

Sex Work, Human Trafficking, and Technology

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Sex Work vs. Sex Trafficking

Sex work - A broad term that encompasses wide variety of erotic labor, both legal and illegal (i.e. exotic dancing, escorting, phone sex, porn)

- Generally connotes free will/lack of coercion, as it is a term rooted in labor rights AND empowerment/sexual freedom (coined by Carol Leigh AKA Scarlot Harlot)

Human trafficking - A legal term that has distinct state and federal definitions

- Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) defines human trafficking as: engaging in prostitution due to force, fraud, or coercion *or* being induced into prostitution under the age of 18

Does *not* need to involve transporting persons across state lines

Survival Sex

Survival sex is prostitution engaged in by a person because of their extreme need. It describes the practice of people who are homeless or otherwise disadvantaged in society, trading sex for food, money, a place to sleep, or other basic needs, including drugs.

- No services available
- No ability to access services
- Homeless (80% based on SWOP Sacramento Research)
- 59% reported being raped, 55% reported beatings, 27% reported harmed by an officer
- Large survival sex population
- 18% identified migrating after loss of SF Redbook
- Websites which allowed transition are life saving

Criminalization will never stop a person from surviving. It is an unreasonable idea that a person will stop eating if they are arrested.

What Internet Companies Should Know about Sex Workers and trafficking Victims

- Listen to us and our experience
 - We would never want to hurt ourselves/we deserve free speech and the right to work
- Understand our history
 - Internet gave rise to the independent sex worker/craigslist erotic section (17% drop in female homicide (Sept 2017 West Virginia University and Baylor University)
 - SF Redbook - Backpage
- Intersected but not correlated
 - The internet is a support service not causal
- Support services do not hurt trafficking victims or sex workers
 - Safety benefits all/What happens to a trafficking victim when services are pulled?
- Conflation kills
 - Laws are passed in hysteria
 - SESTA/FOSTA and other