



**72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

**18 February – 8 March 2019**

**Excerpts from the Concluding Observations on the 4<sup>th</sup> periodic report of Serbia: relevant to and potentially impacting sex workers, collated by NSWP.**

**B. Positive aspects**

4. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved since the consideration in 2013 of the State party's combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/SRB/23) in undertaking legislative reforms, in particular the adoption of the following:

(a) National strategy for the prevention and elimination of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and for the protection of victims for the period 2017–2020 and the accompanying action plan for the period 2017–2018;

**Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution**

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal article 16 of the Public Law and Order Act and ensure that women in prostitution are not criminalized by laws, including the Public Law and Order Act, and provide exit programmes and alternative income-generating opportunities for women who wish to leave prostitution;

(b) Effectively investigate and prosecute cases of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, under article 388 of the Criminal Code (trafficking in persons), ensure that the sentences imposed on perpetrators are commensurate with the gravity of the crime and effectively implement provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code that enable judges to determine compensation for the victims in criminal proceedings;

(c) Enhance capacity-building for law enforcement officials, including in border areas and at major transportation points, and judicial authorities in order to increase their ability to identify and refer potential victims of trafficking, including foreigners and girls who are victims of trafficking, and investigate and prosecute cases in a gender-sensitive manner;

(d) Improve protection services for victims of trafficking by allocating sufficient and sustainable human and financial resources and strengthening coordination and cooperation between the State authorities and civil society, and facilitate access for victims to education and employment;

(e) Pursue international, regional and bilateral cooperation efforts with countries of origin, transit and destination and establish a mechanism to facilitate regular migration.