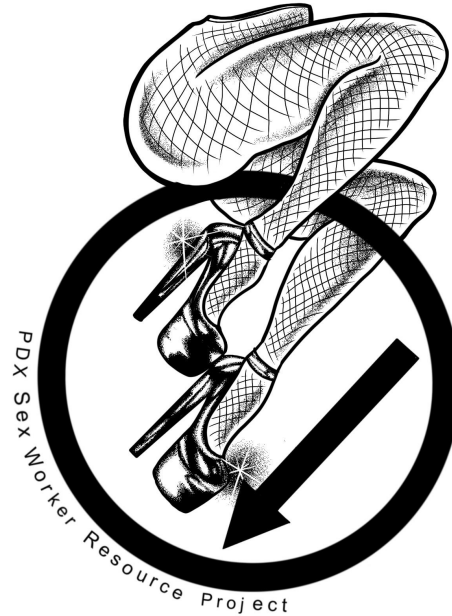

Supporting Survivors at the intersection of Sexual Assault and the Sex Trades

Presented by Saiya White and Kat Salas

Introductions

*Who are we and what is the
Sex Workers Resource Project?*



**WINTERTIME AID FOR
SEX WORKER PARENTS**

AYUDA PARA TRABAJADORES
SEXUAL QUE SON PADRES

Applications are OPEN until 12/14
Aplicaciones ABIERTO hasta 12/14

PDXSWRELIEF.SQUARESPACE.COM | @PDXSWRELIEF

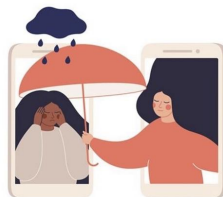
BLOGTOWN

NEWS

Q&A: Founders of the Portland Sex Worker Relief Fund

by [Blair Stenwick](#) • Aug 10, 2020 at 2:07 pm

Like 4 Share Tweet



Free COVID-19 Tests

East County Health Center,
600 NE 8th St. Gresham
Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

PCC Cascade,
705 N Killingsworth St. Portland
Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

IRCO, 10301 NE Glisan St. Portland
Fridays, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Latino Network, 312 SE 165th Ave. Portland
Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Call 503-988-8939 for an appointment.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
of greater portland



Pre order one today

As Bad Whores

ALL SALES = microgrants 4 swers

read the caption for details

MICROGRANT FOR SEX WORKERS WHO ARE IMMIGRANTS REGARDLESS OF STATUS

Microgrant apps are open until 11/4. Apply using the form on our website. Applicants may receive up to* \$300 for COVID-relief related expenses.

*maximum amount not guaranteed.

LINK IN BIO

WILDFIRE RELIEF MICROGRANT FOR OREGON-BASED SEX WORKERS

EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR SHELTER AND EVACUATION

- Motels for air-quality relief (up to \$120)
- Gas assistance (up to \$50)
- Bus or train tickets (up to \$75)
- Other miscellaneous costs to reach or maintain safety from wildfire-related danger (up to \$50)

MICROGRANTS CANNOT EXCEED \$120 PER INDIVIDUAL

Apply via the link in our bio. We are prioritizing BIPOC, families, those who are unsheltered from air conditions, those in evacuation zones, and those with pre-existing respiratory and/or cardiovascular conditions.

@PDXSWRELIEF

MICROGRANTS for BIPOC SEX WORKERS

in Portland

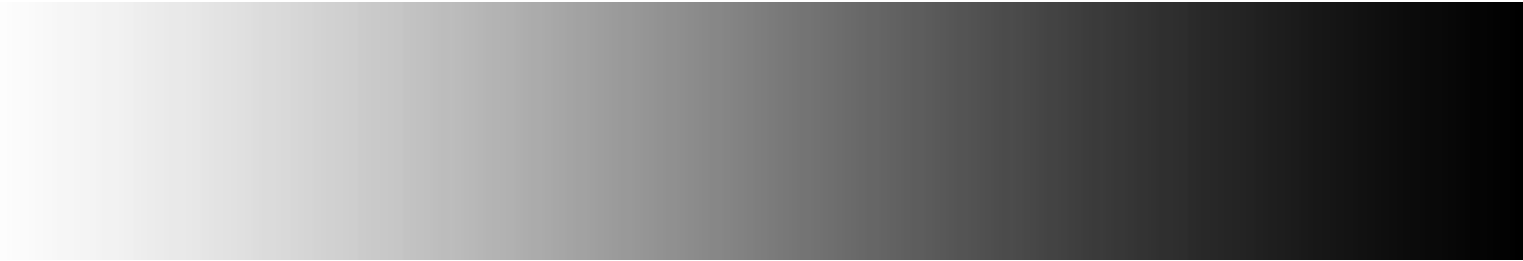
@pdxswrelief | pdxswrelief.squarespace.com

**Over \$45,000.00
distributed in 2020
and hundreds of
individuals served**

What are some facets of the Sex Trades?

Exploitation

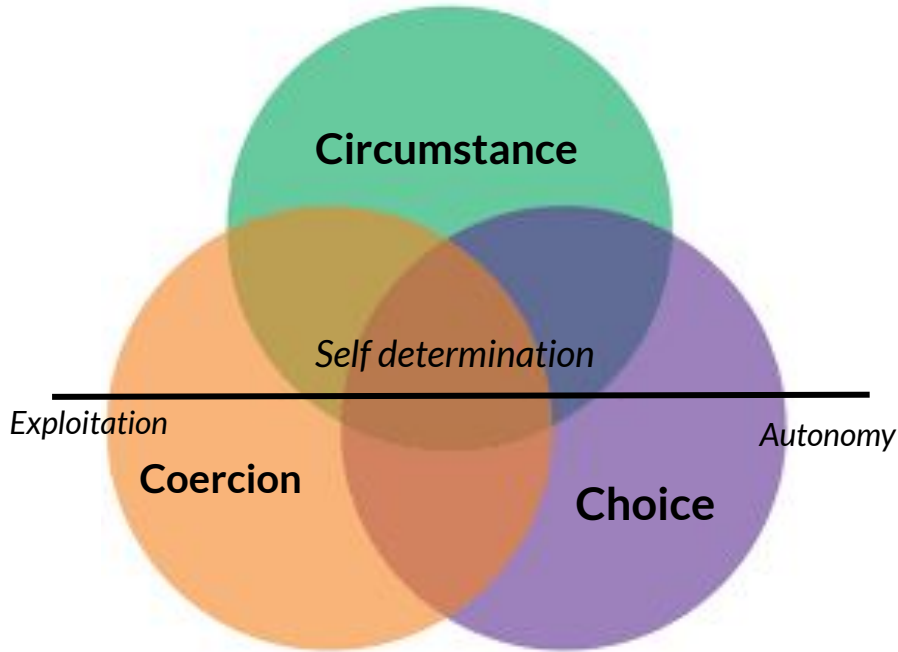
Autonomy



Self Determination

- Sex Work, Sex Trafficking and Survival Sex exist throughout this spectrum as well as what type of Sex Trade one is in

Facets of the Sex Trades, cont.



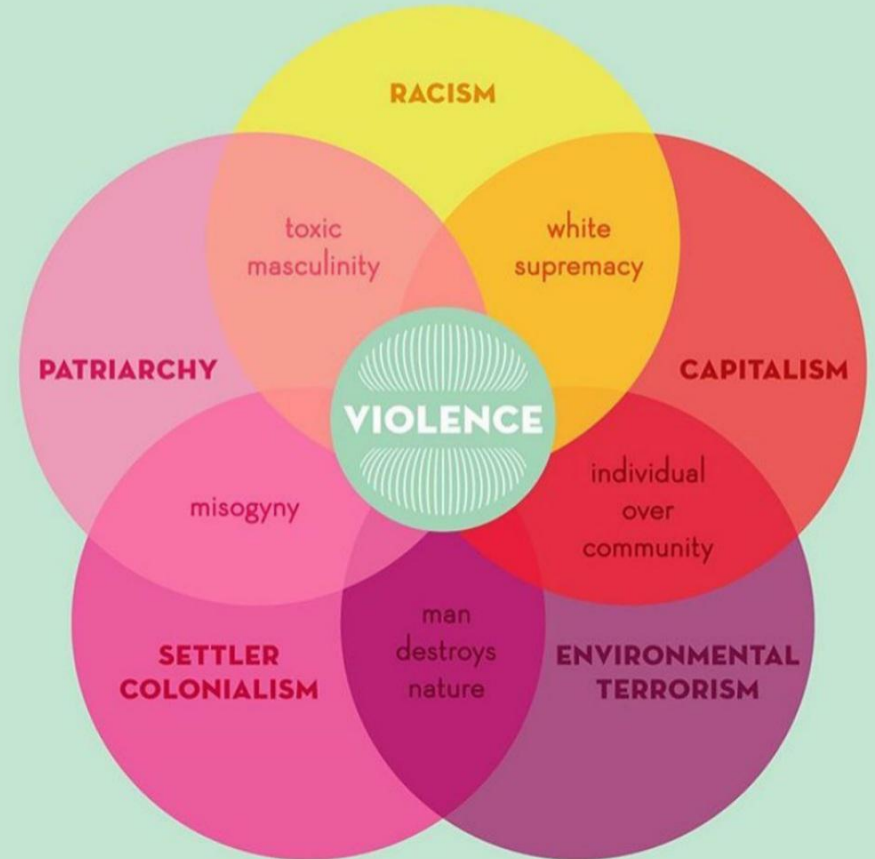
Forms of Trading Sex

- Stripping
- Full Service
- Street based
- Online Advertisement
- Pornography
- Phone Sex Operation
- Erotic and nude massage
- Sugar baby relationships
- Others

Root Causes

- Oppressive structures operating at multiple levels
 - Macro
 - Historical
 - Systems, laws, politics
 - Mezzo
 - Communal
 - Organizational
 - Micro
 - Intra-interpersonal

IT'S ALL CONNECTED



Screening Survivors in the Sex Trades for SA Services

Practice Scenario:

Kim is a Black cis woman who identifies as a sex worker. She says that she was assaulted on a date with a full service client. She is 27 years old and lives with her boyfriend. She is afraid to tell her boyfriend because he thinks she only works in a strip club and doesn't know she does full service. Since this has happened, she hasn't been interested in consensual sex with her boyfriend. He doesn't understand why she isn't interested, and at times has pressured her to have sex when she doesn't want to.

How would you interact with this person as an advocate?

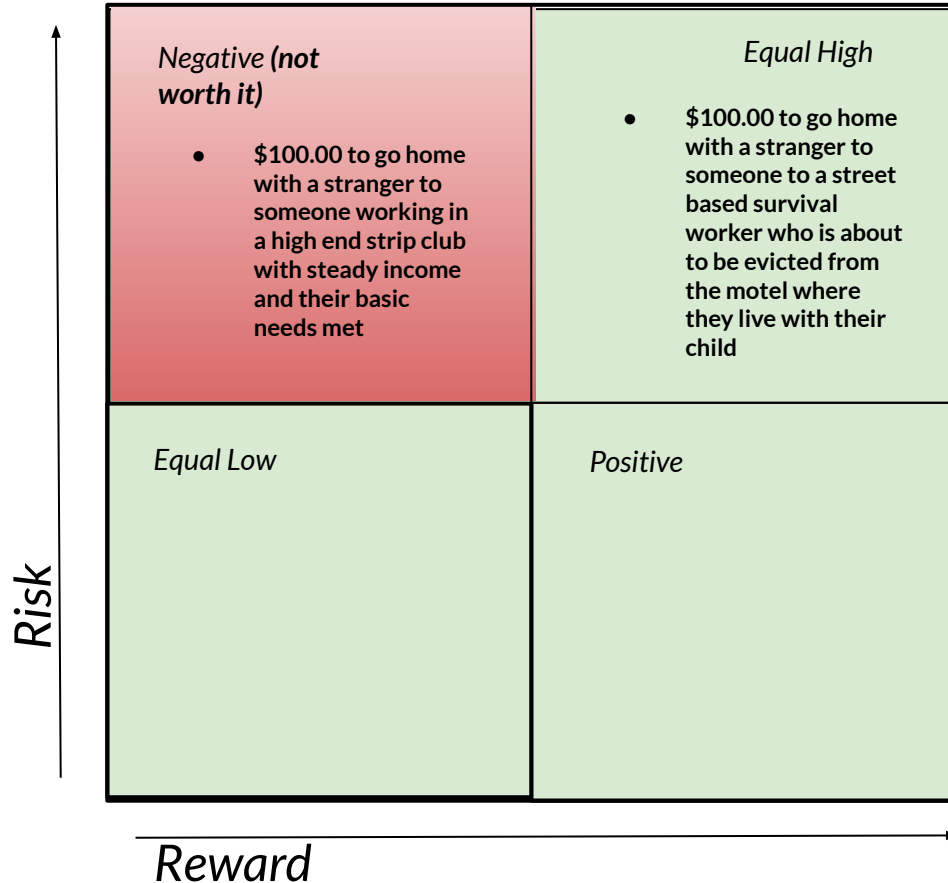
Practice Scenario:

*Kim is a **Black cis woman who identifies as a sex worker**. She says that she was **assaulted on a date with a full service client**. She is **27** years old and lives with her boyfriend. She is **afraid to tell her boyfriend because he thinks she only works in a strip club** and doesn't know she does full service. Since this has happened, she hasn't been interested in consensual sex with her boyfriend. He doesn't understand why she isn't interested, and **at times has pressured her to have sex** when she doesn't want to.*

How would you interact with this person as an advocate?

5 Advocate Agreements for Screening Individuals Trading Sex:

1. I will acknowledge the inherent dynamic of power between advocate and survivor
2. Distrust in the system is valid and understandable
3. I will accept that I may never know the full story
4. Sexual Assault in the Sex Trades may be identified differently
5. Trading Sex is considered a crime no matter how destigmatized some forms might be



Intersect of Capitalism and SA in the Sex Trades

- Reward and risk have different meanings for everyone
- When the “reward” is a resource needed to stay alive or safe the risk may feel equal because of circumstance
- Intersectional factors effect inherent risk, for example Black Trans Women will be risking more in any given situation than Cis White women and compensated less on average
- Folks may not have other options to meet their resource needs
- Examples of risk*

Instead of....

- *“Have you ever been sexually assaulted?”*
 - “Are you a sex worker?”
 - “Are you in the sex trades?”
 - “Are you being trafficked?”
-
- “We can get you into housing”
 - “We’ll get you out of the industry”
 - “We can pay your rent”
 - “We can pay your phone bill”

Try.....

- *“Has anyone ever pressured you to do sexual things that you did not want to do?”*
- “Have you ever traded sex or sexual/intimate services in exchange for money, goods, or a place to stay? Its okay if you’re not sure”
- If yes,
- “Has anyone else ever made you do these things when you didn’t want to?”
- “Has anyone ever hurt you while you were working?”
- “This is something that the program usually offers to participants, is that something that you would be interested in?”
- “I can’t guarantee anything, but we can definitely try to get you into housing. I do know that it is usually a pretty long process, but I am happy to be there with you through it. Let’s see what we can do.”

Practice Scenario 1:

Claire is a 19 year old white Trans woman. She is trying to access services because she was physically assaulted by someone she had met that night. After de-escalating, she discloses that the perpetrator was a man she had met and offered her money to come back to his hotel. She declines a police report and a SAVA advocate. She is frustrated because this man owes her money, and the only reason she agreed to this date was because she was short on rent and needs to pay off a debt to someone. She doesn't disclose who she owes money to, but is evasive when you ask. How would you support this person?

Practice Scenario 1:

*Claire is a **19 year old white Trans woman**. She is trying to access services because she was physically assaulted by someone she had met that night. After de-escalating, she discloses that the perpetrator was a man she had met and **offered her money to come back to his hotel**. She declines a police report and a SAVA advocate. She is frustrated because this man owes her money, and **the only reason she agreed to this date was because she was short on rent and needs to pay off a debt to someone**. She doesn't disclose who she owes money to, but **is evasive when you ask**. How would you support this person?*

Practice Scenario 2:

A person calls and says they need help. They met a date online, and when they went to his home, he tried to pressure them into things that they had not agreed upon. They are very scared, and went outside to smoke, but called to see if they could get a motel. They have nowhere else to stay tonight, but they decline to share their name or age. They keep asking for help but will not give any other information about themselves, and state they do not have an ID. How do you support this survivor?

Practice Scenario 2:

A person calls and says they need help. They met a date online, and when they went to his home, he tried to pressure them into things that they had not agreed upon. They are very scared, and went outside to smoke, but called to see if they could get a motel. They have nowhere else to stay tonight, but they decline to share their name or age. They keep asking for help but will not give any other information about themselves, and state they do not have an ID.

How do you support this survivor?

Safety Planning for Survivors in the Sex Trades

Considerations when Safety Planning:

- Survivors are the experts in their own experiences
- Not always one abuser/assailant
- Lack of support after a traumatic experience may destabilize survivor, limiting resources, and putting them back in a high risk situation.
- SW has the highest rate of workplace SA. Leaving isn't always the best option. We can support people by meeting them where they are at and focusing on creating stability around their current situation.

Ask yourself

Can I supply the
needed resource
if this person
leaves?

What generalizations
might I be making
about this person
experience and how
can I check those?

Am I focused on
the incident or
the industry?

Quotes for illustration purposes only

Practice Scenario 1:

Someone calls and identifies as being a 45 year old houseless Black Trans woman. She has been staying on a friend's couch for about a month. While she has been staying there, he has demanded sexual services every other night and recently has become violent during these encounters. She wants to leave, but has nowhere else to go. She discloses that there is someone looking for her with intent to harm her who has found her at shelters before, therefore shelter is not an option. At this time, there are no motel voucher funds available at any community based orgs. She has family in Eugene, but they do not know that she is Trans and she cannot be out with them. They know her to be a gay "man", and have been vocally disapproving of her "lifestyle".

How would you safety plan with this person?

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How would you safety plan with this person?

Practice Scenario 2:

You have been working with a survivor for about a month. A couple weeks after they were entered into services, they admit themselves into a hospital for SA. You go to visit them and ask who hurt them, upon arriving it is clear they have bruises on their throat and scratch marks on their face and shoulders. They tell you that they met a date online, who was an angel sent from God. They detail their experience with the angel. They say the assault occurred in an elevator, but later they describe it happening in a stairway. You ask if they want to make a report, but they decline. They also say God has been texting them and telling them that if they tell anyone what happened they will go to hell. They then show you their cell phone with multiple missed calls and texts from an unknown number and says they are scared because God knows where they are. How would you safety plan with this person?

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Thank you!

Questions?
