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## **ESPLERP Refreshes 2017 Policy Agenda For Legislators**

*Policy Agenda Provides Roadmap for Legislators Looking to Understand the Legislative Consequences of Decriminalizing Sex Work*

San Francisco, CA - The Erotic Service Providers Legal Education and Research Project (ESPLERP) today released its [2017 Policy Agenda](#), which provides a refreshed roadmap for legislators looking to understand the legislative consequences of decriminalizing sex work.

In 2015 a series of international organizations, including [Amnesty International](#), the [World Health Organization](#), the Lancet, Human Rights Watch, and the UN Global Commission on HIV and the Law, developed positions calling for the decriminalization of sex work. These bodies recognized that sex worker rights are human rights - that consenting adults have the right to be free from state criminalization of their private intimate behavior.

Also during 2015, ESPLERP [filed a complaint in United States District Court](#) challenging California's anti-prostitution law, Penal Code 647(b), arguing that the law deprives individuals of the fundamental right to engage in consensual, private sexual activity. That case is now on appeal in the Ninth Circuit, where it is supported by amicus briefs from over thirty civil rights and LGBTQ organizations, including the ACLU, the Free Speech Coalition, Transgender Law Center, and the Woodhull Freedom Foundation.

The movement to decriminalize sex work is gaining traction nationwide. In New Hampshire, two Democrats and one Republican introduced [House Bill 1614 to decriminalize prostitution](#). And in Hawaii, [HB 1532](#) and [HB 1533](#) seek to overturn Hawaii's anti-prostitution laws.

But there is a huge gulf between recognizing the fundamental right to sexual privacy and untangling the morass of decades of bad laws that negatively impacts sex workers and public safety. This is where ESPLERP's Policy Agenda comes in - providing a 13 point guide with practical legislative steps towards enfranchising all aspects of sex work. For example, it recommends repealing moral turpitude laws that seriously impact legal workers like exotic dancers, adult film performers, massage parlour staff, and phone sex operators.

"For this refreshed Policy Agenda we consulted widely with supporters," said Claire Alwyne of ESPLERP. "We wanted to make sure that when advocates talk to legislators about us, it reflected the standards of civil rights organizations like the ACLU and Free Speech Coalition, as well as the views of LGBTQ organizations like Lambda Legal and the Transgender Law Center."

"History is on our side - archaic laws criminalizing sex work will be swept aside" said Ina Dewgood, a Board Member of ESPLERP. "But it's not enough for sex work to be decriminalized. Lawmakers need to end

discrimination against erotic service providers in all areas of public life. Our Policy Agenda provides them with a roadmap. They should use it.”

*The Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and Research Project (ESPLERP) is a diverse community-based coalition advancing sexual privacy rights through litigation, education, and research.*  
esplerp.org, decriminalizes sexwork.com

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