



**68<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

**23 October – 17 November 2017**

**Excerpts from the Concluding Observations on the 9<sup>th</sup> periodic report of Norway: relevant to and potentially impacting sex workers, collated by NSWP.**

**Stereotypes and harmful practices**

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(c) Allocate resources for research into the root causes and possible impact of oversexualized representations of girls and women in the media and the possible connections between sexualization and pornography and the root causes of gender-based violence, in particular in relation to girls;

**Gender-based violence against women**

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Strengthen the capacity of the police, prosecutors and judges on the strict application of relevant criminal law provisions and gender-sensitive investigations of cases of gender-based violence, including cases affecting women with (mental) disabilities and other vulnerable groups of women;

**Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution**

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Systematically collect comprehensive data about victims of trafficking and report them to the Committee in its next periodic report;

(b) Adopt a human rights-based approach in its efforts to combat trafficking, and prioritize the prevention of trafficking and re-trafficking, the protection of victims and the prosecution of perpetrators;

(c) Create a uniform national system for identifying and following up on women victims of trafficking, ensuring the continuity of rights and entitlements when there is a change in the residence or legal status of the victim, conducting awareness-raising campaigns about human trafficking and discontinuing the return of victims of human trafficking under the Dublin Regulation;

(d) Revise immigration policies to ensure that laws and policies on the deportation of foreign women are not applied in a discriminatory manner, do not deter migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from reporting crimes of trafficking and

do not undermine efforts to prevent human trafficking, identify or protect victims or prosecute perpetrators.

28. The Committee is concerned about the unintended consequences of the criminalization, since 2009, of the purchase of sexual activity or a sexual act from adults, in particular the higher risk for the personal safety and physical integrity of women in prostitution, as reflected in the low reporting rate of physical and sexual violence, exploitation and harassment, and the risk of their being evicted from their premises when used for prostitution. The Committee is further concerned that an evaluation conducted in 2014 of the effects of the introduction of the Nordic model in the State party has not been followed up with the formulation of new policies for the protection of the rights of women in prostitution.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Accelerate the tabling of the white paper on prostitution to Parliament in order to formulate a comprehensive policy, legislative and regulatory framework that ensures legal protection from exploitation for women who engage in prostitution, and ensure that they are not prosecuted for the sale of sexual activity and sexual acts, including for acts that currently amount to criminal acts of “promotion of prostitution”;

(b) Conduct or fund long-term research that provides evidence-based knowledge about the living conditions of women in prostitution in Norway in order to design programmes to improve the safeguarding of their human rights, including their rights to protection against violence, health and access to social security;

(c) Strengthen exit programmes for women who wish to leave prostitution.