

TEMPLATE LETTER

Subject line: Decriminalise sex work for safety's sake

Dear ____

I'm writing to you as a member/supporter of the English Collective of Prostitutes. I live and work in [place] and I'm aware of your organisation's work to support ____

An urgent priority for me is the decriminalisation of sex work and safety for sex workers.

As you may be aware, sex work is on the increase in the UK as a result of austerity and rising poverty. At the same time, sex workers are prevented by the law from working safely and record numbers are facing raids, arrests, prosecution and even prison.

[Say something here about your situation and any reasons why this is a priority for you.]

You may be interested to know that Amnesty International recently voted in support of decriminalisation, and called on governments to review the prostitution laws and provide resources in the form of "state benefits, education and training and/or alternative employment" to help sex workers leave prostitution if they want.

[Say something here related to the target organization and why sex workers safety should be a priority to them specifically.]

In New Zealand, the Prostitution Reform Act was introduced in 2003 to decriminalise sex work. Since then there have been verifiable improvements in sex workers' safety, health and welfare. A similar law could be introduced here.

This pledge and background information, issued by the Safety First Coalition (which includes the Royal College of Nursing and Women Against Rape) and coordinated by the English Collective of Prostitutes, outlines the basic case for decriminalisation. This fact sheet debunks common myths on sex work.

I would like to know where you stand on this issue. Will you support the rights and safety of sex workers and sign the pledge in support of the decriminalisation of sex work? If you'd like to discuss this further please let me know.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Kind regards,