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Sacramento Church to Host Expert Panel on New Sex Worker Laws, Trafficking Study

Rachel West (US PROStitutes Collective), Kristen DiAngelo (SWOP Sacramento), Siouxsie Q James (Adult Performer Advocacy Committee) Margaret Prescod (Black Coalition Fighting Back Serial Murders) Jessie Martinez of Helping Individual People Survive (HIPS)
Talk About Sex Worker Rights, SB 233, and The 1.5 Million Dollar Study 'Targeting Sex Trafficking'

Sacramento — On November 7, 2019, Rachel West (US PROStitutes Collective), Kristen DiAngelo (SWOP Sacramento), Siouxsie Q James (Adult Performer Advocacy Committee) and Margaret Prescod *(Black Coalition Fighting Back Serial Murders),* Jessie Martinez of Helping Individual People Survive (HIPS) will hold a panel discussion at the Sacramento Universal Unitarian Society Church to update the community on a planned sex trafficking study and efforts to decriminlze prostitution in California and across the country.

Panelists will also raise major concerns over the recent announcement of a new $1.5M study "to target sex trafficking" — using Sacramento as the focal point (https://preview.tinyurl.com/yxel3bum). Historically, such studies have been used as justification to criminalize sex workers and to gentrify neighborhoods (https://preview.tinyurl.com/y5cae282). This is a substantial amount of state funding, but the community has been provided no information about the methodology and objectives of the study. Sex workers are demanding to know exactly what is being studied — and by whom given the constant conflation of sex trafficking with sex work.

WHAT: Panel on SAC Sex Worker Rights and new $1.5M study

WHO: Sex Worker Rights Organizations including:

- ESPLERP (Erotic Service Providers Legal Education and Research Project)
- SWOP Sacramento (Sacarmento Chapter of Sex Workers Outreach Project)
- The US PROStitutes Collective
- The Sacramento-based sex worker community
- Black Coalition Fighting Back Against Serial Murders
- Helping Individual People Survive (HIPS)
- Adult Performers Advocacy Committee

WHEN: Thurs., November 7, 2019, 6:30-9pm

WHERE: Sacramento Universal Unitarian Society Church
2425 Sierra Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95825

THE PANELISTS

Rachel West of US PROStitutes Collective:
"The sex worker rights movement for decriminalization is growing by leaps and bounds. In California, sex worker led organizing won first policy and then legislation that prohibits the police from arresting sex workers who report violence. But criminalization continues to undermine safety and violence remains a massive problem – with Black trans and other women of color particularly targeted. Rising poverty is pushing more women, particularly mothers, into prostitution to survive which makes it all the more urgent that proposed laws in New York and Washington, DC, to decriminalize prostitution, succeed."

Kristen DiAngelo of Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) Sacramento:
"Society continues to repeat history by targeting areas where the most marginalized of sex workers ply their trade with the end goal being gentrification and/or to help us. Each time however, the results are the same, and gentrification instead leads to negative impacts such as forced migration of an already marginalized workforce. Thus, I believe there is a very real probability that this infusion of $1.5 million to "study us" with the stated goals of gentrification will only lead to discriminatory behavior by people in power, and a focus on spaces that exclude low-income individuals, people of color, sex workers and trafficking victims - the very people they say they want to help."

Siouxsie Q James of the Adult Performer Advocacy Committee (APAC)
"Those already most at risk of trafficking and exploitation have been hit hardest in this past year due to a new law that has destroyed the Internet's first amendment. This is nothing short of a free speech crisis." James will talk about the effects of FOSTA/SESTA, a federal law passed in April 2018 that preemptively criminalizes websites who feature speech related to prostitution, and which has resulted in the loss of online spaces for all.

Margaret Prescod of Black Coalition Fighting Back Serial Murders
Prescod will talk about organizing to get Los Angeles Police to take seriously the of over 200 missing and murdered women, as featured in the documentary called *The Grim Sleeper.* (The serial killer was finally apprehended in 2010 in Los Angeles.)

Jessie Martinez of Helping Individual People Survive (HIPS)
Martinez will tell us about recent organizing to get a hearing at the Washington D.C. City Council Judiciary Committee on the Community Heath and Safety Act of 2019 which seeks to decriminalize prostitution and working indoors.

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

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