

Sex Work Legal Framework in Greece

The negative consequences of repressive legalization



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PositiveVoice
people+HIV

A woman with long, dark, wavy hair is shown from the chest up. She is holding a silver handgun to her head with her right hand. Her left hand is raised to her mouth, covering it. She has a serious expression and is looking directly at the camera. The background is dark. The image is framed by a red border at the top and a blurred grey background on the sides.

**Violence & Social
Inequalities Against
Trans/ Sex workers**

Street based Sex Work

The reality

Street based sex work is illegal

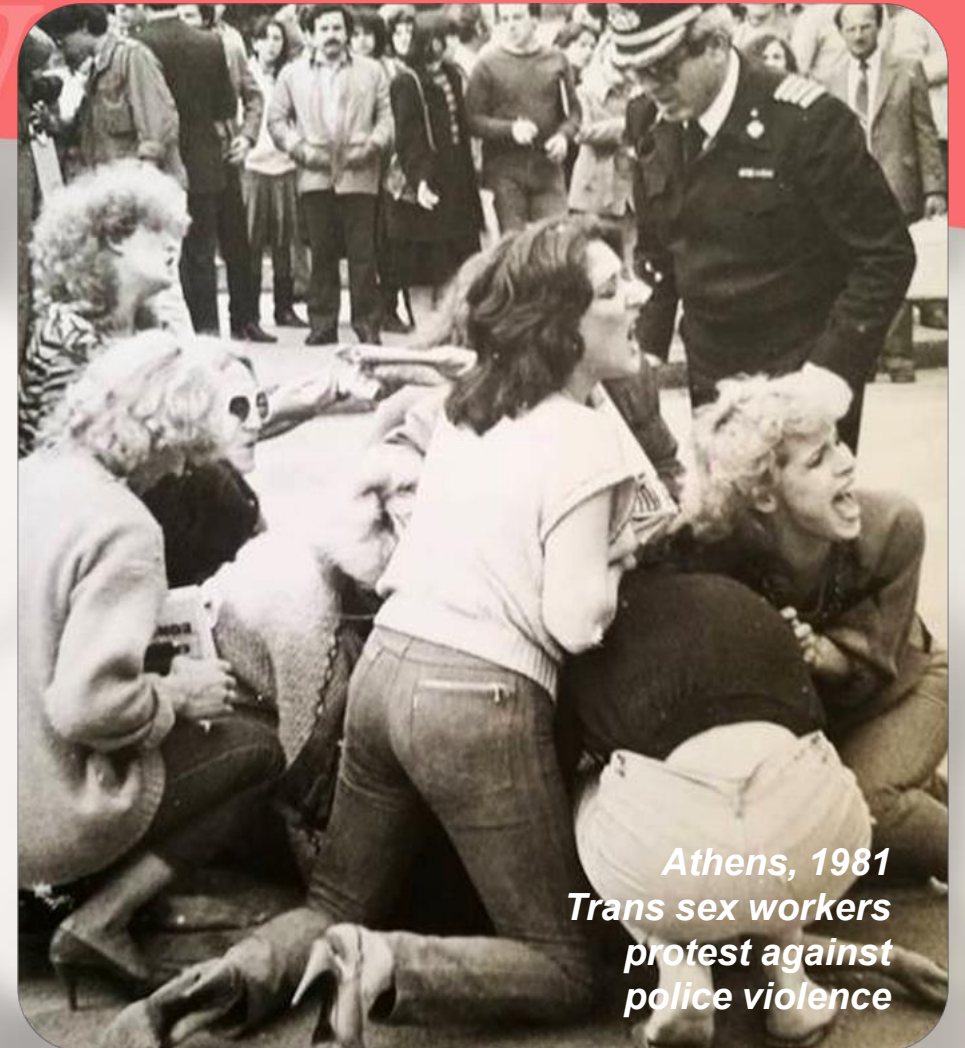
1980-2010
POLICE
ALMOST DAILY

Violence
Arrests
Beaten up

TODAY

Less police violence
Daily fines
No imprisonment

I started sex work at the streets of Athens in '80s.



*Athens, 1981
Trans sex workers
protest against
police violence*

“ Sex Work is Legal in Greece

Since 1834 first legislation
for women prostitutes-Licensed
by Police authorities Aiming
to protect public health
from syphilis

1834

1999

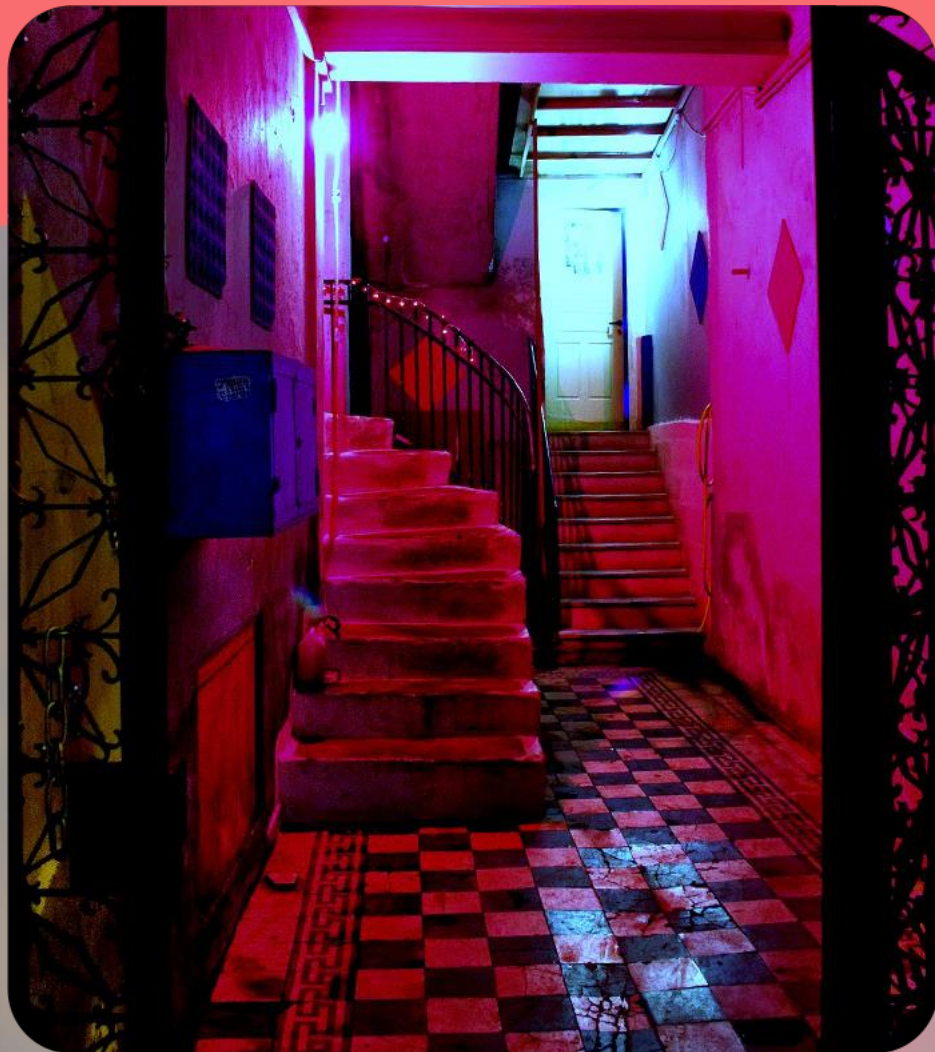
Last reformation in 1999
non gender defined

3 licenses:
1 for brothels, 1 for sex workers,
1 for brothel housekeepers

Today

Indoors

Indoors Sex Work ” The reality



**Indoors sex work is legal
according to the law 2734/1999**

**Over 500 unlicensed brothels
in Attica Region**

**35 licensed brothels
in Thessaloniki, etc.**

police violence
arrests
fines
imprisonment**

**I worked for 25 years sex work in brothels
at various Greek cities**

“Red Umbrella Athens: Primary prevention & Empowerment association for SWs

**At policy level: Advocacy for decriminalization-equal
SW rights**

Drop-in center & Outreach interventions:

**Counselling and referrals for sexual &
reproductive health**

Harm reduction of sex work and drug use

Psychosocial support

HIV, HBV, HCV testing & linkage to care

Legal advice

Free distribution of condoms & safer injection kits

Artistic activities



Proposition 1: Sex Work is Work

prostitutes

sex workers

Proposition 2: No mandatory testing

*medical testing
for STIs every 15 days*

**one of the strictest
regulations in EU**

“Proposition 3: Equal Professional rights for sex workers

~~SEX WORK LICENSE IS VALID FOR
3 YEARS~~

*No time limitation as any other
professional license*

“ Proposition 4: Equal Human & Civil rights

sex workers
are not allowed to be married
this is an obvious discrimination



Thank you!



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