

OR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Nevada AFL-CIO/United Brothel Workers

Nevada AFL-CIO Passes Resolution in Support of Sex Workers Right to Organize

(Las Vegas, Nevada) Today in a historic first the Nevada AFL-CIO adopted a resolution in support of sex workers' right to organize.

The resolution, co-drafted by Maxine Doogan, President of the Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education, and Research Project of San Francisco and Jupiter Jetson, Chief Steward of United Brothel Workers was introduced by Marc Ellis, President of the Communications Workers of America Local 9413 and a Vice-President of the Nevada AFL-CIO. It passed with unanimous support at the AFL-CIO's 70th Constitutional Convention in Las Vegas.

"Sex work is work, and these workers deserve to be treated as such.", says Ellis. "This resolution means that going forward, sex workers can know they have the full support of all members of the AFL-CIO."

Doogan, upon hearing of the resolution's passage said "it's a proud day to stand with United Brothel Workers and take our rightful place among all workers."

While this is a first for the modern labor movement, there is a long history shared between sex workers and the labor movement- particularly in Nevada. Says Barb Brents, author, professor emerita of Sociology at UNLV, and expert on sex work, sexual commerce, and sex work policy: "The relationship between sex workers and the labor movement in Nevada goes back more than a century- to the IWW in the mining camps around Goldfield and Ely. Today's resolution picks up that thread, affirming that sex workers are entitled to the same rights and protections as anyone else who works for a living. Those are protections that evidence increasingly linked to safer working conditions and less exploitation."

For media inquiries, please reach out to Molly Wylder at WylderSocialMail@gmail.com

Full text of the resolution:

70th Nevada State AFL-CIO Annual Constitutional Convention

August 16–18, 2026

Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel

Las Vegas, Nevada

Resolution in Support of the Rights of Sex Workers and Erotic Service Providers to Organize

Whereas, a sex worker or erotic service provider is any individual who earns a living through erotic labor, including but not limited to strippers, full-service sex workers, phone sex operators, adult film performers, webcam performers, online content creators, and erotic massage providers, regardless of immigration status; and

Whereas, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and protection against unemployment," that "Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself or herself and his or her family an existence worthy of human dignity," and that "Everyone has the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his or her interests"; and

Whereas, the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) Constitution states that "The Coalition of Labor Union Women seeks to promote unionism and to encourage unions to

be more aggressive in their efforts to bring unorganized women under collective bargaining agreements, particularly in those areas where there are large numbers of unorganized and/or minority women"; and

Whereas, the AFL-CIO Constitution states that "The objects and principles of this Federation are to encourage all workers, without regard to race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, or sexual orientation, to share equally in the full benefits of union organization"; and

Whereas, sex workers are workers, predominantly women and gender nonconforming individuals, who often live and work at the intersection of multiple forms of marginalization and have largely remained unorganized; and

Whereas, throughout Nevada and across the United States, sex workers at non-union workplaces are frequently subjected to hazardous and unsafe working conditions, including wage theft, illegal misclassification as independent contractors, economic coercion through unlawful workplace fees, coerced prostitution, sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, and the denial of the ability to negotiate wages and working conditions; and

Whereas, the recent unionization of the workers at Sheri's Ranch as United Brothel Workers, along with the successful organizing efforts at Star Garden in Los Angeles and the Lusty Lady Theater in San Francisco, have demonstrated that workers in this industry can successfully organize and have inspired others to seek solidarity through the labor movement.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Nevada State AFL-CIO supports the right of all sex workers and erotic service providers to organize and collectively bargain for fair wages, safe working conditions, dignity on the job, and the protection of their labor rights.

Submitted by CWA Local 9413

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