For Immedia Release
ESPLERP, SWOP Sacramento Host Panel Discussing New UCLA Data on Racial Disparities in LA Policing

The Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and Research Project (ESPLERP) and Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) Sacramento will host an online discussion about a new report by UCLA Law student group detailing racial trends in policing in Los Angeles, on August 13.

The report, “Tracing Criminalization: Policing and Prosecution in Los Angeles, 2017-2019,” shows how the Los Angeles Police Department’s own records reveal enormous racial disparities in citations, particularly against sex workers.

“Sex work happens across the city, but the UCLA data shows that LAPD is issuing over four hundred citations for prostitution a month, almost entirely in Black neighborhoods,” says ESPLERP’s Maxine Doogan. “Not only is it a tremendous waste of resources, it effectively criminalizes specific populations based on race. The data is a critical piece in the conversation we’re having about the role of the police in our neighborhoods.”

“Citywide, Black people were cited by police at almost three times the rate of the general population. Meanwhile in District 13, which is represented by Mitch O’Farrell and includes Silver Lake and Echo Park, Black people were cited at over seven times the general rate,” says Simon Sherred, one of the study’s authors.

“We all know police enforce criminal statutes at higher rates against black and brown people, and then the city prosecutes these cases more aggressively, given the supremacist history of criminalization, but now we have data on our side that evidences this much, and more,” says Maggie Gaffney, another one of the study’s authors.

The dataset, collected from public records, focuses on all misdemeanors and infractions issued in Los Angeles between October 31, 2017 and October 30, 2019.

This first of its kind study can be found here: Tracing Criminalization: Policing and Prosecution in LA, 2017-2019.

ESPLERP/SWOP Sacramento Zoom Webinar
“Tracing Criminalization: Policing and Prosecution in Los Angeles, 2017-2019”
Aug 13, 2020
7:00 PM PT
Register for the webinar here

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Bios:
Simon Sherred is a third-year student at UCLA School of Law, with a background in sociology and tech, and a focus on workers’ and tenants’ rights.

Maggie Gaffney is a third-year student at UCLA School of Law, with experience in public defender’s and eviction prevention offices and an interest in criminal justice.

Ilan Zur is a third-year, dual JD/MPP candidate at UCLA School of Law and the Luskin School of Public Affairs, with a legislative and policy background, and interest in political law.