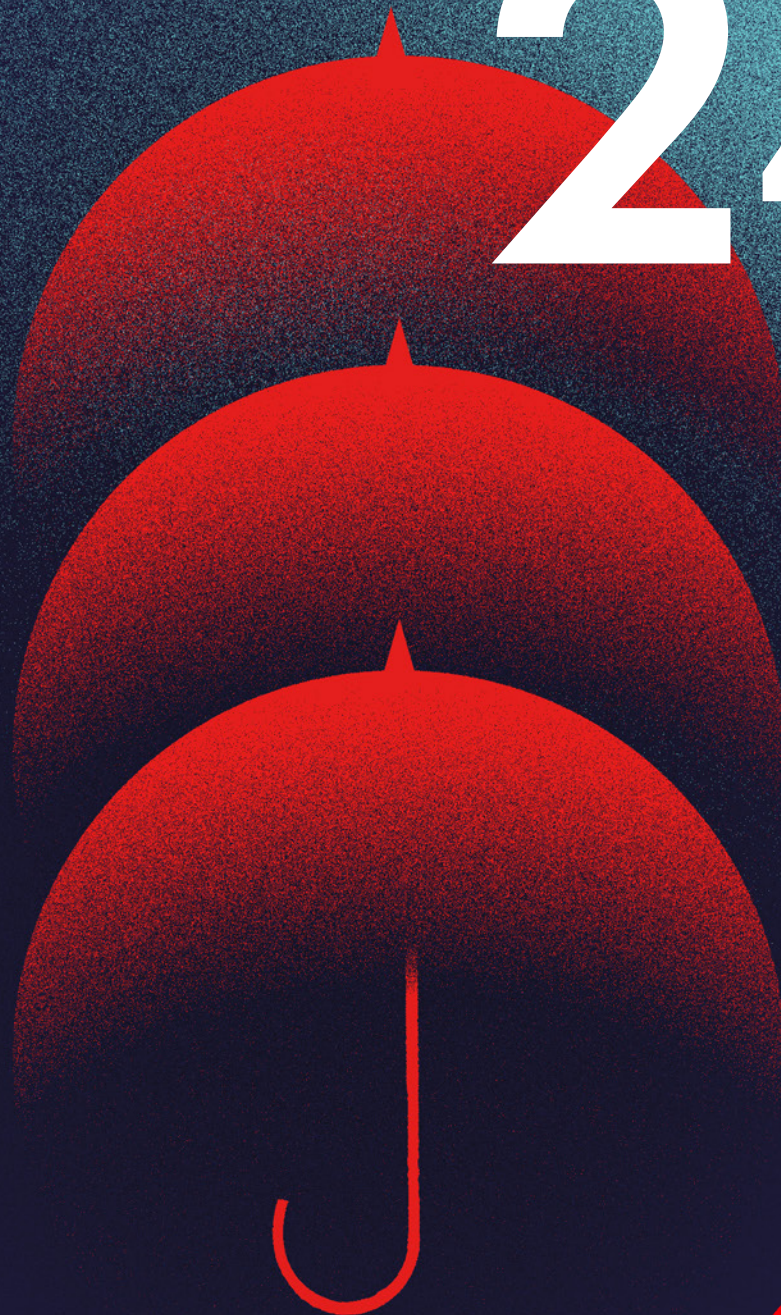


ANNUAL REPORT

20
24



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's been quite a year for the ESWA team. One with wins to celebrate and challenges that have tested our resilience. We stood our ground. As I look back on 2024, I find myself both incredibly proud of what we've accomplished — and fiercely determined to do more.

The European Courts of Human Rights (ECHR) ruling in [M.A. and Others v. France](#) hit us hard. Watching the French law stand, despite clear evidence of harm, was heartbreaking. But even on this difficult day, our community rallied. We organised [press conferences](#), marched and protested — making it crystal clear that sex workers will not be silenced or pushed aside.

This year, we've been busy launching our SPARK fellowships, hosting our [Digital Rights Convening](#), getting sex work discussed by EU Justice Ministers (a first!), and taking our advocacy all the way to the United Nations. Because sex worker rights are human rights. And yet we are denied them.

For those that question us, our research [Exposed from All Sides](#) paints a stark and difficult picture of the realities our community face. Confirming what we long suspected, data shows that as many as 3 in 4 sex workers have experienced violence at the hands of the police. These aren't just statistics. They are our community members, our friends, our colleagues. And it is their stories that fuel our fight for change.

You can too.

Let me be straightforward: sex worker-led organisations like ours desperately need more financial support. With far-right politics on the rise and continued attacks on bodily autonomy, our work isn't just important. It's essential. Yet

groups claiming to speak for us — and who do so without our involvement — receive far more than community-led organisations like ESWA.

When you fund initiatives like ours, your support becomes a real tool for change. It powers our capacity-building work and makes initiatives like our SPARK fellowships, CoRE programme, and digital rights workshops possible. It also strengthens our community's ability to advocate for themselves, and enables us to build the evidence we need to take our fight all the way to the European Union and United Nations.

Most importantly, your support means we can create spaces where sex workers can share knowledge, build skills and develop strategies that are rooted in direct, lived experience.

This isn't abstract work. It is practical, effective community action led by those who know best what changes are needed the most.

Together we are a force to be reckoned with.
¡Trabajo sexual es trabajo!

SABRINA SANCHEZ

Executive Director

WE ARE THE EUROPEAN SEX WORKERS' RIGHTS ALLIANCE (ESWA)

ESWA is a sex worker-led network representing 116 organisations in 30 countries across Europe and Central Asia.

Launched in 2005 against a backdrop of increasingly regressive policies and legislation, **our vision is of a world where sex work is recognised as work and where sex workers**

can live their lives free from violence, coercion, discrimination and exploitation. To realise this, we are on a mission to build a network of member organisations and allies united in the fight for sex worker rights — advocating for the development of laws, policies and practices that respect and protect the human, health and labour rights of our community.

OUR APPROACH



Strategic objectives

Rights-based legal reform

Social and labour protections

Improved health outcomes

Protecting digital rights

Access to justice

Thematic priorities

Improving outcomes for migrant and racialised sex workers

Fighting for gender equality to secure the rights of women's and LGBTI+ people

OUR FOUNDING VALUES

We recognise sex work as work

We support self-determination & organisation

We oppose the criminalisation & legal oppression of sex work

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

€520.000 raised to mobilise the right for sex worker rights.



116 MEMBER ORGANISATIONS represented from 30 countries.

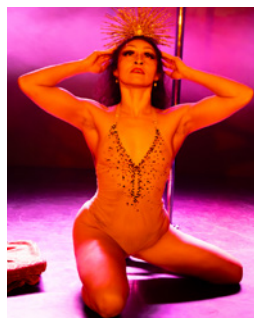
SEX WORKERS STAND TOGETHER TO PROTEST THE DECISION OF THE ECHR and advocate for the protection of our basic human rights.



EXPOSED FROM ALL SIDES our landmark report on sex workers' experience of the justice system is published.

50+ SEX WORKERS join our 3-day digital rights convening to help build the skills and insights they need to protect their rights online.

EU MINISTERS OF JUSTICE DISCUSS SEX WORK FOR THE FIRST TIME during Belgium's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



ESWA TAKES ITS FIGHT ALL THE WAY TO THE UNITED NATIONS.



ESWA TURNS ITS FOCUS AWAY FROM "X" AND FACEBOOK with growing anti-rights movements prompting us to prioritise growth on Bluesky, Instagram and LinkedIn.

SHIFTING SANDS? AN UPDATE ON MAJOR POLITICAL CHANGES

Sex workers are a globally criminalised, stigmatised and marginalised group. While recent years have seen some progress, the rise of far-right movements is fuelling a dangerous shift towards the criminalisation of those who purchase sex — an approach first introduced in Sweden in 1999 and commonly referred to as the “Swedish” model.

These movements have made the political landscape volatile and unpredictable. The section below highlights some of the more significant shifts of 2024.

THE ECHR REMAINS SILENT ON THE ISSUE OF SEX WORKER RIGHTS

In 2019, a group of 261 sex workers took their case against the French Prostitution Act to the ECHR. A formal challenge to the widespread adoption of the Nordic model, the ECHR recognised the risks of this approach and ruled the case ([M.A. and Others v. France](#)) “Admissible”.

While this in itself is a major achievement, on 25 July 2024 the ECHR ruled in favour of the defendants. While the Court recognises the difficulties and risks to which sex workers are exposed, it concluded that France had struck a fair balance between competing interests, and no explicit violation of human rights was found.

In short: the French law has been allowed to stand.

→ Read the full ruling online [here](#).

OUR RESPONSE

ESWA is deeply disappointed by this decision. Standing in solidarity with nine other organisations, we issued a [joint statement](#) highlighting the dangers of this ruling and calling for the full decriminalisation of sex work.

With the verdict announced during the [25th Annual AIDS Conference](#) in Munich, we used this moment to co-host a [press conference](#) challenging the decision. The event sparked a wave of outrage that led to a full protest march — with participants storming the conference to confront key players in the global HIV response, including PEPFAR, who are infamous for their unconstitutional anti-prostitution pledge.



ESWA doesn't stand alone in its outrage, and we would like to thank Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng (UN Special Rapporteur), Duduzile Dlamini (SWEAT) and Sandra Wesley (Stella, l'amie de Maimie) for joining our fight and standing up to advocate sex worker rights. Together with our members, supporters and allies, we stand united and strengthened in our resolve to fight for our rights.

→ Watch the full press conference on our [YouTube channel](#).

→ Read the [Press Release](#) in full.



With this ruling, these judges have their hands stained with the blood of people like Vanessa Campos and Jessica Sarmiento, Peruvian trans women sex workers murdered at Bois de Boulogne...

Sabrina Sanchez, Executive Director, ESWA

A SPOTLIGHT ON THE EU ELECTIONS

The system may be deeply flawed, but the fact remains that the last European Parliament and their "Union of Equality" laid the groundwork for important progress in equality and anti-discrimination efforts. It must continue. As the risk of far-right nationalism rises, the EU elections marked a critical juncture in the fight for sex worker rights — with the new Parliament holding the keys to protect sex workers from violence, exploitation and discrimination.

To keep momentum going, ESWA published an [EU Election Manifesto](#) and encouraged MEPs to endorse our cause on video as part of a unified call to support sex workers' self-determination and recognise sex work as work. As leaders came together to set their priorities for the coming

term, ESWA joined more than 130 civil society organisations in signing a [joint statement](#) calling on the Parliament to prioritise equality and non-discrimination.

BELGIUM BECOMES PIONEERS OF SEX WORKER RIGHTS

While the following news doesn't link directly to ESWA's work, we couldn't let this moment pass without recognising recent advances made by the Belgian government. Two years ago, the country moved to formally recognise sex work as a legal form of employment. On 3 May 2024, Parliament took this one step further and passed [a labour law](#) that allows sex workers to be employed under formal contracts — a move that grants access to social security benefits including pensions, unemployment support, health insurance, paid vacation and maternity leave.

In these turbulent times, ESWA would like to congratulate Belgium for having the courage to pioneer the decriminalisation of sex work. We hope that others will follow suit.

THE "SWEDISH" MODEL EXPLAINED

The Swedish model of sex work is designed to criminalise the buying of sex but not the selling of it. While the aim is to protect sex workers from punishment, the approach has been widely discredited, with research showing that any form of criminalisation works to stigmatise sex work — pushing it underground, forcing sex workers to take unnecessary risks, and violating their basic human rights.

OUR YEAR: CAPACITY BUILDING

“Nothing about us without us.” That’s our mantra. But representation isn’t enough. Real impact requires strong, well-supported groups with the power to shape their own future.

Capacity building is an essential part of this. By working directly with member groups we can

empower activists, networks and movements to develop the skills, knowledge and expertise they need — not only to ensure that sex workers have a seat at the table but to challenge injustice, claim their rights and drive long-term change.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024

LIGHTING THE SPARK THAT DRIVES ACTION

In August, ESWA announced the launch of its new [SPARK fellowship programme](#) (Sex Worker Policy Advancement and Research Knowledge). The initiative aims to support sex workers who face multiple forms of discrimination by providing online training to cover issues linked to national and EU-policy making and sex worker rights.

The programme started on 30 October, with 10 sex workers selected for fellowships. As well as online training, fellows were invited to attend the [European Harm Reduction Conference](#) in Warsaw and join a two-day convening to share knowledge and experiences and receive in-depth capacity building from policy experts. Fellows were also invited to attend the launch of our new report [Exposed from All Sides](#) at the European Parliament (see [p.14](#) for more details).

A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO END INEQUALITIES (CORE)

In 2023 ESWA launch a 36-month EU Action Grant to reduce inequalities in HIV, TB and viral hepatitis services. As part of this, we are working to:

- Build the capacity of 24 community-led and community-based organisations
- Strengthen links to essential healthcare services
- Support knowledge exchange and dialogue
- Address the policy, legal and structural barriers that limit access to care.

To deliver on the above, the last 12 months have seen ESWA deliver a series of capacity-building workshops on critical themes including *Language and Stigma* and *Advocacy and Strategies that Build Collective Power*. We are also proud to support conversations and action planning that help close the gap in access to key HIV services.

A ROUNDTABLE TO MAKE SURE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

On World AIDS day, ESWA participated in a [national and regional roundtable](#) ahead of the [Harm Reduction Conference](#) in Warsaw.

Bringing together policymakers, healthcare professionals, community leaders, civil society organisations and international partners, the discussion focused on the “5-5-5” concept (which addresses those left behind by the UNAIDS “95-95-95” targets for HIV/AIDS) and aimed to build consensus on the actions needed in Poland and across the EU to achieve these goals.

This initiative was organised by the European AIDS Treatment Group, Correlation-European Harm Reduction Network and Fundacja Edukacji Społecznej and forms part of the broader [CoRE programme](#).

CONVENING TO PROMOTE DIGITAL RIGHTS FOR ALL

From 4–6 April, ESWA hosted a three-day convening on [Sex Work, Technology and Human Rights](#). The event brought together more than 50 sex workers and digital rights activists to share experiences, learn from one another and network. Workshops — a number of which were facilitated by external experts — aimed to strengthen cross-movement coalitions while building capacity, skills and knowledge on issues including:

- Digital rights and online safety
- Confidentiality and data protection
- Using digital platforms
- The impact of intimate image abuse
- Advocacy and resistance strategies against surveillance and digital discrimination.

SEX WORK & TECH TAROT CARDS

The convening also created the opportunity to launch a new educational resource: [Sex Work & Tech Tarot Cards](#)! These beautifully designed cards highlight sex workers' challenges in digital spaces, with the reverse side featuring descriptions, resistance strategies, and a QR code for additional resources.



STANDING UNITED AT THE 25TH INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

This year's [Annual AIDS Conference](#) was hosted in Munich and saw ESWA co-create a dedicated [Sex Worker Networking Zone](#). Run under the motto *Let Sex Workers Lead*, the zone ran throughout the week and gave delegates the chance to attend a variety of talks, artistic performances, screenings and discussions. This included a dedicated session co-hosted by UN Special Rapporteur Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng in partnership with the Global Network of Sex Work Projects and the Sexual Rights Initiative on *Decriminalising Sex Work*.



WELCOMING THE SWISS COALITION FOR SEX WORKERS' RIGHTS

Inspired by the European Coalition on Sex Workers Rights and Inclusion, the Swiss Coalition for Sex Workers' Rights was officially launched in June 2024. A bold move bringing 12 Swiss rights-based organisations together, we are proud to see ESWA member [ProCoRe](#) at forefront of this new coalition.

OUR YEAR: ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNING

We will not be silenced. As the political landscape shifts and far-right movements gain traction, this past year has seen the ESWA team double down on its

Advocacy & Campaigns work — taking the fight for sex worker rights all the way to the European Union, “Council of Europe” and United Nations.

PART 1: NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ADVOCACY

The following section spotlights highlights from our advocacy work in individual countries and at the European and EU level. Activities are grouped by strategic priority area.

FIGHTING FOR RIGHTS-BASED LEGAL REFORM

CONTINUED DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2023, ESWA contributed to initiatives aimed at helping Dunja Mijatović, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, shape her scope of work. The partnership continued into the new year, with the Commissioner issuing a final statement [Protecting the Human Rights of Sex Workers](#), as her term concluded in March.

Despite some backlash, her statement carries significant political weight and reinforces the need to prioritise the rights, safety, and dignity of sex workers.



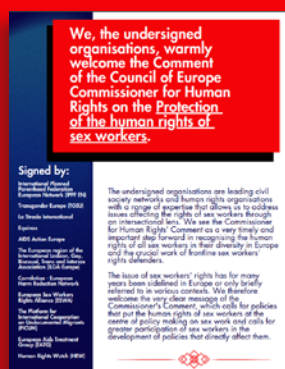
I call for an approach to sex work that is firmly based on human rights and focuses on the effective protection of sex workers' rights, prioritising their safety, agency and bodily autonomy over stereotypes and misconceptions.

Commissioner Dunja Mijatović

EU MINISTERS OF JUSTICE DISCUSS SEX WORK FOR THE FIRST TIME

On 26 January, Belgian Justice Minister Paul Van Tigchelt met with the Justice Ministers of all 27 EU Member States during Belgium's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In an unprecedented move, Minister Van Tigchelt [tabled the issue of sex work](#) — the first time this contentious topic has been raised at such a high-level meeting.

ESWA Policy Officer Irena Ferčíková Konečná was invited to open the discussion. While Minister Van Tigchelt made it clear that “today we will agree to disagree”, the conversation marks an important first step in this new and ongoing debate.



→ Read ESWA's formal [Statement of Support](#) [here](#).



CHALLENGING THE MOVE TO CRIMINALISE SEX WORK IN GERMANY

Sex work has been legal in Germany since 2002. However, on 23 September the German CDU-CSU parliamentary group presented a proposal at the Bundestag calling for an “end to the inhumane conditions of prostitution — punish the purchase of sexual services”. In response, ESWA submitted [formal feedback](#) highlighting the harms of a Nordic approach and offering 11 recommendations for action.

STANDING STRONG AGAINST AN ANTI-RIGHTS LOBBY AT PACE

On 3 October, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) gathered to vote on a new resolution to protect the human rights of sex workers. Unfortunately, what began as a promising step towards recognising and affirming sex worker rights was disrupted by intense anti-rights lobbying and a call to introduce a series of damaging amendments.

Thanks to the interventions and efforts of civil society groups, including ESWA, by the time it came for PACE members to vote, the majority of proposed amendments were rejected. However, the level of controversy surrounding the resolution saw it sent back to the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination for review. As a result of this process, the Committee has decided not to advance the project further. The final document will remain as a Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination report, which, while useful, lacks the political authority of a full resolution.

PROMOTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

STANDING UP FOR VICTIMS' RIGHTS

In June, the Council of the European Union adopted its position on the Commission's proposal to revise the [Victims' Rights Directive](#). While the European Parliament position marks an important step forward, the final Council output is lacking in resolve. States showed little willingness to commit to proposed amendments — rejecting or diluting the Commission's proposals, and turning obligations into options. In response, ESWA joined 50 other organisations in signing a [statement](#) urging States to strengthen their commitment to victims' rights.

As a member of the EU Victims' Rights Platform, ESWA's Senior Policy Officer, Irena Ferčíková Konečná, was invited to attend their ad hoc meeting discussions. The purpose of these events was to discuss the process for revising the Directive, as well as reflecting on the situation for victims facing intersectional discrimination, such as sex workers.

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR MIGRANT AND RACIALISED SEX WORKERS

PUSHING BACK AGAINST THE EU MIGRATION AND ASYLUM PACT

On 10 April, the European Parliament adopted a new [Pact on Migration and Asylum](#). Despite repeated warnings from rights-based organisations, including the Pact is set to normalise the arbitrary use of immigration detention, increase racial profiling, use “crisis” procedures to enable pushbacks, and return individuals to so-called “safe third countries” where they are at risk of violence, torture and arbitrary imprisonment.



→ Download our [Letter of Support](#) urging members of PACE to vote in favour of the resolution.

ESWA joined the #ProtectNotSurveil Coalition in [signing a joint statement](#) opposing the Pact and advocating for a world where people can seek safety and opportunity free from harm, surveillance and discrimination.

STANDING UP FOR THE RIGHTS OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS

On 23 April, the EU Parliament adopted the final text of the recast of the [EU Anti-trafficking Directive](#). The move follows a series of triologue negotiations designed to stop the Directive calling for the mandatory criminalisation of the “knowing use” of victims of trafficking by conflating it with criminalising purchase of sex services. While negotiations made some progress, recital text includes the statement “Member states may criminalise the purchase of sexual acts in their national law.”

This doesn’t just contradict the aim of the recital and Directive — as the only international legal instrument addressing anti-trafficking, it sets a concerning precedent that could endorse a Nordic approach to sex work.

ESWA published a [joint statement](#) in response to April’s announcement, calling for the Directive to adopt stronger measures that better protect the rights of trafficked persons.

SHARING SEX WORKER PERSPECTIVES WITH THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

September saw the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security organise an [international conference](#) on sex work policy, empowering sex workers and combatting human trafficking. While the first day was reserved for government representatives, the second sought to include participants from civil society and sex worker-led organisations — creating an important opportunity to share perspectives and reinforce the critical role of sex workers in anti-trafficking efforts.

FIGHTING FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND LGBTI PEOPLE

STANDING TOGETHER TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On 7 May the Council of the EU officially adopted the EU Directive on [Combating violence against women and domestic violence](#). While the Directive — which includes measures on prevention, protection, victim support, access to justice and the prosecution of perpetrators — is a much-welcomed move, its development has been problematic. ESWA and other rights-based organisations joined forces to maintain its integrity and make sure that proposals were rights-based and inclusive.

Despite our best efforts, we are sad to see that a consent-based definition of rape has not been included and that text pertaining to intersectionality and gender is extremely limited. However, in its move to advance the broader protections available for victims, the Directive should be recognised as notable a step forward to broader victims’ rights.



→ Read [our reaction](#) in full [here](#).

ADVOCATING WOMEN’S RIGHTS WITHIN EU DEVELOPMENTS

As part of their priorities for the upcoming term, the EU has committed to developing a new [Roadmap for Women’s Rights](#). To support this process, ESWA joined representatives from across the EU to prepare and sign “[Our Collective Vision for Gender Equality in the EU](#)”. Published in December, the document calls for the EU to take practical steps towards a Union where gender equality is a lived reality for all.

PART 2: ESWA ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Highlights from our global advocacy work include:

INPUT INTO UN-LEVEL REPORTING ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

In January 2024, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls, Ms Reem Alsalem, called for input on a [new report](#) examining the link between prostitution and violence against women and girls.

Given Ms Alsalem's [controversial position](#) on the case of Others vs. France, we felt it imperative to [share our insights](#) and urge the UN to adopt an intersectional, feminist and rights-based approach — one that calls for decriminalisation of sex work and the inclusion of sex workers in policy development.

While many of the submissions were published on the mandate holders' websites, ESWA's and other sex workers' submissions were ignored — with Ms Alsalem choosing not to publish them on the UN Special Procedures websites. In response, ESWA coordinated the European statements for an [Alternative Repository of Submissions](#). These entries join collections from Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Caribbean — a damning representation of the voices Ms Alsalem tried to silence.

Despite our efforts, many submissions (including ESWA's) continue to be excluded. The resulting report remains highly problematic in that it continues to equate sex work with gender-based violence and endorse the criminalisation of those who purchase sex.

TAKING OUR FIGHT TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

In response to the above report, our Executive Director, Sabrina Sanchez, travelled to Geneva to attend the [56th session of the UN Human Rights Council](#). She was joined by sex workers, allies and activists from around the world, all advocating for the recognition of sex work as work.

As part of this, Sabrina was invited to deliver a [speech](#) condemning the Nordic model of sex work and the harm caused by criminalising the purchase of sex, stating that "Sex workers need legal tools to defend ourselves, not more criminalisation of our lives." She also joined a side event, *Decriminalising Sex Work: A Human Rights Imperative*, and a protest under the banner "Bodily Autonomy for All".



It was incredible. The Special Rapporteur passed our rally on her way out of the UN building, so we know that she heard our chants!

Sabrina Sanchez, Director, ESWA

In addition to the above, this year also saw ESWA:

ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE AT THE UN COMMISSION FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Executive Director Sabrina Sanchez attended the 68th Committee for the Status of Women at the UN Headquarters in New York and joined a side event *Strengthening Economic Empowerment for Sex Workers* led by the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP).

JOIN A PRESTIGIOUS UN PANEL DISCUSSION

In October, ESWA was invited to join the panel discussion *Holding the Line: Feminist Action for Freedom and Rights*, organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and UN Women. This online event focused on safeguarding civic space and protecting women's rights and gender equality amid rising anti-rights movements.

→ Please see [p.17](#) for more details on events and publications.

OUR YEAR: RESEARCH & EVIDENCE BUILDING

To influence policy, you must do more than make your case. You must prove it. That's why ESWA is committed not just to research and evidence building but to pioneering sex worker-led projects that draw on community insights, experience and expertise.

It is through these efforts that we can start to dismantle harmful narratives and push for policies that reflect and respect the lived experiences of sex workers themselves.

SPOTLIGHT: EXPOSED FROM ALL SIDES

Last year saw ESWA complete its ground-breaking research project, [Exposed from All Sides: The Role of Policing in Sex Workers' Access to Justice](#). Designed and conducted by sex workers, the study includes over 200 interviews across 11 countries and is the largest sex worker-led research ever conducted in Europe.

Findings show that sex workers in Europe face significant barriers when accessing justice, both as victims of crime and as targets of law enforcement. This is not just a case of a few bad apples. The whole system is rotten — with data exposing widespread corruption, brutality, discrimination and abuse of power within the system. The impact is particularly severe for marginalised sex workers, including migrants, trans and queer individuals, outdoor workers and people who use drugs.



The police force is the last place I would seek for truth, justice, or security.

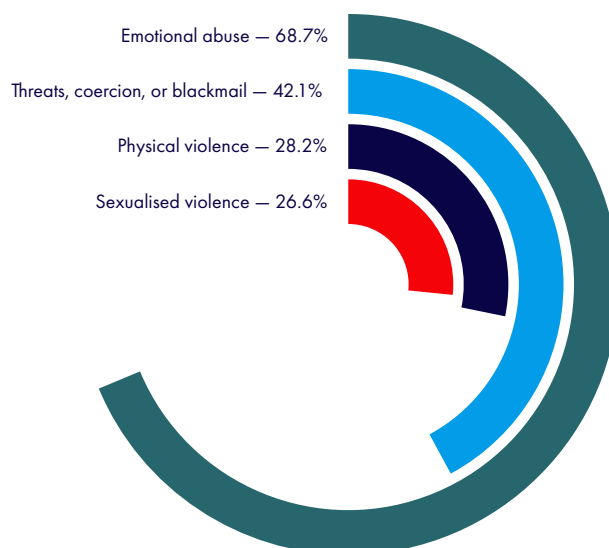
Rosa, Poland

Of the participants interviewed:

76.8% experienced police violence
71.8% reported discriminatory treatment
39.2% experienced sexual interactions with police officers, either as clients or perpetrators of abuse.

POLICE VIOLENCE AGAINST SEX WORKERS

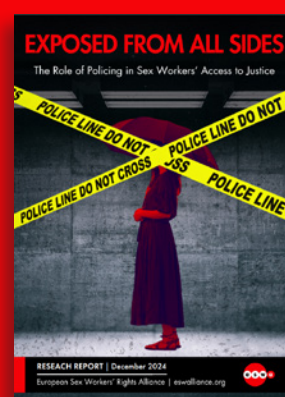
When answer is YES



Fewer than 1 in 2 sex workers said they would seek help from the police for their own or their colleagues' safety.

→ Read the [full report](#) on our website.

→ Download the supporting [Policy Brief](#).



GOING PUBLIC

To share our findings and call for action, ESWA invited report participants to Brussels for a two-day event to network, strategise and discuss how best to use report findings. Attended by over 30 sex workers and allies, the event concluded with a presentation at the European Parliament hosted by MEP Estelle Ceulemans.



- Watch the [live-stream recording](#) on our YouTube channel.
- Check out the event [agenda](#).

To follow up on the issues raised, ESWA launched its [Transformative Justice Manifesto](#) on 11 December. The manifesto, which advocates for community-led solutions, will be promoted throughout 2025 to influence key EU institutions in shaping their agendas.

Preliminary findings and methodology insights were presented at a range of events, including the [Victim Support Europe 2024 Annual Conference](#), [PICUM Annual Members Meeting](#) and European Institute of Gender Equality's [Gender Equality Forum](#).

Other highlights for the year include:

ADVOCATING FOR LABOUR AND HUMAN RIGHTS ONLINE

Digital platforms bring both opportunity and risk to sex worker practices. Recognising this reality, ESWA spent the past year gathering qualitative data on how advertising platforms can better safeguard sex workers' health and safety while respecting their labour and human rights. Findings and recommendations are outlined in the fourth of our community report series: [Labour rights, safety and privacy: How to centre sex workers' needs on advertising platforms](#).

The report was launched during an online event, [Rights in Focus: Sex Work, Safety and Online Advertising Platforms](#), and is accompanied by a summary brief.



- Read the [report in full](#).
- Download the [Summary Brief](#).

DISCOVER OUR DIGITAL RIGHTS SERIES

- [The Impact of Online Censorship and Digital Discrimination on Sex Workers.](#)
- [Contested and Misunderstood: The value of privacy and data protection for sex workers.](#)
- [Conditions Control and Consent: Exploring the impact of platformisation on sex work.](#)

A NEW PROJECT TO EXPLORE SEX WORK AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTABILITY

In July 2024, ESWA launched a new research project examining [sex work and social media accountability](#). Conceptualised and supervised by Senior Programme Officer Yigit Aydinalp, the report will look to answer key questions, including:

- What would a social media platform that respects sex worker rights look like?
- What features, policies and rules would it have?
- What would community standards look like?
- How can sex workers hold these platforms accountable?

Information was collected through a series of in-person interviews and focus-group discussions. Results are due to be published in April 2025.



ONGOING RESEARCH TO EXPOSE FUNDAMENTAL GAPS IN REALISING SEX WORKER RIGHTS

Over the past year, the team has continued its research into the barriers sex workers face in accessing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention, as well as the connection between the criminalisation of sex work and housing instability. Both reports offer vital insights into the lived experiences of sex workers and are scheduled for publication in 2025.



OUR YEAR: EVENTS & PUBLICATIONS

In addition to our Advocacy & Campaigns work, this past year has seen ESWA maintain and build its presence at a wide range of events

while also working to publish an increasing number of thought-leadership pieces, press releases and articles.

EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

PRIVACY CAMP 2024, BRUSSELS

Operations Director Luca Stevenson and Senior Programme Officer Yigit Aydinalp presented *A vision for digital justice organising in Europe* and co-hosted a session: [*Alternative 'intimate' realities: Inclusive ways of framing intimate image based abuse.*](#)



FEBRUARY

EUROPEAN DAY FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME 2024, BRUSSELS

Our Executive Director, Sabrina Sanchez, joined a panel discussion on *Decent Work and Economic Growth and Reduced Inequalities*.



MAY

RE:PUBLICA24, BERLIN

Senior Programme Officer Yigit Aydinalp joined the panel [*We All Care! Stories from an Intersectional Fight to Shape Artificial Intelligence.*](#)



OCTOBER

MEMBERSHIP CONGRESS: GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFIC IN WOMEN, BANGKOK

ESWA joined delegates from across sectors and continents to discuss workers' rights in the context of migration and the informal economy. Signatories to the resulting EU Anti-Trafficking Day statement, we are proud to stand in solidarity for a just, human rights-centred approach.



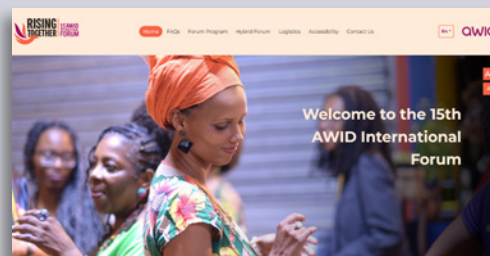
REGIONAL FORUM: INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION, LISBON

Executive Director Sabrina Sanchez and Access to Health Officer Vera Rodriguez joined a panel discussion on the importance of including historically marginalised communities in sexual health and reproductive rights programmes.

DECEMBER

FORUM: ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN DEVELOPMENT, BANGKOK

ESWA co-organised the panel discussion *Digital Rights — Digital Divides* to examine the impact of digital technologies on sex work and advocacy.



OTHER EVENTS ATTENDED

→ [European Network Against Racism \(ENAR\)](#):

Action plan meetings, online

→ International Annual NGO Platform:

La Strada International, Paris

→ [European Colour of Surveillance 2024](#), Berlin

→ [People vs Big Tech](#), Brussels

STATEMENTS, PRESS RELEASES & BLOGS

- [A response to Stripe's sudden termination of services with Wishtender.](#)
ESWA, 16 February 2024
- [Paris Olympic Games: No, major events do not increase prostitution!](#)
Eva Vocz, 25 January 2024
- [The 27 Ministers of Justice of the EU MSs Discussed Sex Work.](#)
Irena Ferčíková Konečná, 31 January 2024
- ["This is a highly political proceeding."](#)
Ruby Rebelde, 01 March 2024
- [The biggest delegation of sex workers up to date storms the UN to defend bodily autonomy.](#)
ESWA, 18 October 2024
- [EU Anti-Trafficking Day: Learn How Sex Workers Help Combat Trafficking!](#)
ESWA, 18 October 2024

ARTICLES, CONTRIBUTIONS & MENTIONS

- Mannschaft: [Ban on buying sex? "It is like talking to a wall."](#)
Reporter: Kriss Rudolph, 22 April 2024
- Global Health Now: [Amsterdam's Struggle to Improve Sex Worker Health.](#)
Contributor: Sabrina Sanchez, 8 May 2024
- Open Democracy: [Sharing sex workers' images without consent is abuse.](#)
Writers: Yigit Aydinalp and Luca Stevenson, 10 October 2024
- Oxford Human Rights Hub: [The ECHR's Failure to Protect Sex Workers.](#)
Writers: Marjan Wijers and Fleur van Leeuwen, 16 October 2024
- Weaving Liberation: [Whose Internets? Our Internets?](#)
Writer: Laurence Mayer, January 2025

OUR YEAR: GOVERNANCE

ESWA is a sex worker-led association (Vereniging) based in the Netherlands. Our operations are guided by a six-member Board of Directors, with decisions made by the Senior Management Team, which includes the Executive Director, Senior Programme Officer, and Senior Policy Officer. Their work is supported by a core team of three full-time and three part-time staff.

UPDATE FROM OUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our General Assembly took place as planned at the end of May, with ESWA representatives and members meeting online to vote on activity and financial reports and propose changes to the organisation's strategic priorities.

Updates include:

A SHIFT IN GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

ESWA members voted to change the organisation's geographical remit and end our partnership with Israeli-based members organisations.

BOARD UPDATES

We are excited to announce that Kali Suhdra has been re-elected for another term, and welcome newcomer Charlie Cosnier to our Board. We also take this opportunity to thank Dinah Bons, our outgoing Co-Chair and member of the Board of Directors for their service.

The ESWA Board is composed entirely of members of the sex worker community and brings together people with a range of lived experiences, including trans sex workers, people of colour, working mothers, and migrant sex workers. This diversity brings a unique, intersectional perspective to ESWA's work and strengthens our connection and commitment to the community we serve.

STAFF CHANGES

This year has seen a number of staff changes take place. Firstly, we want to recognise the departure of our Operations Director, Luca Stevenson. Luca has been with ESWA for 12 years and played a key role in shaping the organisation. He will be dearly missed, and we wish him all the best in his new role.

We also welcome two new team members: Wszebor Sienkiewicz as Campaign and Communications Officer, and Vera Rodriguez as Programme Officer (Access to Health).

Finally we want to say goodbye and thank you to our intern, Maxime Thébaud. Recruitment for a new position will begin in the new year.



It has been the honour – and the challenge – of a lifetime to lead this European sex worker-led network and support our leadership transition... I take pride in witnessing how the movement has developed over the last decade with a growing number of activists, advocates and organisations bringing the issues of sex workers into the political sphere.

Luca Stevenson, former Operations Director

OUR YEAR: FINANCE

In 2024 our organisational income totalled €507.772*. This is a reduction of 3% on the previous year and reflective of the shifting political landscape and challenges that

members of our community face. To address this, fundraising will continue to be a key priority, with the next year seeing ESWA continue to expand and diversify its funding portfolio.

→ **INCOME: €507.772**

→ **EXPENDITURE: €504.662**

*Numbers are provisional pending the full organisational audit with final figures available in September 2025 at:
www.eswalliance.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about our strategic plan, governance processes and procedures, please visit: www.eswalliance.org

WITH THANKS

