

Public Interest Law Gathering – Women’s Legal Centre Side Event

Join us at the Public Interest Law Gathering 2017 to explore the Join us at the Public Interest Law Gathering 2017 at a Women’s Legal Centre side event that will be an analysis of the impact of human rights violations by police against Sex Workers. “We want police to see the human in us, not just Makgoshu” - KZN Sex Worker.

Date
Monday, 24 July 2017

Time:
14:30-16:00

Venue:
**School of Public
Health, University of
the Western Cape**

BODILY AUTONOMY, SEX WORK AND THE SALRC: continued human rights violations of sex workers

Discussion

The South African Law Reform Commission Report on Adult Prostitution recommended the continued criminalisation of sex work which impedes on the rights of Sex workers.

Sex Workers continue to experience violations at the hands of police and the patterns of abuse that sex workers experience are as a result of their criminal status, which increases their vulnerability to violence as well as other forms of human rights violations. The current legal framework forces sex workers to the margins of South Africa society, where they are easy targets for abuse by clients, police and different structures of power. Sex workers experience different forms of stigmatisation, social exclusion, deprivation and abuse coupled with low levels of access to health care, employment, access to justice and economic advancement. These violations directly impact on their right to be equal before the law, human dignity, freedom of security of a person in particular to be free from all forms of violence, bodily autonomy, privacy (unlawful search and seizures) and freedom of trade and occupation. The panel will discuss the human rights violations of sex workers by SAPS, the right to bodily autonomy and the impact of the SALRC recommendations on the rights of sex workers.

Facilitator: Mosima Kekana

Mosima Kekana is a young diligent Attorney and activist who is currently employed at the Women’s Legal Centre under the Vulnerable Workers Rights. She has over seven years’ experience in the legal fraternity. She has led various campaign advocating for the descriminalisation of sex work and is currently part of the legal team at Women’s Legal Centre which is litigating with the objective of achieving descriminalisation of sex work.

Panelists:

- **Ishtar Lakhani** – Advocacy and Human Rights Defense Manager at Sex Workers Education & Advocacy Taskforce (Sweat)
- **Marlese Richter** – Head of Policy, Development and Advocacy Unit at Sonke Gender Justice
- **Marion Stevens** - Coordinator: WISH Associates, Chair: Sexual and Reproductive Justice Coalition, and Research Associate: AGI, UCT.

The panel is convened by the Women’s Legal Centre and you can follow this discussion on **#PILG2017** and **#WLCCapeTown**



WOMEN’S LEGAL CENTRE

CAPE TOWN:
7th Floor, Constitution House,
124 Adderley Street, Cape Town, 8001
Tel: +27 (0) 21 424 5660
Fax: +27 (0) 21 424 5206
www.wlce.co.za