



WORKERS RIGHTS

Presented by Monica Jones, the Outlaw Project

The information was developed with support of:

- Desiree Alliance
- NJ Red Umbrella Alliance
- The Outlaw Project
- Black Sex Worker Collective
- Best Practices Policy Project
- Workers Rights Working Group, USHRN
- Sex Worker Rights Working Group, USHRN

Penelope Saunders of Best Practices Policy Project supported the development of this presentation.

The workers that are being directly affected by COVID-19 are essential to life in the United States but many are considered to be of “low status” and have their economic (and other) rights violated. Such workers include:

- domestic workers
- fast food workers
- restaurant workers
- cleaning staff in hospitals
- Sex workers

COVID-19 is not the only reason people are dying

- African Americans are making up the majority of cases. In Louisiana, in spite of making up 33% of the population, African Americans make up 70% of the deaths.
- this is due to inadequate health care and institutional racism
- African Americans not being tested
- workers of color are being forced to work

Sex workers face the same issues as many others workers.

- their work places are closed
- yet sex workers are being denied benefits from the economic stimulus package. So are undocumented immigrant workers.
- as a result sex workers are having to work without harm reduction materials and without personal protective equipment (PPE)
- In light of this, sex worker organizations are expected to do mutual aid to make up for this gap.

The rights violations we documented last year continue:

- health and hospital systems are still transphobic
- Sex workers are still being arrested and ticketed, especially trans people
- the prison industrial system is still broken
- Migrants workers and undocumented workers are still being detained and not being given essential health care.

Work is work.

You should not have to risk death to work. Workers should have rights and safe working conditions.

Sex workers deserve these rights too. For this to happen, we must end the criminalization of sex work.



Workers have the right to organize. Instacart and Amazon workers have organized for workplace harm reduction during COVID-19.

Sex workers have been denied their right to organize due to the passing of FOSTA/SESTA and censorship by social media companies such as Twitter.



This US already accepted Recommendation 86 which was to reduce the harms faced by sex workers.

During COVID-19, sex workers are still facing harms.

We recommend:

- everyone in the US, including sex workers and undocumented immigrants, are able to access economic stimulus funds
- health care services should be targeted towards at risk communities, such as African Americans
- sex work should be treated as work for worker safety
- end mass incarceration and reduce the prison population
- the US should stop policing trans people's lives, especially through anti-prostitution policing.