

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE GENERAL ELECTION 2024



SEX WORKERS
ALLIANCE IRELAND

- 1 Did you know that when sex workers work together for safety, it is considered illegal under the law?
- 2 Are you aware that almost all of the people who have been prosecuted under our brothel-keeping laws are young, migrant women? Not traffickers, not pimps but the very people that our laws are supposed to “rescue”. Did you realise that many more sex workers have been arrested than their clients, due to brothel-keeping laws?
- 3 Do you think the sex work laws in Ireland are successful? Court statistics show that there have been only a handful of prosecutions of clients.
- 4 A sex worker was murdered in Limerick last year. Are you aware that since the laws changed in 2017 there has been a 92% increase in violent crime against sex workers? Less than 1% of sex workers report crimes against them to Gardai.
- 5 Will you listen to sex workers when they say they feel less safe under the law, and have faced increased violence, threats, murder and stigma?
- 6 Are you aware that the law is currently being reviewed? Do you support the Department of Justice finishing this review internally, jeopardising the whole exercise?

POLITICIANS WILL TRY AND AVOID ANSWERS TO HARD QUESTIONS SO YOU CAN USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM THEM

- [The law targets young migrant women, not pimps or traffickers.](#)
- Our laws criminalise two or more sex workers working together from the same place, despite the fact would be safer for them to work together. [Two sex workers were given a jail sentence in 2019 for the crime of working together for safety, one of whom was pregnant.](#)
- [Criminals are targeting sex worker precisely because they are forced to work alone or risk breaking the law.](#)
- [Where any aspect of sex work is criminalised, including client criminalisation it has adverse health outcomes for the workers.](#)
- [Sex workers are extremely unlikely to report an attack because of stigma and huge mistrust of the Gardaí. This has only gotten worse since the introduction of client criminalisation.](#)
- Client criminalisation makes it much more difficult to find trafficking victims.
- If we truly want to reduce or eliminate sex trafficking we must understand how immigration policies lead to trafficking.
- People enter sex work for a variety of reasons, often because they have no choice. Austerity, visa status, precarious work and housing, lack of childcare, drug-use, debt, paying their way through school, living with a disability and lack of decent employment are all factors.
- 61% of all murdered trans and gender diverse people whose profession was known were sex workers
- Gardaí use the presence of condoms as proof that purchase of sex has occurred. Using condoms as evidence flies in the face of any HIV prevention strategy.
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