ICRSE (trading as ESWA) is a legally constituted organisation registered with the Chamber of Commerce in Amsterdam, the Netherlands (Dossier number 34216253), and recognised by the tax department as a not-for-profit organisation (Stichting International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe, fiscal number 8141.42.643).

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The world has changed a lot these past few years, and we are proud to say that the ICRSE – now ESWA – has changed with it. And not just on the surface. For us, 2021 has been all about action. Because it is not enough to say what has to change. We need to drive it, to model it, to be it.

About so much more than just a name, the move to become ESWA is about identity. Our identity. It is a reflection of who we are, the values we hold, and everything we set out to be. Because with this shift comes new leadership and a new strategic plan of action – one that will see us step up the fight for sex worker rights, and put even greater emphasis on the rights of women, LGBTI, migrant and racialised sex workers.

This move is reflected in the leadership and strategic direction we have chosen, the impact of which is clear to see. And as we launch new programmes in mental health and digital rights, we know that this is just the beginning. The energy is building. Our membership is strong. Our profile, partnerships and allies are growing, and as we turn the page on this new chapter the only way is up. Because ESWA doesn’t just represent the voice of sex workers. We are sex workers.

As diverse and dynamic as the groups we represent, together we are ready to step up the fight for sex worker rights. For that we must have courage, and we ask you to have it too. It takes strength to do things differently. To be open to new ideas and ways of working. But that’s exactly what’s needed. Because business as usual is not enough. The world is changing and together we can make sure the rights of sex workers change too.

“Over the last 10 years and despite the constant attacks on sex workers’ communities, ESWA and its members have achieved so much. I am so proud of the work we have done, and I am confident ESWA will thrive under our new leadership.”

Luca Stevenson, Outgoing Coordinator, ESWA

“It’s time to go beyond ideological debates. Progress isn’t just about policies and papers. It’s about creating real, tangible change. We are in such a strong position, and I know that together with our members we can drive new action to protect and defend the rights of ALL sex workers.”

Sabrina Sanchez, Coordinator, ESWA
WE ARE THE EUROPEAN SEX WORKERS’ RIGHTS ALLIANCE

The European Sex Workers’ Rights Alliance (ESWA) is a sex worker-led network representing more than 90 organisations in 26 different countries. 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.

A NEW STRATEGIC APPROACH:

- Rights-Based Legal Reform
- Improved Health Outcomes
- Social & Labour Protection
- Protection of Privacy & Digital Rights
- Increased Access to Justice
- Fighting for Gender Equality, Women’s Rights and LGBTI+ Rights
- Securing Improved Outcomes for Migrant & Racialised Sex Workers
- Research & Evidence-Building

CAPACITY BUILDING
A diverse, growing and sustainable network of sex worker-led organisations with the skills, leadership and support they need to mobilise highly effective strategies for change.

ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNING
Influencing change by informing and advancing public opinion, building partnerships and allyships, and engaging with policy & decision-makers to support the development of inclusive policies and practices.

RESEARCH & EVIDENCE-BUILDING
Documenting the impact of laws and policies and building an evidence base that puts sex workers at the heart of research and development, and uses this information to guide and advance our programmes and policy work.

We recognise sex work as work. Only an inclusive, rights-based approach will protect people’s human, health and labour rights.

We support self-determination and organisation. Solidarity ensures the needs and voices of all sex workers are heard and addressed equally.

We oppose the criminalisation and legal oppression of sex work. Not only do such policies fail to protect us, they also work against us.
## Our Year at a Glance

### Mobilising the Fight for Sex Worker Rights

- A strong and vibrant membership community.
- Essential focus on mental health and digital rights.
- Partners and allies united by shared values & beliefs.
- Strong and sustainable programmes.
- Greater representation and integration at EU level.
- Landmark movement in sex worker rights at times of crisis.
- A resolution separating sex work from gender-based violence.
- Integrated work on anti-racism, migrant, women and LGBTI rights.

### Key Figures

- 8 reports & resources published
- 2 new programmes
- 90+ member groups
- €27,300 grants distributed
- 6-strong team
- €275,326 annual income
- NEW IDENTITY
- NEW WEBSITE
- NEW STRATEGIC PLAN
As the move to ‘end demand’ and criminalise sex work gains traction, all sex workers across Europe are being pushed to the very margins of society. Magnified by COVID-19, such endemic structural violence has a direct impact on the health and well-being of our community. It forces sex workers to take dangerous risks and adds fuel to the emotional (and often physical) trauma caused by stigma, social isolation, criminalisation, discrimination, poverty and violence.

It is for this reason that protecting a sex worker’s ‘Right to Health’ is, and always will be, a long-standing strategic priority. Now including mental health, we work with members, partners and allies to understand people’s needs, fund key health services, and deliver the tools and evidence needed to drive rights-based decision-making.

UNSEEN, BUT NOT UNHEARD: DOCUMENTING THE IMPACT OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Like so many of its members, in 2020 ESWA embarked on a programme of emergency support, action and advocacy to protect sex worker rights in and beyond COVID-19. Marking the shift from response to recovery, in March 2021 we published a new report, ‘Sex Workers on the Frontline’. In doing so, we created a powerful advocacy tool that is being used to inform debate and decision-making in local and international arenas — including the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control’s (ECDC) definition of ‘socially vulnerable groups’ and the UNAIDS ‘Lessons for Pandemic Responses’.

‘Sex Workers on the Frontline’ was launched at a webinar event on April 9th 2021. An accompanying film featuring the testimonies of 14 activists was published to coincide with World Health Day. Findings from this report were also shared with delegates at the 18th European AIDS Conference.
eMPOWERING YOUNG SEXUAL HEALTH ACTIVISTS
IN A DIGITAL WORLD

As we adapt to the reality of a digital world, ESWA teamed up with EATG and LEGEBITRA to support the training of sexual health advocates and activists. Launched in September, eMPOWER is our first EU-funded project, and will see the collective come together to understand, evidence and address the sexual health issues facing sex workers, people living with HIV and LGBTI persons. Building on our initial needs assessment, we are now working to deliver a new ‘train-the-trainer’ programme for 20 young activists. Together we can make sure they have the tools they need to connect with and support their communities – all whilst raising awareness around online safety, digital rights and best practices.

CATALYTIC CONVERSATIONS THAT PROTECT THE ‘RIGHT TO HEALTH’

A member of the EU Civil Society Forum on HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis, ESWA is proud to represent our community at forum meetings, and to have engaged in discussions around a number of high priority issues. Always on the look-out for new opportunities, 2021 also saw us:

► Present the poster ‘Sex Workers’ Community Resilience and Leadership in Crisis’ at the 18th Annual European AIDS Conference.
► Join a panel of experts at the ViiV sponsored community event ‘Changing HIV Care for All’.
► Talk COVID-19 and sex work with Andrea Ammon and Jon Kinsman of the ECDC on the ‘Nobody Left Outside’ Voices series and podcast.

ESWA is also proud to have organised a major session, ‘Sex Workers and the Threat of Law Enforcement’ at this year’s European Harm Reduction Conference. Bringing together activists from the UK, the Netherlands, Romania and Poland, the session created a forum to talk about the impact of criminalisation, share learning and reflect on what a ‘decriminalised future’ could look like.

A TOOL KIT TO RAISE AWARENESS ON SEX WORK AND HIV

As part of the Red Umbrella Academy, ESWA worked with the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) to publish a new resource on ‘Sex Work and HIV in Europe’. Available as a tool kit or separate documents, the aim is to provide readers with an overview of key issues, case studies of community-led services, and recommendations to promote inclusive policy and decision-making.
SPOTLIGHT: A new programme to protect mental health

The issue of sex work and mental health is as complex as it is urgent. Over the last two years events and legislation have seen many in our community dealing with a combination of issues, including personal trauma, long-standing social and structural violence, as well as the impact of COVID-19. Responding to this need, ESWA launched a new programme to support the mental health of sex workers and advocate for the development of inclusive services by:

- **Running webinars and support sessions** so that sex workers can open up about the need for, and barriers to accessing, mental health services.
- **Publishing a new briefing paper and tool kit** to consolidate findings, share learning and recommendations.
- **Raise awareness on sex work and mental health** by delivering a new campaign promoting service access through a series of illustrations and testimonies.
- **Develop a new training programme** for mental health professionals in partnership with academics and local sex work organisations.

To this end, ESWA published its first briefing paper on ‘Sex Work and Mental Health’ in October 2021. Based on consultation with member groups, the paper explores factors that impact the mental health of sex workers, including barriers to access, coping strategies and the effectiveness of existing initiatives. It also offers a series of practical recommendations and is accompanied by a tool kit of supporting activities.

Both resources are available in English, Russian, French and Spanish and were launched during a webinar event organised by ESWA and National Ugly Mugs (NUM). ESWA has also been invited to share its findings with the European Psychology Student Conference and the May 17 Association – with more events in the pipeline for 2022.

### TOP 15 FACTORS IMPACTING SEX WORKER MENTAL HEALTH

‘TO A VERY GREAT EXTENT’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Societal stigma</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial situation</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transphobia</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing situation</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolation</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence at work</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration-related factors</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homo, bi and lesbophobia</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal context and government policies</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to healthcare</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to gender-affirming healthcare</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racism</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexism</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence outside of work</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance use and/or dependence</td>
<td>10%</td>
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COVID-19 accelerated a digital revolution the likes of which has never been seen before. With this comes a host of new opportunities, many of which have brought – and are bringing – positive benefits to sex workers’ lives. But there are threats too. Because digitalisation also means new laws to govern and censor online spaces, increased surveillance and ‘policing’, and the use of artificial intelligence systems that are riddled with algorithmic bias. That’s why our new strategy makes sure that ‘sex worker rights’ include digital rights. For ESWA, that means working with sex workers to understand the digital industry, building a collective knowledge of rights and freedoms, and taking every opportunity to make sure our voice is heard.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: MANAGING THE RISKS

In March 2021, ESWA became one of 16 organisations selected from a pool of 220 applicants by the European Artificial Intelligence Fund. The plan? To launch a new programme focussed on sex worker rights in the realms of artificial intelligence, digital surveillance, privacy and censorship by:

- Running open consultations with member groups to gather evidence and insights into community knowledge and experience.
- Delivering training and capacity building activities so that sex workers know their rights and have the confidence to speak out.
- Developing resources and tool kits that support the inclusion of sex worker rights, with a focus on undocumented, LGBTI and racialised members of our community.
- Advocating and engaging with decision-makers to make sure that policies and laws protect and respect sex worker rights.

Held in September, our first e-meeting focussed on online censorship and included the opportunity for member consultation. The second was held in November and saw Dr Kate Hardy present her paper ‘Hustling the Platform: Capitalist Experiments and Resistance in the Digital Sex Industry’*. The start of an exciting new programme, each event created an important forum to explore how discriminatory practice, restrictive regulations and online platforms can, and are, impacting sex worker rights, agency and well-being.

*Co-authored with Camille Barbagallo
GATHERING EVIDENCE TO INFORM THE DEBATE

In September 2021, ESWA launched a digital survey to gather information around online censorship and the exclusion of sex workers. Representing the views of collectives and individuals from 17 countries, the resulting briefing paper was finalised at the end of 2021 and will be published early in the new year.

SPEAKING OUT AGAINST ONLYFANS CENSORSHIP

COVID-19 means that many sex workers have come to depend on the security and profile of online platforms like OnlyFans. Yet in August (following pressure from the Mastercard Corporation) OnlyFans announced a blanket ban on the creation and consumption of sexually explicit content. A move that pushed sex workers out of a safe online space, ESWA joined the global response and sent an open letter criticising the move. OnlyFans have since revoked the ban and given sex workers full access to their online space.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY

ESWA has been closely following discussions around proposed changes to the EU Digital Services and Artificial Intelligence Acts – both of which put the privacy and safety of sex workers at risk. For the former, ESWA published an open Letter of Concern and requested that the Committee for Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) remove the requirement for mandatory phone registration. We also provided input to the Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence Consultation, and continue to advocate for the protection of sex worker rights in digital and AI policies.

PARTNER AND ALLYSHIPS FOR LONG-TERM CHANGE

Looking beyond the EU, this last year has seen our team engage in discussion and debates organised by a number of civil society organisations. This includes the UN CONFERENCE in Berlin, which brought together 70 sex workers to explore a variety of issues, including digital security. ESWA took this opportunity to meet with Berlin-based allies working in digital rights, HIV, anti-trafficking and trans rights. Proud to represent the sex worker community, we look forward to a number of potential new partners, allyships and collaborative fundraising ventures.
OUR YEAR
INCREASING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

For sex workers’ voices to be heard, we must build a profile and reputation that gives people no choice but to listen. With an increased presence in Brussels — the heart of the EU — a new brand, strong team and membership community, that profile is growing. Now more than ever, ESWA is becoming part of international conversations and debate. Reactive and proactive, we take every opportunity we can to engage and advocate for the rights of all sex workers, with this year yielding some important results. We cannot lose pace.

WITH A FOCUS ON VICTIMS’ RIGHTS, THIS YEAR WE:

→ **Welcomed a landmark movement to protect sex worker rights in times of crisis:** On 21st January, the European Parliament adopted a new resolution on the EU strategy for Gender Equality. Due in part to the increased visibility of the sex worker community and the work of our member groups, with this publication comes an important shift. It is refreshing to see the impact of COVID-19 recognised, and the need to protect sex worker rights before, during and after such a crisis clearly stated.

→ **Were granted participatory status with the Council of Europe:** Recognising the role of Civil Society in guaranteeing freedom of expression and association, participatory status will give ESWA greater input into this critical inter-governmental organisation.

→ **Joined the EU Victims’ Rights Platform:** In March, ESWA received landmark acceptance by the European Commission to join the EU Victims’ Rights Platform. Bringing together 34 members from EU-level networks, agencies, bodies and civil society, membership puts ESWA in an even stronger position to advocate for access to justice and sex worker rights.

→ **Became an associate member of Victim Support Europe:** The leading European umbrella organisation for victims of crime, Victim Support Europe links front line services to European policy development. With 60 member organisations in 31 countries, this association will help ESWA form new partnerships with like-minded organisations and influence policy-level change.

→ **Contributed to the evaluation of the EU Victims’ Rights Directive:** Supporting the European Commission’s evaluation of this fundamental directive, ESWA responded to an open questionnaire and interviewed with the agency compiling the report. We welcome the opportunity to make our voice heard and look forward to seeing the outputs of this evaluation.
CHALLENGING CONFLATED ISSUES OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, WE:

Successfully campaigned to separate sex work from gender-based violence:
In July, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) were set to vote on amendments to a Draft Report identifying gender-based violence as a new area of crime. Under the headline ‘Don’t Outlaw Sex workers’ Ability to Consent’, ESWA — supported by 11 European civil society platforms — asked MEPs to reject amendments that would conflate sex work with gender-based violence. As a result, we are proud to see that the associated European Parliament resolution — a green light for a new legislative proposal on gender-based violence — has kept these issues separate.

Testified at the 10th Anniversary of the Istanbul Convention: The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (also known as the Istanbul Convention) is the most far-reaching international legal instrument to set out binding obligations to prevent and combat violence against women. This year’s testimony is clear recognition of the need for women’s voices, including those of sex workers, to be at the centre of current and future discussions.

Raised public awareness on sex worker rights: It is important to take advantage of global conversations surrounding awareness days like the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the International Day To End Violence Against Sex Workers. Using these events to show how increased policing, state power and criminalisation can make people more vulnerable, ESWA called for the inclusion of marginalised communities in the development of upcoming anti-violence programmes.

SPOTLIGHT: Rights Not Rescue
Running from 2019 to 2021, our ‘Rights Not Rescue’ programme worked with 12 member groups in 10 countries to empower migrant sex workers to tackle trafficking and exploitation through:

- The delivery of direct support services
- The organisation and unionisation of migrant sex worker communities
- Networking, collaboration & information sharing
- Research, resource generation & tool kit creation
- Education and awareness raising around local laws and migrant rights.

Through this project, ESWA created a series of new resources, including the ground-breaking publication, ‘Undeserving Victims’ — the first report to evidence the violence experienced by sex workers, and the barriers they face when it comes to accessing justice. Building on this, 2021 saw us launch the resource, ‘From Vulnerability to Resilience: Sex Workers Organising to End Exploitation.’ Sharing strategies, approaches and recommendations from community-led programmes, this report is a tool for civil society, experts and policy-makers who are looking to eliminate trafficking and exploitation in the sex industry.

SPOTLIGHT: Appealing to the European Court of Human Rights
In 2019, the French Constitutional Council rejected a complaint from 261 sex workers pushing back on French law ‘against the prostitution system’. Since this time we have helped mobilise allies and international organisations to submit a third party intervention to the ECHR. Accepted as Request n. 63664/19 in April 2021, the request asks the Court to assess the French law ‘against the prostitution system’ — arguing that the criminalisation of sex work goes against the right to health, right to safety and right to a private life.
SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE ANTI-TRAFFICKING AGENDAS, WE:

**Took action to promote inclusive anti-trafficking policies:** As a long-standing advocate for rights-based and inclusive policy developments, ESWA joined forces with La Strada International and PICUM to influence the vote on the proposed amendments to the Resolution on the implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU. We also ran a mini-campaign around the EU Anti-Trafficking Day and joined the first feedback round on the upcoming review of the Anti-Trafficking Directive.

**Mobilised opposition to the European Parliament’s commissioned report,** ‘The Differing EU Member States’ Regulations on Prostitution and Their Cross-Border Implications On Women’s Rights’. Responding to the findings of Professor Andrea Di Nicola, ESWA brought together 175 academics who denounce the report as ‘inaccurate’, ‘biased’, ‘methodologically flawed’ and unsuitable for evidence-based policy. Organising a mini-campaign that asked supporters to write to MEPs directly, our collective voice was heard, with our new Coordinator, Sabrina Sanchez, invited to attend a public hearing at the European Parliament to discuss the report’s findings.

**Challenged CEDAWs stance on anti-trafficking:** Following numerous attempts to stop the CEDAW Committee conflating sex work and trafficking in General Recommendation No 38, ESWA published an open statement to call-out their continued dismissal of evidence and information. Once again we have highlighted the evidence and need to distinguish between consensual sex work and human trafficking.

**Pushed back against the OCSE’s move to end demand:** ‘End demand’ policies have become a focal point of OSCE anti-trafficking work – as epitomised by the report, ‘Discouraging the Demand that Fosters Trafficking for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation’. Launched at the 21st Alliance Conference Against Trafficking in Persons, ESWA used this opportunity to create an active debate and hold exchange meetings with the Office of the Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

**Released a new briefing to support decriminalisation:** On the 16th June ESWA published a new briefing paper exploring how decriminalisation can open new avenues for the prevention of human trafficking, victim identification and support. Developed by Emily Kenway in collaboration with the Sex Worker Advocacy and Resistance Movement (SWARM), Decrim Now and ESWA, this new paper is an important contribution to the body of resources supporting the move to decriminalise sex work.

**SPOTLIGHT: In conversation**

In December 2021, ESWA organised an exploratory convening ‘Sex Workers’ Access to Justice - Violence, Exploitation, Trafficking and Victims’ Rights’. A hybrid event taking place online and in-person, representatives from 10 member groups came together to:

- Talk about the challenges and barriers faced when it comes to accessing justice
- Learn about key topics and issues for participatory action research
- Explore core concepts and perceptions around ‘victimhood’ and ‘survivorhood’
- Discuss the need for, and ways to include the experience of victims in member work.

A thought-provoking and open discussion, the outcomes of the convening will be used to navigate the implementation of ESWA’s new strategic priorities.
The start of a new chapter, these past 12 months have seen ESWA undergo a number of structural changes to strengthen our core and mobilise our mission. That’s why, on September 14th 2021 (Sex Worker Pride Day) not only did we change-up our brand and website, we also launched a new five-year Strategic Plan to help guide our team towards its vision.

In that same month, we also welcomed OTRAS Co-Founder and former ICRSE Steering Committee Convenor, Sabrina Sanchez, as the new Coordinator for the ESWA team. Taking the reins from Luca Stevenson – who led the organisation to this point – Sabrina will guide ESWA through the delivery of its new strategic plan, with Luca stepping into the role of Operations Officer. They are joined by four permanent staff and supported by two temporary Expert and Advisory Groups in anti-racism – the first bringing together racialised sex workers from across our member groups, and the second comprised of allies and experts working at national and European level.

Organisational activity is overseen by our Steering Committee, with members Dinah Bons and Kate McGrew elected as Co-Convenors. This year also saw two committee members complete their term and Dakota Jones and Kali Sundra – who represent the voice of member groups in the UK and Spain – welcomed into their new role as Steering Committee members.

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

In 2021 our organisational income totalled €275,326*. Consistent with the previous year, we are excited to receive our first EU funding as part of the Erasmus+ scheme and welcome new donors in including ILGA Europe. As our profile and portfolio grows, we are building an increasingly solid foundation that will give our organisation the strength and resources it needs to deliver on all that the next chapter holds.

*Numbers are provisional pending a full organisational audit, with final figures becoming available in September 2022 at: https://www.eswalliance.org/annual_and_financial_reports

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you would like to find out more about our strategic plan, governance processes and procedures, please visit www.eswalliance.org.
OUR YEAR
PUBLICATIONS
AND MEDIA

→

STATEMENTS

On OnlyFans’ Explicit Content Ban And The Exclusion Of Sex Workers From Digital Platforms
ESWA, September 2021

On the CEDAW Committee General Recommendation No 38 (2020)
ICRSE, January 2021

→

SUBMISSIONS

Preventing & Combating Trafficking in Human Beings – A Review of EU Rules
ESWA, September 2021

ICRSE Response to Combating Gender-based Violence, Protecting Victims and Punishing Offenders
ICRSE, May 2021

On the 2021-2025 EU Action Plan Against Migrant Smuggling
ICRSE, March 2021

Contribution on Fighting Organised Crime - EU Strategy for 2021-2025
ICRSE, March 2021

On the Gender-based and Domestic Violence Initiative
ICRSE, January 2021

→

OPEN LETTERS

To ODIHR Director Matteo Mecacci
ICRSE, February 2021

Regarding the hearing of the European Parliament FEMM Committee
ESWA, December 2021

→

PODCAST

Nobody Left Outside: NLO & EDC on Community Engagement
ICRSE, February 2021

→

PUBLICATIONS

Organised. Unified. Recognised. Mobilising the Fight for Sex Worker Rights
ESWA, December 2021

Don’t Outlaw Sex Workers’ Consent!
ESWA, November 2021

Briefing Paper on Sex Work and Mental Health
ESWA, October 2021

Tool Kit on Supporting Sex Workers’ Mental Health and Well-Being
ESWA, October 2021

Launch of Briefing: Tackling Trafficking Under a Decriminalisation Model
ICRSE, SWARM & DECRIM NOW, June 2021

From Vulnerability to Resilience: Sex Workers Organising to End Exploitation
ICRSE, May 2021

Advocacy Tool on Sex Work and HIV in Europe
ICRSE, April 2021

Sex Workers on the Frontline
ICRSE, March 2021
Every day the world around us is changing, and this past year has shown us just how important it is to adapt and respond. We must keep this flexibility. That’s why, as we look forward to 2022, we want to work even more closely with our member groups – keeping an open dialogue that allows us to deliver and evolve our strategic priorities in line with the needs of sex worker communities across Europe and Central Asia. To do this, we plan to:

1. **GIVE MORE POWER TO OUR MEMBERS**

   Making the shift from Foundation to Association, 2022 is the year ESWA will become well and truly ‘member led’. About more than just semantics, this move is designed to engage and empower our member groups – giving them an active role in organisational decision-making and making sure that our work is led by the people whose voices we represent.

2. **BUILD MEMBER CAPACITY**

   ESWA is the people that make it, and in line with our new strategic plan, we will use this next year to build the capacity and leadership skills of our member groups, particularly those working with migrant, racialised, women and LGBTI sex worker communities. To do this, not only will we increase our work in advocacy and policy development, we will also provide the practical frameworks, tools, forums and grant funding that help bring the work and ambition of our member groups to life.

3. **INVEST IN OUR CORE**

   When our foundation is strong, we are strong. That’s why 2022 will see us move to strengthen our core, create new opportunities for professional development, and raise the funds we need to sustain (and exceed) current levels of growth. For it is only by supporting the people and systems that deliver our work that we can step-up the fight for sex worker rights.

4. **STEP UP THE FIGHT FOR SEX WORKER RIGHTS**

   Building on the momentum of 2021, this next year will see us expand our work in health, mental health, digital rights and access to justice. As part of this, we will work to mobilise collaborative research projects that build the evidence base we need to inform, advocate and guide policy developments. All whilst working to raise our profile and engage policy and decision-makers with the power to leverage long-term change.

Underpinning the above is an absolute and unwavering commitment to our work in anti-racism, gender equality and LGBTI rights. Going beyond any single project or programme, activity will cut across each and every aspect of our work. It’s part of who we are, and we want to set a standard for the sector, modelling our ethos and being inclusive and accountable in all that we do.

We look forward to reporting back on our progress and would like to take this chance to thank our members, team, board, donors and partners for all their hard work and commitment this past year. Together we have the power to raise the voice of sex workers in Europe and Central Asia and make sure that their rights are both respected and protected.
WITH THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS