*

The Young European Socialists define prostitution as the offering of services that satisfy sexual needs in exchange for material or immaterial advantages.

Social and psychological sources including sexual and procreative practices are the main source of women\* oppression. Changing social and economic structuring is needed to eradicate oppression. Women\* are coerced into degrading roles. Without the presence of capitalism and patriarchy, the majority of women\* would choose other roles.

Women\* are free to choose what they want to do with their body. Noting this, the reality of prostitution can make it different from other types of heavy labour under certain circumstances. These circumstances can drastically impact the health of the person, both mentally and physically. Moreover, society's stigmatization of prostitutes and, in some case legal constraints can make it challenging for them to exit prostitution or to partake in other activities to compliment it.

YES believes that eradicating male oppression and changing attitudes as well as promoting social change geared towards greater equality between the genders is the solution to the social issues faced by prostitutes. At the same time, actions that liberate women and trans people as free human beings have to be enacted to reach equality between the genders.

To protect prostitutes YES stand for the following policy proposals:

- ➔ Grant full access to health and social security services
- ➔ Access to vocational training
- ➔ Introduction of a mandatory class on human trafficking and prostitution as part of the sexual education at school, we need sexual education with a feminist approach for young people of all genders, to end androcentrism and the pressure to perform in sexuality
- ➔ Legal framework to allow people to submit job applications anonymously and omit any details of their work history at their own discretion
- ➔ Grant legal status to all migrants to ensure access to the legal labour market
- ➔ Offer safe areas for street prostitutes within municipalities, so-called zoning
- ➔ Prostitutes should never be criminalized.
- ➔ There is no such thing as consensual prostitution of children. Sexual actions between adults and children are always abuse. We fight against that!

The Feminist and Queer Networks encourage the organization and its member organizations to continue to discuss prostitution and its legal status. YES urges lawmakers and regulators to include prostitutes' expertise when creating laws concerning sex work.

To end prostitution we need to fight against poverty and inequality.

**Minority statement:** DSU Denmark, SONK Finland, SDY Finland, SDY Estonia, SSU Sweden, SSF Sweden, UJ Iceland do agree that the prostitutes must never be criminalized and should have access to support and health care. But it is also important for us to underline the importance of criminalizing the buyer of sex.