

# Finding Common Ground to Address Violence Against Sex Workers

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California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

2016 Statewide Domestic Violence Conference:

Shifting the Lens

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# Welcome

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Who am I, and what do I bring to the table?

- Name
- Where you are from
- Job
- What brought you to this training
- Experiences working with sex workers and/or people who have experienced trafficking

Background:

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Violence Against Sex Workers  
in San Francisco

# St. James Infirmary Intake Data (1999-2004), N=783

Cisgender women (53.6%), cisgender men (23.9%), transgender women (16.1%), and other (6.5%)

- 36.0% reported sex work related violence.
  - Client perpetrated violence 28%; police perpetrated 8%
  - Transwomen were at significantly higher risk of work violence (53%), customer violence (43%), and police violence (18%).

# SWEAT Study (2003-2007), N=247

- Violence while doing sex work
  - 32% reported physical attack while doing sex work.
  - 29% reported sexual assault while doing sex work.
  - Of the 174 who reported calling the police for assistance, 37% rated the experience as bad or very bad
- Experiences with police
  - 76% history of being arrested.
  - 14% threatened with arrest unless had sex with a police officer
  - 21% had police officer pay them for sex
  - 2% arrested after having sex with a police officer
  - 36% reported verbal, emotional, physical, sexual abuse by law enforcement

When you're prostituting and something happens to you, the police don't really want to help you. Because you're already committing a crime to them. So it is like why should they help the criminal? **45-yr-old, African American woman**

The first arrest really sucked. I was young. I just wasn't really bright at 20. I didn't know much about my rights or if I could fight back. A female cop and two other cops came into my tiny studio apartment with the guy that came in as a supposed date. He totally felt me up. It was insane. And then he called me some names. So I thought that kind of sucked too. But I really didn't know, like I really thought that he had the right to feel me up. You were doing something wrong so he had the right to squeeze you and stick his finger up there. Because you were doing something wrong. **32-year-old African American woman**

# Women and Methamphetamine Study(WAM) 2007-2009), N=322

- 61% traded sex in past 6 months (n=197)
  - 77% of women with sex trade involvement reported being raped as adults
  - 49% reported physical assault in the past six months.
    - Most often inflicted by acquaintances and clients.
- Women who trade sex:
  - 1.9x more likely to be physically assaulted by people other than intimate partners
  - 2.7x more likely to be raped by people other than intimate partners

# Young People's Experiences (2011-2012)

- Experience violence more often from law enforcement officials than from any other group.
  - Physical assault, sexual assault in exchange for not being arrested, sexual assault during undercover operations

[S]he got in his car and he said that he didn't have money and that they were going to drive to the gas station for him to be able to use an ATM, get some gas and get some money. And one of the things that she said was that he let her fondle him on the entire drive. She said it was at least a solid five minutes and she, one of the things she asked me, she said, "I don't understand, if he's an undercover cop and I'm a minor, isn't he not supposed to," you know, "Let me do that?"...[T]hat's something that I do hear commonly, is that the officers seem to take definite advantage and become yet another exploiter.

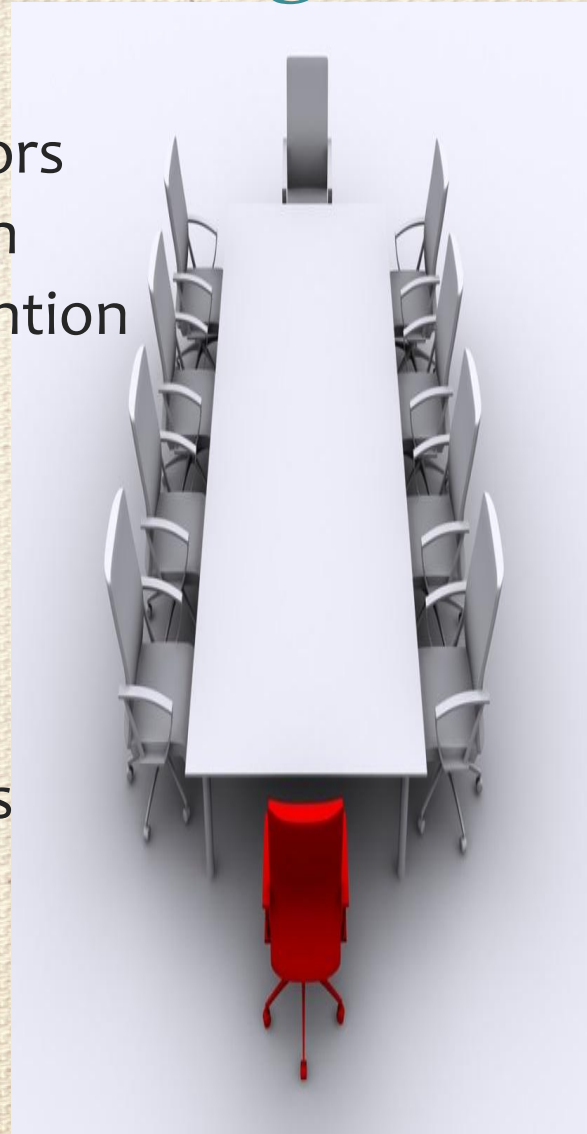


San Francisco Mayor's  
Task Force on Anti-Human  
Trafficking

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# San Francisco Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking – Est. March 2013

- Adult Probation
- Board of Supervisors
- Building Inspection
- Child Abuse Prevention Center
- City Attorney
- Community-based Organizations
- District Attorney
- Family & Children's Services
- Human Rights Commission



- Juvenile Probation Department
- Juvenile Public Defender
- Mayor's Office
- Labor Standards
- Planning Department
- Police Department
- Public Health
- School District
- **Status of Women**
- U.S. Dept of Justice
- Victim Witness



# Sex Work & Trafficking Policy Impact Committee

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# Prioritizing Safety for Sex Worker Policy

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# Bad Date List

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## Bad Date Reports

If you or someone you know would like to report a Bad Date anonymously, please complete the form below and your report will be included in our most current Bad Date List. To view our most recent Bad Date List, which is updated regularly, [visit our wordpress here](#). The Bad Date List helps sex workers notify one another of violent, dangerous, or harmful people to reduce the likelihood of another bad encounter in our community.



**BAD DATE REPORT**  
this is an anonymous form to report instances of abuse and violence in the Sex Industry

**DESCRIBE THE INCIDENT**

**Where did this Happen?**

Parlour

- ❖ Collect info and disseminate to community so can protect ourselves
  - Notify one another of violent, dangerous, or harmful people to reduce the likelihood of another bad encounter in our community
- ❖ Contain reports of 'bad dates' or incidents of violent or dangerous clients or other persons
  - Describe the incident, provide a description of the person, their vehicle (if applicable) and their phone number (if applicable).
- ❖ Dissemination
  - Hard copies distributed during outreach or at CBOs
  - Websites



**UPDATED 2/25/16**

**CIS WOMAN WORKER**

(new report 2/16' ) **White Eastern European Man Late 30s-Early 40's**, between 5'9-11", brown hair/ green eyes, often wearing a long sleeves jacket, tshirt and baseball cap, has very strong accent, usually offers to trade drugs or little money for sex. Has been known to bite and has left scars on fingers. Often quick to anger and perpetuates physical assault on clients very violent. Often hanging around the tenderloin.

**White Male 40's "John"** athletic build short gray hair. Blue eyes , One eye scarred, Met worker at address in Pacific Heights, acted very cagey and tried to write worker a check. When worker refused walked worker to through doors and flashed a badge, pretended to be law enforcement. Worker ran away. May go by "Scott" or "David" Calling from (707) area code. Found worker on Backpage. His description appears on nationalblacklist and liars and cheater.

**Black male 30's-40s "Leon"** drives a black 1991 chevy. Met worker at workers home. Sexually Assaulted and Stalked worker. Somewhere in SF

**Stocky 30's Hispanic/Latino Male "Joe"** shortish height, with dark black thick curly hair. Heavily tattooed with large plug gauges in ears. Found worker on

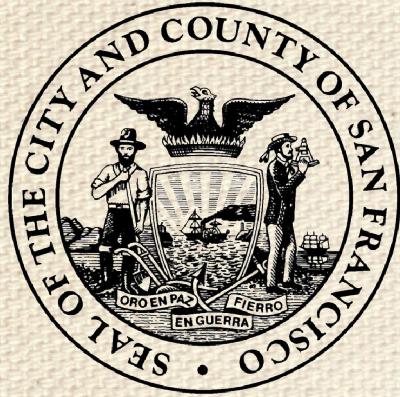
# Small Group Breakout

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# Program or Policy Idea

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- Pick a program idea, policy idea, or a barrier in a current program
  - How to address?
  - Expected challenges?
  - Key allies?
  - Opportunities for peer involvement?
- Report back to group



# Thank You!

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**SAN FRANCISCO  
DEPARTMENT ON THE  
STATUS OF WOMEN**



*turning knowledge into practice*