

Stop The Raids Committee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sex Workers Call Foul on Harmful, Dangerous ‘Human Trafficking Awareness’ Campaigns

Sex workers across California are calling foul on January 11, [Human Trafficking Awareness Day](https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/wearblueday) (<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/wearblueday>) saying that law enforcement agencies routinely use so-called ‘anti-trafficking’ campaigns as an excuse to round-up sex workers, primarily people of color, immigrants and the unhoused.

A [ground-breaking report from the USC Gould Human Rights Clinic](https://humanrightsclinic.usc.edu/2021/11/15/over-policing-sex-trafficking-how-u-s-law-enforcement-should-reform-operations/) (<https://humanrightsclinic.usc.edu/2021/11/15/over-policing-sex-trafficking-how-u-s-law-enforcement-should-reform-operations/>) released in October shows that “trafficking” raids, sweeps and stings primarily target consenting adults, not traffickers or survivors of trafficking. It documents verbal, physical and sexual abuse by police during these operations while actual victims don’t get help.

Law enforcement, in concert with faith-based rescue groups and anti-trafficking non-profits, are using human trafficking campaigns as an excuse to arrest sex workers trying to make a living. These are not rescue missions, but morality-fueled vice campaigns that devastate the lives of sex workers. This January 11, sex workers are refusing to be exploited by law enforcement and government agencies in order to secure greater publicity and funding for their departments.

The media must not be complicit in this campaign of erasure and eradication. Year after year, we see the media report these campaigns based solely on the false information provided by government agencies, law enforcement, and anti-trafficking non-profits and faith-based rescue groups dedicated to eradicating sex work entirely.

Every year, the Super Bowl is used as an excuse to violently arrest sex workers under the guise of anti-trafficking raids. This year, Los Angeles will host Super Bowl LVI. The Stop the Raids committee, has been set up by sex workers and others to fight back with education campaigns for the public and the media to disrupt the lies.

Sex workers demand decriminalization!

More info on our messaging can be found at
<https://stoptheraids.org>

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