



# ALL INDIA NETWORK OF SEX WORKERS

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★ *We Demand Workers Right* ★

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## Include Sex Worker's Demands in Election Manifesto

There are 5 Million Sex Workers who are Citizen of our country. They have opted sex work as their livelihood option. It's very important to recognize that they are head of their women headed families and support living of around twenty million dependants. They choose this occupation out of limited choices but without being forced into the sex work. These 5 Million Population of our Country demands better support system from the Government so that they can live with dignity without stigma oppression, and police harassment. Sex Workers are fighting for their basic rights since last couple of years under the leadership of AINSW (All India Network of Sex Workers). This Year we will cast our vote to elect our Policy makers in the Parliament. To make our voices heard by the aspirant candidates who are expected to protect our basic human rights and dignity when they get elected by the voters which include us. If we do not get assurance from your end we will have no other option but to select **NOTA** while voting. Here is our demands, we urge you to considered and publish in your manifesto.

**Access to basic services:** Children of Sex Workers do face discrimination in accessing admission in schools and other institutions, in addition to career building opportunities. This has created an obstacle for them to be part of the mainstream society. Children of Sex Workers unable to get Equal Opportunities in development program. Therefore, Political Parties, Ministers, Policy makers should ensure that Sex Workers and their family members should not face any kind of discrimination in accessing any Public Welfare Services or we urge you to set up complaint redressal system to ensure justice for all of us.

**Pension at the age of 45 Years:** Pension always supports one who are incapable to work in old age or are disable and lack of support. At the age of 45 years both female and transgender sex workers won't be able to work due to their nature of work and work profile so we demand inclusion of pension provision for sex workers.

**Participation in Policymaking and its implementation of program:** We are living in the world's biggest Democracy where people's mandate always receive due importance to run and develop policies and program of development for of the country. This is more so important for us as we live in the margins of the society. We demand our due representative in policy making bodies of the Government and while parliament brings legislation pertaining to our life and occupation. We are seeking representation and participation in various committees at National, State, District and at Taluka level focusing Health, Social welfare, Women and child development program and in Education etc what has bearing to the life's of poor's and marginalized communities like us. We want to contribute our effort to build better society and a strong country in line with our past legacy where we lend our support to freedom movement in India and put ours effort to help rehabilitation of affected communities due to natural disaster and other calamities.

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**Address Legal hurdles and repeal clauses of ITPA:** There are several challenges in our work like any other work but we are made incapable to deal with those as obstacles are created by several clauses of ITPA. Police often harass sex workers, send us behind the bars or put us in horrible Shelter Homes against our will. They are several clauses in the act what empower police to harass on the ground of 'Soliciting' clients, remove us forcefully from the brothels even living on our earnings is prohibited for our kids. Moreover, local goons with the tacit support from the police extort us not necessarily following the book of law but detained us as many of them consider sex workers are bad and immoral women.

**Fully Reorganization of SRB:** Sex Worker's led Self-Regulatory Board is proved to be the best tool to prevent human trafficking in sex work. Women in Sex Work developed this model in various Indian states to stop entry of minor and trafficked women into sex work. SRB is constituted with the representatives of sex workers, trafficked survivors Doctor, Social Activist and Legal Expert. This Board assess woman coming in this profession whether she is willing or not. If she is forced against her will or she proved to be a minor, SRB sent them back to home, or to CWC, Govt. Institutions with proper connection with Police. Supreme Court Constituted panel also suggested that like SRB model it could be replicated in all major cities in India.

**Sex Work is Work:** There is no hidden truth to accept the fact that large number of women in sex work and transgender adopted this profession as their livelihood option. They are breadwinner for their families. They use their earning to feed their family, spend money for quality education for their children, ensure better health facilities for their aged parents etc. Moreover, they are their own boss in this profession. Like any other worker, they got tired, invest their blood and sweat to built better future for their extended families. Therefore, we demand reorganization of sex work as work and include Sex Work in the work scheduler of the Labor ministry and provide us all facilities and entitlements like a Labor without stigma and discrimination.

**De-criminalize Sex Work:** There are lots of research findings and personal experiences tell the truth that criminalization of sex work make sex workers more vulnerable to HIV, violence etc, push them to live in dangerous situation. Even more, there are many observations by Courts, who suggested to consider sex work as legal profession or to decriminalize sex work. The Supreme Court constituted panel has put several recommendation to charge the existing clauses of the ITPA act to make our life and occupation relatively better and safer. We urge you to consider those recommendations put under chapter 4 in the report to help regain our rights and dignity. (Ref)

- **REPORT OF THE PANEL APPOINTED BY THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA IN *BUDHADEV KARMASKAR V. STATE OF WEST BENGAL* (CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. 135 OF 2010)**

Thanks & Regards



Kusum, President, AINSW