

If You Are A Victim of Sexual Violence

The myth that forcing a sex worker to have a sexual relation is not sexual assault, is *false*! If someone forces you to have sexual act without your consent, with or without penetration, this is an act of sexual violence. You have the right to choose. If you do not want the sexual relation, then it is sexual violence.

Sexual violence can have a profound effect on a person's health and well-being. Everyone has their own way of coping with sexual violence, there is no right or wrong way. Its ok to feel a range of emotions. It is important to remember that you are not alone.

The various myths in society and the numerous laws relating to sex trade work can make accessing supportive services difficult. Supportive services should be provided with respect and without discrimination.

The NL Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Centre specializes in helping victims of sexual violence. The NLSACPC offers support and accompaniment to medical, legal and police proceedings. Call the 24 hour Crisis Support and Information Line to speak with a trained crisis line worker or to set up peer support.

NL Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Centre

360 Topsail Road Suite 101

St. John's, NL A1E 2B6

Tel: 709-747-7757

Fax: 709-747-7758

www.EndSexualViolence.com

24-hour, Crisis Support and

Information Line:

Toll Free: 1-800-726-2743

St. John's: 726-1411

Sex Trade Workers and Sexual Violence

24-Hour Crisis Support

& Information Line:

1-800-726-2743

Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Assault
Crisis and Prevention Centre



Sex Trade Workers and Sexual Violence

Sex Trade Workers Face an Increased Risk of Sexual Violence

Street based sex workers are at an increased risk of experiencing:

- Repeat victimization
- Violent sexual assaults
- Kidnapping or confinement

Underage street workers are especially likely to suffer the above crimes due to:

- Inexperience with dangerous situations
- Less willing to report incidents to police
- Perpetrators specifically target underage street workers because of these reasons

Street workers dependant on substances are also at an increased risk of sexual violence. This can be attributed to:

- Workers under the influence may not be able to use good judgment when approaching a client
- As drug prices increase workers must take jobs from risky clients in order to afford them

Escort workers can also be at an increased risk of violence due to the fact that they may have to meet the client at an unfamiliar location.

The Law and Your Rights

You are not a criminal if you are a sex trade worker. In Canada, prostitution is and always has been, legal. However you can be arrested for several aspects of the sex trade.

It is illegal to:

- Operate or be found in a brothel
- Try to influence someone to practice prostitution
- To live off of the gains of prostitution of a person under the age of 18 (either fully or partially).
- Communicate with another person in a public place with the objective of prostitution.
- Commit an indecent act in a public place
- Carry a weapon

So long as the communication of your services is kept private (in a private place or through a private phone or computer) then your work is not considered illegal. However if you have clients come to your home, your house can then be considered a brothel and therefore be illegal.

Strategies Sex Trade Workers May Use to Prevent Violence

- Having someone nearby while working (waiting outside hotel room, etc) can deter a client from being violent.
- Use drivers to ensure safe transportation to the location and a quick get away if it gets dangerous.
- Use “spotters” (a friend or another worker) to observe things like license plate numbers or client description.
- Avoid cars with multiple people in them.
- Check car door handles to ensure that they work.
- All sex trade workers should be conscious of the possibility of sexual violence.
- Cross the street and go in the other direction if you are being followed; this could confuse the pursuer. Avoid going directly home, especially if you live alone.
- Your voice, instincts, and body are all excellent weapons you can use against an attacker. Use your voice! Make a lot of noise! Yell “Fire”!