



**COMMUNISTS SAY:
UNIONISED JOBS FOR
WORKING WOMEN -
NOT PROSTITUTION!**

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As members of the Communist Party we note a fringe meeting held at the TUC titled 'Why the decriminalisation of sex work is a trade union issue' is being held. We believe that the TUC should be advocating for well paid, unionised jobs for women rather than normalising prostitution.

We reject the term 'sex work', there is only prostitution which reduces women and girls to commodities to be sold. The idea of prostitution as 'work' has gained traction across the trade union movement in recent years but there are numerous reasons why this idea is false and misleading;

Exposure to hazards, integral to prostitution, such as bodily fluids, extreme violence and torture means that health and safety controls are impossible in prostitution. The death rate of prostitutes is extremely high and this should never be acceptable as an overhead of employment.

There is no genuine employer/employee relationship in prostitution. Criminal gangs control the activity and prostitution is linked to other forms of criminality such as human trafficking and drug trafficking. There can be no 'sectoral bargaining' with the dangerous and violent criminals who profit from the sex industry.

Those advocating for the decriminalisation of prostitution are calling for existing legal restrictions to be lifted. All of the activities of prostitution that render it hazardous to those selling sex would remain but the men buying sex will be enabled to do so with impunity. Under full decriminalisation prostitution would proliferate as demand would increase and this would have the knock on effect of increasing human trafficking to fill this demand.

Under full decriminalisation more communities would become sink zones filled with crime which happened to Holbeck in Leeds when a so called 'managed prostitution zone' was introduced.

We call on all delegates to support the Nordic model which advocates for the decriminalisation of prostitutes but not, brothel owners, pimps or sex buyers. The model calls for safe, fully funded exit routes out of the sex industry.

Communists call on TUC delegates to think carefully about prostitution and whether it's appropriate for the TUC and affiliated trade unions to promote prostitution as a form of 'work' for women and girls. We ask you to consider the needs of the prostituted women and girls who are never invited onto public platforms and whose voices are not heard in the public domain. And most of all we think it's important for all trade unionists to consider the wider impact of the proposal to fully decriminalise prostitution on the rights of all women and girls and on society as a whole.



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