

**URBAN
JUSTICE
CENTER**

Sex
Workers
Project

Survive. Thrive. Liberate.

swp.urbanjustice.org

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MISSION

We are a national organization that defends the human rights of sex workers by destigmatizing and decriminalizing people in the sex trades through free legal services, education, research, and policy advocacy.

VISION

We aim to create a sexually liberated world where all workers have the autonomy and power to fully enjoy their human rights.

Momentum is picking up, but
the road ahead won't be easy.

SWP Is Gearing Up for the Long-Haul.

**WE NEED ALLIES LIKE
YOU TO JOIN US.**





DESTIGMATIZATION

The Sex Workers Project wants to make sure that conversations are informed by the lived experiences of sex workers. We will build on our work by releasing the pilot of our ground-breaking new docuseries, *Sex(ual) Healing*, which positions sex workers as educators and experts, highlights the experiences of people in the sex trades, and aspires to shift the way we see sex and sexuality in our society.



LEGAL SERVICES

We need to make sure our community has access to culturally competent legal representation that can reduce harm and empower workers to participate in structural transformation. Our attorneys set the industry standard for legal care. We provide compassionate representation, create jurisprudence, win cases and broaden the spectrum of choice for our clients.



POLICY & ADVOCACY

We believe in the full decriminalization of sex work because we believe all workers should be able to access their rights. When sex work is criminalized, workers are barred from accessing their rights under the law. No policies should be created without the input from people of different identities and different sectors of the sex trades, from street-based workers to strippers to people in the porn industry to massage providers.



RESEARCH

As a movement, we often lack the information we need to demonstrate the implications of policies, assess the scope of impact of criminalization on sex workers, or determine need for legal resources. The Sex Workers Project's research offers a fact-based way to discuss the needs of sex workers in concrete terms to the public and legislators, determine which laws and policies are most harmful, and counter stereotypes about sex workers.

DESTIGMATIZATION



Conversations must be informed by the lived experiences of sex workers.

Someone you love has done sex work but might not be comfortable enough to be out about it. SWP has successfully worked to humanize and destigmatize sex work among the general public through trainings and workshops with doctors, lawyers, and community boards as well as through media interviews with outlets such as *The Nation*, *CNN*, *MTV News*, and *Vice*.

As sex work becomes an increasingly common topic of conversation among the general public, SWP wants to make sure that the discussion is informed by the lived experiences of sex workers. We are building on our work by releasing the pilot of our ground-breaking new docuseries, *Sex(ual) Healing*, which positions sex workers as educators and experts, highlights the experiences of people in the sex trades, and aspires to shift the way we see sex and sexuality in our society.

SEX WORKERS ARE

ACTIVISTS

EDUCATORS

ADVOCATES

EXPERTS

HEALERS



“

*The most important part
of this fight is
normalizing sex.*

- Cecilia Gentilli

*Sex workers have been really
helpful for me in learning
that I shouldn't apologize for
who I am or what I want.*

- Fresh Meat

”

Through the first episode of this reality-focused and nuanced docuseries we will help millions of individuals better understand the complexity and diversity of sex work, recognize the harmful impact of existing laws, and change the way we talk about criminality, sex and consent.

We aim to educate, raise awareness, and build an audience we can mobilize to defend the rights of sex workers across the country.

We're seeking funding to produce more films in the series focused on topics such as sex work and family, BIPOC specific experiences, sex work and mental health, clients who seek sex work and why, the impacts of criminalization on sex workers and how this work contributes to sex education, to name a few.

FEATURED PARTICIPANTS



**VICTORIA
VON BLAQUE**
She/Her

**CECILIA
GENTILLI**
She/Her



Victoria Von Blaque has navigated life as a trans woman, a college graduate, a sex worker, a case manager, and now, an educator and consultant. She is a small business owner, running Femme Fatale LLC, a consultancy organization that promotes body positivity, and the project manager for A Beautiful Transition, a site documenting the lives of trans activists.

She has spoken on LGBTQ competency to audiences across New York. She provided case management and retention specialist for LGBTQ homeless youth at the Ali Forney Center, protecting youth from the harms of leaselessness and empowering them with the tools they need to live independently.

Originally from Argentina, Cecilia found her passion for advocacy and community service when she started working as an intern at the LGBT Community Center in New York City. From 2012 to 2016, she managed the Transgender Health Program at the Apicha Community Health Center.

Cecilia is also contributor to Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: A Resource for the Transgender Community, and a board member for Transcend Legal and Translatina Network. Throughout her career, Cecilia has trained more than 3,000 individuals on a range of issues that include LGBTQ inclusion, immigration, drug use, sexual health, trans sensitivity, and intersectionality.



ASHLEY PAIGE
She/Her

Ashley Paige is a Professional Dominatrix, Sadistic Black Femdom, Fetish Porn Performer, and BDSM Educator. She explains, “The thing I love most about Kink is that there is literally something for everyone. From Pegging, Power Exchange, and Piss Play to Corporal Punishment, Cuckolding, and everything in between – there’s a way to scratch every itch.”

However, because sex work is criminalized, she says “Me simply existing as who I am is criminalized, which means I can’t move in the world like a normal person would.”



YIN Q
They/She

Yin has been a BDSM practitioner for over twenty years. They are a core organizer of Red Canary Song, a grassroots collective that advocates for sex work decriminalization & protective policies and provides resources to migrant massage parlor workers.

As Founder and Creative Director of Kink Out, they have helped bring sex worker and kink positive art and education to museums such as NY Performance Space, The Whitney Museum, Leslie Lohman and were named Artist in Residence at MoMA PS1 for Winter 2019/20.

Their work has been recognized by Spike Lee in his tribute to Jackie Robinson as one of the current Impact Activists.



FRESH MEAT
They/Them

Fresh Meat started out as a client. They then began working in the industry as well. As they explain in the film, “Sex workers have been really helpful for me in learning that I shouldn’t apologize for who I am or what I want.”

PRODUCTION TEAM

MAX SKAFF

Director, Producer, Editor



Maximus Skaff is a Brooklyn/Puerto Rico based Transmasculine writer, director, cinematographer, & editor who's visual talents have been featured in New York Magazine, Huffington Post, NPR, New York Times, among others. His films have been screened globally and won awards at festivals such as the Cannes International Film Festival and SIFF. In 2015, he founded his full service production company, 422Luxe. 422Luxe's work ranges from narrative short films, to documentaries, to branded content, and to music videos. 422Luxe focuses in offering diverse LGBTQ+ and responsible sex industry perspectives through their work.

ZOLA BRUCE

Line Producer



Zola is the Director of Communications at the Sex Workers Project, a social worker, activist and artist who focuses on helping people to create the life they want in all aspects of their career. They create, consult, speak at activist events, acts, teach BDSM workshops and are a part of the production team for Kink Out.

ESTHER K.

Consultant



Esther is a consultant with the Sex Workers Project as well as is an organizer with Red Canary Song – an Asian-American sex workers and allies lead group focusing on migrant massage parlor workers outreach. She is working on the full decriminalization of sex work in New York, in coalition with Chinatowns across the U.S.

SEX(UAL) HEALING

**THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS
DEBUT SPONSORS!**



LORA DICARLO

**MUSEUM
OF SEX**



*Magnolia
Leather Co.*



HOWL + HIDE

Babeland
babeland.com @ [babeland_toys](https://www.instagram.com/babeland_toys)

HAWKINS & CLOVER
GIFT SHOP

OCEANUS
LIFE MANAGEMENT

POLICY & ADVOCACY



The criminalization of sex work is what makes it dangerous.

At the Sex Workers Project, we know that only the full decriminalization of sex work will ensure sex workers, people profiled as sex workers, and trafficking survivors fully enjoy their human rights. Criminalization endangers individuals involved in or suspected of involvement in the sex trades, whether that be by choice, economic necessity, or human trafficking.

Making sex work a crime gives law enforcement undue power to surveil communities of color and saddle individuals with a criminal record. The experience of arrest is traumatic and living with a criminal record compounds systemic barriers to employment along with access to housing, education, and medical care. These barriers most often target BIPOC, LGBTQ, migrant, and poor communities. No policies should be created without the input from the diverse array of people from different backgrounds and sectors of the sex trades, including street-based workers, strippers, people in the porn industry, and massage providers.



MAJOR SUCCESSES TO DATE

NEW LEGISLATION

- Introduction of historic sex work decriminalization legislation in Oregon & New York.
- Passage of the START Act in New York State's Assembly and Senate. We supported the START Act because we have seen firsthand from our clients the immense harm of criminal convictions stemming from coerced actions taken while being trafficked. We continue to advocate tirelessly for its signing into law by Governor Cuomo.
- Conducting meetings with federal legislator's offices to re-introduce the SAFE SEX Workers Study Act which will mandate the Department of Health and Human Services to study the impacts of SEXTA/FOSTA on sex workers.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- Development of close relationships with and education of state and federal legislators, staff, and policy makers who understand the critical need to defend the human rights of sex workers.

EXISTING LEGISLATION & POLICY

- Repeal of New York State's loitering for the purposes of prostitution law. This law was known as the Walking While Trans Ban, as transwomen, particularly Black transwomen, were targeted by law enforcement and arrested at higher rates under this archaic piece of legislation.
- Tracking District Attorney policies on non-prosecution for sex work-related charges and advocating for such policies among DA offices throughout the United States including during elections in key jurisdictions, such as Manhattan.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Developing guides and fact sheets on critical human rights issues impacting sex workers and people trafficked in the sex trades. Most recently, this includes a fact sheet on dismantling the New York Police Department's Vice unit. NYPD Vice is inherently corrupt, its work is profoundly racist, and it costs a lot of money that could be used for human services that actually support communities

“

**WE, AS SEX WORKERS,
CAN SPEAK FOR
OURSELVES.**

No policies should be created without the vast array of input from people of different identities and different sectors of the sector trades, from street-based workers to strippers to people in the porn industry to massage providers.

**- RJ THOMPSON, ESQ.
SWP MANAGING DIRECTOR**

”

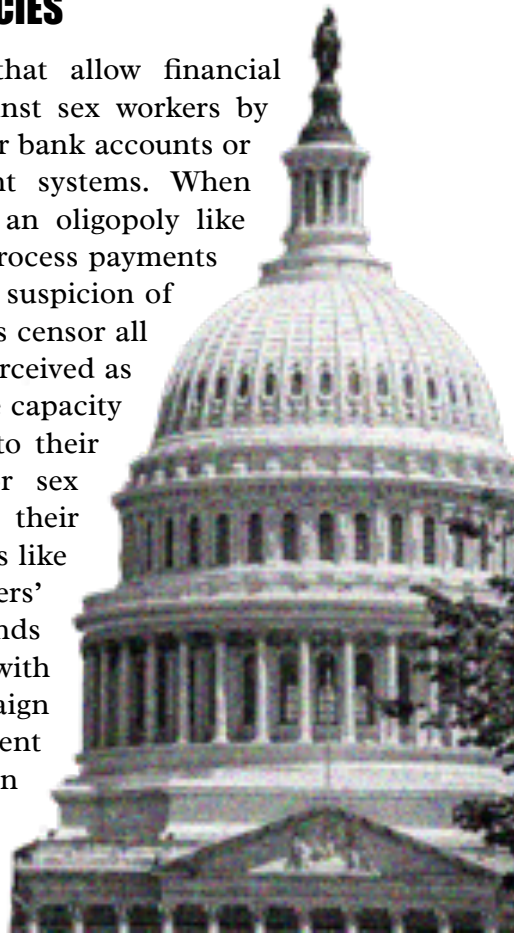
CURRENT PRIORITIES

I. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ONLINE

Laws that regulate and limit freedom of expression on the internet stand to harm sex workers. This includes laws like SESTA/FOSTA as well as proposed legislation seeking to erode the protections enshrined in Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. We are part of a multi-stakeholder dialogue regarding online adult content distribution which will take place in the fall and will be participating in the UN Internet Governance Forum in the winter. In addition, we track efforts to repeal SESTA/FOSTA and support partner organizations, like Woodhull Freedom Foundation as they pursue a lawsuit challenging the law's constitutionality.

2. FINANCIAL INSTITUTION POLICIES

Financial Institution Policies that allow financial institutions to discriminate against sex workers by barring them from accessing their bank accounts or other forms of online payment systems. When financial institutions that hold an oligopoly like MasterCard and Visa refuse to process payments from certain platforms based on suspicion of nonconsensual activity, platforms censor all activity that could possibly be perceived as such because they don't have the capacity to screen all content uploaded to their site. This makes it harder for sex workers to receive payment for their services. Furthermore, companies like PayPal not only shut down workers' accounts, but they also seize funds from workers. We're working with partner organizations to campaign against these policies that prevent sex workers from functioning on online platforms or accessing their money.



3. **DA NON-ARREST TOOLKIT**

Across the country, multiple District Attorneys have announced a non-prosecution policy for charges related to sex work. This means it is their policy to not prosecute sex workers for charges incurred while working. These policies reduce the harm of criminalization by making it easier for sex workers to earn a living and shielding them from some state violence. The Sex Workers Project will be creating a toolkit for District Attorneys across the country to explain the benefits of non-prosecution policies and how to go about implementing them. We look to Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby and Washtenaw County District Attorney Eli Savit as leaders in this effort as they have comprehensive policies that include non-prosecution for both sex workers and their clients.

4. **RELATIONSHIP BUILDING**

Educating policy makers is a crucial part of our work to end the stigma and shame that permeates policy making related to sex work. As such, we commit significant time to building relations with congressional offices as well as staff within federal agencies. These efforts have a two-fold benefit by both influencing proposed legislation as well as how laws are implemented to ensure they do not harm sex workers.

5. FEDERAL LAW MAPPING PROJECT

The Sex Workers Project considers all laws and policies that prevent sex workers from freely conducting their work or accessing their human rights part of criminalization. There is currently no comprehensive mapping of the federal laws and policies that most impact sex workers. SWP will be undertaking a mapping project, which will give us a bird's eye view of the federal legal landscape and provide a resource for the movement as a whole so we can ensure strategic planning across policy efforts.

6. SAFE SEX WORKERS STUDY ACT

The SAFE SEX Workers Study Act would allocate federal resources towards studying the impacts of FOSTA-SESTA on sex workers, possibly creating a pathway for the reform or repeal of the law. SWP is advocating for the reintroduction of the act so that we can formalize our understanding of how laws that curb freedom of expression online harm sex workers and in the hopes that the findings prevent the passage of similarly harmful legislation in the future.

7. DISMANTLE NYPD VICE

In coordination with community partners and local policy makers, we are working tirelessly to realize the dismantling of the deeply racist and ineffectual NYPD Vice Unit. At present, we are asking the New York City Council committees on Oversight/Women & Gender/Public Safety to hold a joint hearing to investigate Vice's abuses. The goal is to put the millions of dollars mishandled by the Vice unit towards ensuring community members, including sex workers and their clients, have the power to fully enjoy their human rights. We urge that Vice funding be reallocated to fund human services that can actually support and improve the lives of sex workers and low-income communities.

LEGAL SERVICES



*Our attorneys set the industry standard
for legal care.*

If we want our movement to be strong and worker led, we need to make sure our community has access to culturally competent legal representation that can reduce harm and empower workers to participate in structural transformation. Our attorneys provide client-centered, holistic and trauma-informed legal services. We provide compassionate representation, create jurisprudence, win cases, and broaden the spectrum of choice for our clients.

We believe direct services are *not* just a band-aid; they are essential to the movement. The need for these services is the direct result of structures of oppression. Direct legal services are an entry point through which community members can connect and channel their energy into leadership, organizing, and advocacy to chart a path to safety, resilience, and healing. Many of our clients have worked together to advocate and organize against harmful laws and policies. We work with our clients to build a community of impacted advocates ready to mobilize on core policy issues through empowerment and leadership trainings.



WHEN SWP HELPED ME GAIN MY STATUS AS AN ASYLEE, MY LIFE CHANGED.

I no longer fear that I am at risk to be detained by the police or immigration because I am a transwoman or because of the way I've earned a living in the past.

- Juliana, 2021

THEY WORK SO HARD, THEY'RE NON-JUDGEMENTAL, AND THEY TAKE CASES THAT OTHERS WOULD NOT.

- Nicole, Translatinx Network

CLIENT STORY

After a wrenching four-year legal battle, SWP client Manuela was finally granted T nonimmigrant status. A survivor of horrific transphobic violence and human trafficking, Manuela overcame enormous hardship throughout her 20 years in the United States to become a shining light in the community as a human rights campaigner. After her application was erroneously and unjustly denied in 2019, SWP counsel fought back and appealed the decision. After many additional advocacy efforts and a 2-year appeal wait, immigration finally reversed their previous decision and acknowledged Manuela as a survivor who can now live safely and without fear in the United States.

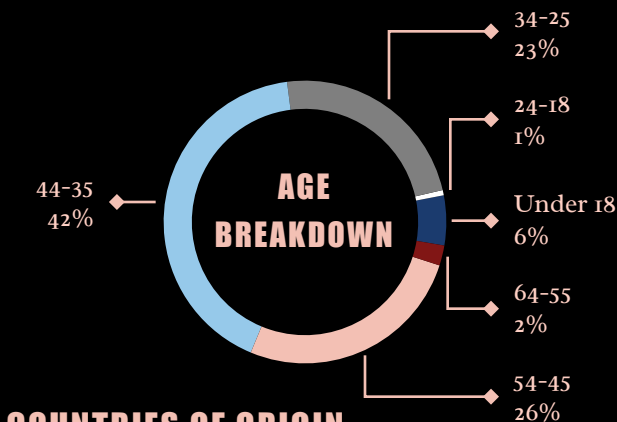
OUR CLIENTS

88%

of our cases
have successful
outcomes.

18%

of our clients
have children



COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Barbados
Chile
China
Colombia
D.R.

Ecuador
El Salvador
Ghana
Guatemala
Guyana

Honduras
Jamaica
Japan
Malaysia
Mexico

Netherlands
Nicaragua
Peru
Philippines
Senegal

South Korea
Ukraine
U.S.
Venezuela

LEGAL SERVICES EXPANSION PLAN

The sex workers rights movement currently lacks the legal backbone it needs to be successful.

TEN YEARS FROM NOW, SWP WILL BE THAT BACKBONE.



The LGBTQ+ movement has Lambda Legal. The racial justice movement has the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. The reproductive justice movement has the Center for Reproductive Rights. As we aggressively pursue changes to laws that harm sex workers across the country, we find ourselves asking: **What would the**

landscape look like for sex workers if our movement had a similar legal hub?

Building on its boundary-pushing and precedent-setting successes in the arenas of impact litigation and immigration law, **the Sex Workers Project will undertake the first phase of our legal expansion from 2021 to 2023.**

PRIORITY PRACTICE AREAS

CRIMINAL DEFENSE

In the last four years, NYPD has charged over 1,800 people with prostitution, 89% of whom were people of color. It is essential that sex workers in New York have access to defense attorneys who respect their work and have the expertise to represent them in court.

There are rampant worker rights abuses in the legalized sectors of the sex work industry, including wage theft, sexual harassment, racial discrimination, stalking. Sex workers deserve to feel safe at work and receive a livable wage.

WORKERS RIGHTS

PRIVACY & TORT

Sex workers are constantly the target of harassment, stalking, slander, libel, and defamation. Sex workers deserve access to attorneys who can navigate the complexities criminalized workers face when their privacy is violated.

PHASE 1: 2021-2023

I. **EXPAND DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES**

by hiring three new attorneys in priority practice areas who will provide: (a) full legal representation including hearings and other litigation, (b) policy advocacy with city agencies, and (c) outreach to impacted workers.

II. **BUILD CAPACITY IN THE LEGAL FIELD**

by: (a) providing competency training for attorneys don't currently have the expertise to work with sex workers and (b) increasing the number of attorneys who are knowledgeable about the legal needs of different kinds of sex workers.

III. **BUILD REFERRAL SERVICES**

by hiring a knowledgeable attorney part-time to: (a) field our help line calls, (b) make referrals to sex worker-friendly attorneys, and (c) build a network of attorneys who are able to accept pro-bono cases for sex workers.

IV. **BUILD IMPACT LITIGATION PROGRAM SCAFFOLDING**

by (a) partnering with external law firms to conduct impact litigation cases, (b) hiring legal research fellow(s) to analyze legal landscape and identify priority areas for impact litigation efforts, and (c) develop an extensive strategic plan for impact litigation by consulting experts in the field as well as other impact litigation hubs.

EXPENSE		COST
Personnel	Full Time Staff	\$387,100 + Legal Director + 2 Staff Attorneys
	Empowerment Groups	\$90,000 + 3 Sessions
Client Programming & Services	Legal Fees	\$30,000 + 10k/Attorney
	Attorney Trainings	\$3,000 + 2 Events
1 YEAR TOTAL		\$510,100
2 YEAR TOTAL		\$1,020,200

PHASE 2: 2023-2025

I. **HIRE STAFF ATTORNEYS**

who specialize in family law and impact litigation.

II. **USE DATA FROM HELP DESK**

to determine which existing practice areas need additional staffing & fundraise to hire accordingly.

III. **RECRUIT LEGAL FELLOWS**

to handle additional cases in the areas of criminal defense, labor law, and privacy law.

IV. **PUBLISH A NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT**

that contains:

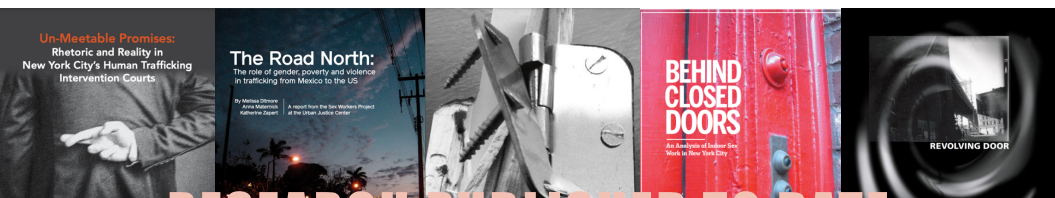
- (a) an assessment of the state of legal services for sex workers including analysis of available resources in each state, accessibility of resources, and severity of laws,
- (b) a priority list for expansion of resources and staff based on the needs assessment, and
- (c) an official strategy for developing a national network of attorneys dedicated to assisting sex workers, educating attorneys about the specific legal needs of sex workers in order to develop cultural competency, and engaging in community outreach to connect sex workers to attorneys in their state who have the expertise to assist them.

RESEARCH



Limited funding spurred by stigma related to sex work creates a dearth in research on the lived realities of people involved in the sex trades. This means we as a movement don't have the information necessary to demonstrate the implications of policies, assess the impact of criminalization on sex workers, or determine need for legal resources. Our research offers a fact-based way to discuss the needs of sex workers in concrete terms to the public and legislators, determine which laws and policies are most harmful, and counter stereotypes about sex workers.

Currently, the Sex Workers Project primarily conducts qualitative and quantitative research, frequently in collaboration with academic institutions. We believe research must be conducted either by the sex worker community or in a way that ethically engages with the community. At times, academic research is conducted in an exploitative manner without the best interests of the subjects in mind. The Sex Workers Project is committed to working only with research partners who center the expertise and knowledge of sex workers and ideally come from the community. To date, most of our research has been focused on New York City. Moving forward, we'll be expanding the geographic range of our research.



RESEARCH PUBLISHED TO DATE

2018 Un-Meetable Promises:
Rhetoric and Reality in
New York City's Human
Trafficking
Intervention Courts

2012 The Road North:
The role of gender,
poverty and
violence in
trafficking from
Mexico to the US

2005 Behind Closed
Doors: An
Analysis of Indoor
Sex Work in New
York City

2012 Public Health: The
Impact of Using
Condoms as Evidence
of Prostitution in New
York City

2009 The Use of Raids to
Fight Trafficking in
Persons

2003 Revolving Door:
An Analysis of
Street Based
Prostitution in
New York City



Our long-term goal is to conduct representative participatory action research (PAR). This research approach, “involves researchers and participants working together to understand a problematic situation and change it for the better. . .PAR focuses on social change that promotes democracy and challenges inequality; is context-specific, often targeted on the needs of a particular group. . .and often seeks to ‘liberate’ participants to have a greater awareness of their situation in order to take action” (Participatory Methods).

As a first step in reaching our research goals, we will develop a guide on best practices for conducting research on subjects impacting sex workers, people profiled as sex workers, and others involved in the sex trades. This guide will not only dictate the research methods of the Sex Workers Project but be a resource for other stakeholders, including members of the academic community. It will be informed by the leadership of sex workers who have come before and presently work in the research and academic fields. These are the experts who have shaped the methods for ethical research on sex work and the lives of people involved in the sex trades.

WHO WE ARE

Our staff are current and former sex workers, activists, advocates, educators, community leaders, and allies who have dedicated themselves to defending the human rights of sex workers.



RJ THOMPSON, ESQ.

Managing Director



ZOLA BRUCE, MSW

Director of Communications

RJ (he/him) is a longtime human rights lawyer, organizer, and educator. He is also a former go-go dancer and adult film performer. Prior to SWP, RJ worked as the Fair Courts Project Community Educator at Lambda Legal, where he trained judges, attorneys and court staff on gender and sexuality. RJ also served as Director of the Human Rights Program at the Woodhull Sexual Freedom Alliance where he advocated for the human rights of sex workers during the first UN Universal Periodic Review of the U.S.

Zola (ze/they) is a social worker, activist and artist who focuses on helping people to create the life they want in all aspects of their career. Combining their experiences in art, activism, and social work, Zola most recently worked as Associate Director of Communications & Impact at the Center for Anti-Violence Education. They continue to create, consult, speak at activist events, teach BDSM workshops and are part of the production team for Kink Out.

Our staff has a dearth of experience in related movements and social justice landscapes that allows them to bring a wide array of valuable perspectives on topics such as anti-violence work, the labor rights movement, international human rights law, social work, LGBTQ+ rights, freedom of expression, and migrant rights. Our legal team is composed of the leading national experts in their field, ready to do what it takes to improve conditions for our clients.

LEADERSHIP TEAM



Director of Advocacy & Research

Mariah (she/her) is a human rights and migration specialist with a focus on migrant and sex workers' rights, freedom of movement, and labor exploitation. Prior to joining SWP, Mariah was a Senior Training and Technical Assistance Specialist for ICF International. She coordinated the Human Trafficking Expert Consultant Network for the US Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and supported other ICF projects related to migration and trafficking in persons.



Director of Development

Harper (they/them) is a values-centric fundraiser, driven by a dedication to economic, racial and gender justice. Prior to SWP, Harper was Development and Program Director at Trans Student Educational Resources, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the educational environment for trans youth, where they supported programs at more than 500 schools and raised over \$500,000 for trans youth. They also worked at PEN America, where they were integral in securing over \$3.5m in revenue.

LEGAL TEAM



CLEMENT LEE, ESQ.

He/Him

*Associate Director,
Immigration Legal Services*

Clement provides legal services to immigrant communities impacted by sex work. Previously, he was the staff attorney of the detention program at Immigration Equality, where he represented LGBTQ asylum seekers whose interactions with the criminal justice system placed them at risk of immigration detention and deportation. Clement also previously worked as supervising immigration attorney at Make the Road New York and was a recipient of the LGBT Bar Association's "Best LGBTQ+ Lawyers Under 40" Awards.



ABIGAIL ANZALONE

She/Her

*Associate Director of Operations &
Client Engagement, DOJ Accredited Rep.*

Abby is an immigration law practitioner whose clients include sex workers and trafficking survivors. She submits applications to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services on behalf of clients and represents clients in immigration court who are at risk of deportation from the United States. Abby brings to the team her experience with LGBTQ asylum law and immigration applications for survivors of trafficking and interpersonal violence.

MOLLY COHEN, ESQ.

She/Her

Senior Supervising Attorney



Molly is passionate about pursuing zealous, trauma-informed advocacy to build a world that is free of trafficking, and where sex workers rights are respected and affirmed. Molly provides immigration legal representation to sex workers and survivors of trafficking. She received her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 2017. As a law student, Molly interned with SWP and worked on asylum, T visa, and removal defense cases for low-income immigrants as a clinical student with the UW Immigrant Justice Clinic.

NNEKA OKPARA, ESQ.

She/Her

Staff Attorney



Nneka has been with the Urban Justice Center since 2019, first with PCYP and now at the Sex Workers Project as a Staff Attorney. Previously, she worked in Los Angeles as a Law Clerk for Immigrant Defenders Law Center and interned in Colombia for an NGO committed to raising awareness and stopping the practice of human and labor trafficking. Nneka received her J.D. from Hofstra Law School.



MARLENE LLEVA

She/Her

Legal Advocate

Marlene has been with the Urban Justice Center since 2017, first with PCYP and now at the Sex Workers Project as a Legal Advocate. Previously, she worked as an educational advocate for youth experiencing homelessness throughout New York. She received her B.A. from UCLA in International Studies and her M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University focusing on the disproportionate impact of school discipline policies, suspension practices, and policing of students of color.

PART TIME STAFF



ANDY BOWEN, MSW

She/Her

Associate Director, Government

As a transgender woman, Andrea (Andy) has taken on the cause of justice for her community, successfully advocating for transgender peoples' improved access to corrected identity documents, health care coverage, school facilities, and homeless shelters. She was the ED of Garden State Equality, where she broadened the organization's advocacy into economic justice work, and maintained the organization's financial stability in the wake of the marriage equality victory. Prior to starting Bowen Public Affairs Consulting, she was Senior Policy Analyst at UNHNY, where she successfully lobbied for stabilized funding and improved administration of youth employment programs.

ESTHER K.

She/Her

Communications Consultant



Esther is an active participant in grassroots organizing around Asian American and Pacific Islander issues; specifically, as it relates to sex workers' rights and anti-gentrification efforts in Chinatowns. She is an organizer with Red Canary Song – an Asian-American sex workers and allies lead group focusing on migrant massage parlor workers outreach. With RCS, she is working on the full decriminalization of sex work in New York. She's spoken at the University of Chicago, U Mich Law, and Columbia University around anti-trafficking laws and sex workers' rights.

REMY GERARD

They/Them

Development Associate



Remy is passionate about prison abolition, resource redistribution and intersections with queer and trans issues. They've previously interned on the development team of PEN America and the educational team at Groundwork Hudson valley. Remy is currently finishing their BA at Sarah Lawrence College; where they concentrate in linguistic anthropology, political philosophy, and creative writing.

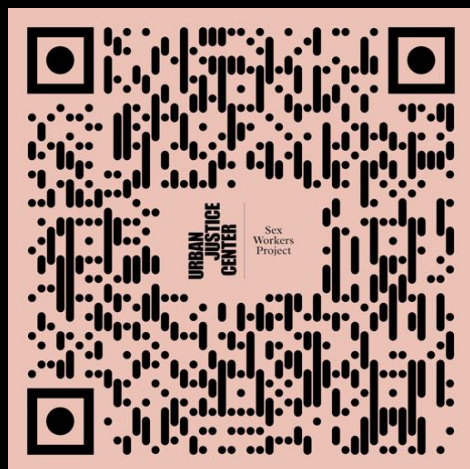
The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of overlapping geometric shapes in shades of red, orange, yellow, blue, and purple. A subtle brick wall texture is overlaid on the entire image, creating a layered visual effect.

**INVEST IN
SEXUAL
LIBERATION.**

Momentum is picking up, but
the road ahead won't be easy.

SWP Is Gearing Up for the Long-Haul.

**WE NEED ALLIES LIKE
YOU TO JOIN US.**



*Help us build a diverse
and stable donor base
composed of allies who
are willing to go to bat
for sex workers' rights.*

LEVELS OF GIVING

Ambassador	\$10,000
Partner	\$5,000
Ally	\$2,500
Supporter	\$1,000

SEXUAL LIBERATION GIVING CIRCLE

MEMBERSHIP PERKS

Members will enjoy special perks such as:

- Early viewing of our docuseries episodes,
- VIP invitations to all events virtual and in person,
- Bi-monthly briefings on our progress,
- Free merchandise as it becomes available,
- Social media shout outs & thank you posts,
- Listings in sponsorship materials and website, and
- Special thank you announcements at events.

WHY SUPPORT THE SEX WORKERS PROJECT?

BUILD THE MOVEMENT.

Joining the Sexual Liberation Giving Circle is an investment in more than just the Sex Workers Project, it's an investment in the entire sex workers rights movement.

RAISE AWARENESS.

Sex work is an issue that is rapidly entering mainstream conversations.

We're working to make sure these conversations are informed by actual sex workers who are treated as experts on these issues. By working with us, you are helping shape this conversation.



PUSH BOUNDARIES.

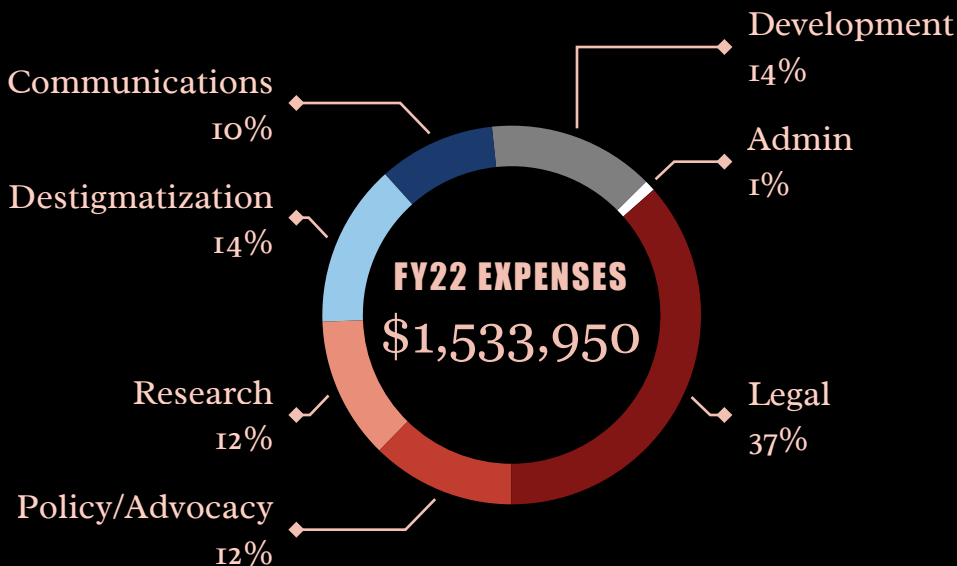
By joining the Sexual Liberation Giving Circle, you'll push the boundaries of philanthropy and show funders that sex workers rights must be included in their social justice priorities.

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS.

Just like we're all harmed by the stigma around sex, we can all benefit from sexual liberation regardless of our relationship to sex and sexuality. It's time to put your money where your mouth is and invest in sexual liberation.

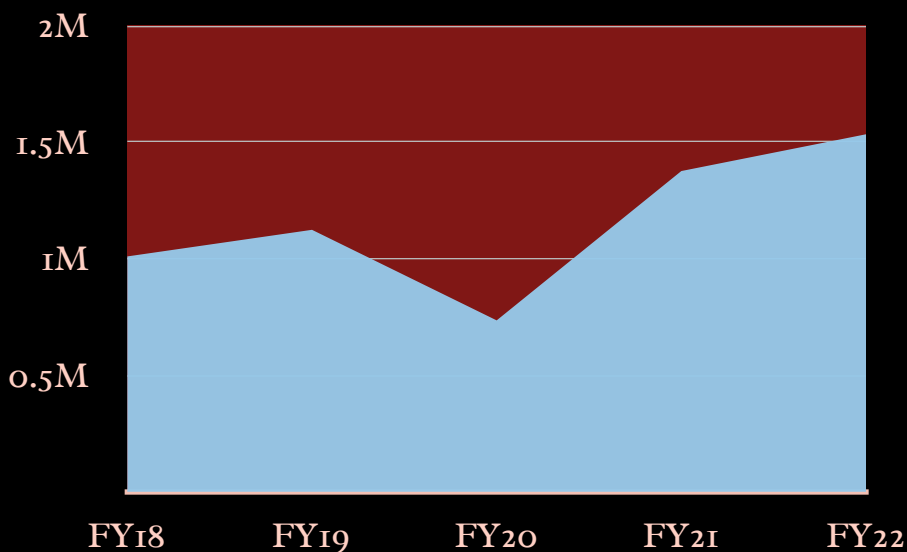


FINANCIALS

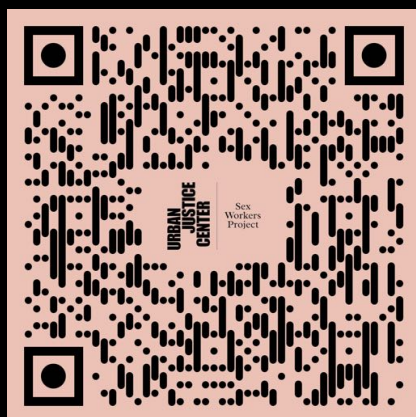


CONTRIBUTORS

Currently all of our funding for legal services comes from New York City grants and the remainder of our revenue is composed of individual giving and a grant from the Oak Foundation. Now that we have a Director of Development, we are able to spend time and energy diversifying our funding sources.



INVEST IN SEXUAL LIBERATION.



THE FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$200,000

**IN UNRESTRICTED FUNDING
BY DECEMBER**

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

While SWP has taken a lot of different forms over the last two decades, morphing based on available resources and community needs, one thing has always been true: the Sex Workers Project pushes boundaries and sets precedents.

That SWP has managed to survive to its current iteration despite the oft-hostile societal, political and philanthropic landscape surrounding sex workers' rights is no small feat. That we have had such an impact over the years despite limited resources and capacity is even more impressive.

In 2020, we received a grant that launched us into our current iteration by enabling us to hire a new leadership team

consisting of a Director of Research, Policy and Advocacy, a Director of Destigmatization and Communications, and a Director of Development. The timing of this gift was a lucky accident: it occurred just as COVID-19 pushed the country to have new conversations about racial, economic, and gender justice and as the national conversation around sex work was shifting in part as a result.

THE NEED

I am the Sex Workers Project's first Director of Development in our twenty year history. Prior to my hiring, fundraising work fell on the Managing Director or development consultants, meaning no one had the capacity to both secure funding for each fiscal

year and also think years in advance about organizational fiscal sustainability. Now that I'm on board, we're able to think long term in a serious way.

The Sex Workers Project is raising \$200,000 in unrestricted gifts by December 2021 to commemorate each of the twenty years we've spent defending the rights of sex workers and help us build a sustainable foundation for the next two decades.

As SWP's first Director of Development, I'm asking you to help me build a diverse and stable donor base composed of allies who are willing to go to bat for sex workers rights by joining our Sexual Liberation Giving Circle.

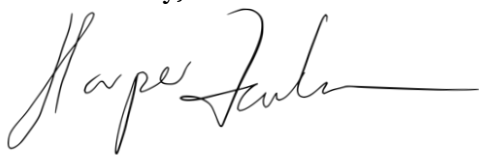
With a gift ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000, you can show your commitment to creating a sexually liberated world where all workers have the autonomy and power to fully enjoy their human rights.

I want to stress that this isn't just an investment in one organization; joining the Sexual Liberation Giving Circle is an investment in the sex workers rights movement as a whole.

The landscape is tricky. There are challenges that haven't been faced by any other movement, but there are also unique opportunities to fundamentally change how we understand sex, labor, consent, criminality, and social justice. If we're able to secure supporters like you who are willing to publicly join us and hold stake in our success, we'll be able to ensure these opportunities aren't squandered.

In summary: momentum is picking up and the opportunities are there, but it won't be an easy fight. We've been in it for twenty years. We're going to be in it for at least another twenty. To keep going, we need allies like you to invest in a sexually liberated world.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harper Zacharias', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harper Zacharias

Director of Development

**WE CURRENTLY HAVE
AN UNPRECEDENTED
OPPORTUNITY TO
ADVANCE THE
HUMAN RIGHTS OF
SEX WORKERS IN
THE UNITED STATES.**

SURVIVE.
THRIVE.
LIBERATE.

*Invest In A Sexually
Liberated World!*



**URBAN
JUSTICE
CENTER**

Sex
Workers
Project