



## Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

### 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

21 October – 8 November 2019

#### **Excerpts from the Concluding Observations on the 6<sup>th</sup> periodic report of Seychelles: 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 initial to fifth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/SYC/1-5) in undertaking legislative reforms, in particular the following:

- (d) Adoption of the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act, in 2014.

##### **Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution**

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Put in place an adequate and well-resourced system with specific tools and protocols for the early identification of victims of trafficking and their referral to appropriate services;

- (b) Provide training programmes for judges, prosecutors, police officers, immigration officers, border police officers and lawyers, as well as for labour and health inspectors and social workers, on their role in preventing and combating trafficking in women and girls;

- (c) Enhance the skills of civil society organizations in providing support to victims of trafficking, and build the capacity of the media with regard to gender-sensitive reporting on trafficking in persons;

- (d) Carry out a national baseline study to collect data on trends, forms and manifestations of trafficking, and its causes and consequences.

29. The Committee notes that, under the Penal Code, soliciting and exploitation of prostitution are criminalized, and expresses concern that provisions relating to women in prostitution use derogatory language. It is also concerned about the lack of information on the connection between the extent of trafficking in women and girls and the increase in sex tourism in the State party. It is further concerned about the lack of exit programmes and alternative income-generating opportunities for women wishing to leave prostitution.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend section 154 of the Penal Code in order to exempt women and girls in prostitution from criminal liability in respect of acts of prostitution, and repeal sections 138 (a) and (b) and 139 (b), which use derogatory language;

(b) Undertake a study on the link between trafficking in women and girls and the increase in the sex tourism industry in the State party;

(c) Provide exit programmes and alternative income-generating opportunities for women who wish to leave prostitution, as well as adequate protection and rehabilitation services for women and girls who are victims of exploitation of prostitution.