Checks or money orders can be sent to DSW or CDSW at 360 Nueces Street, Suite 1102, Austin, TX 78701

Online donations can be made using a credit card or PayPal at www.DecriminalizeSex.Work/donate

DSW is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is “to end the prohibition of prostitution in the United States.”

Specifically, DSW works to change U.S. laws to stop the arrests -- and remove all criminal and civil penalties -- for consensual sexual activities between adults, regardless of whether money is exchanged. (This is typically called “decriminalization.”)

We do not favor the “legalization” of sex work, which restricts legal prostitution to government-licensed businesses in specified locations, such as the legal brothels in Nevada. This model has not reduced the arrests and public humiliation of people involved in the sex trade.

DSW is pursuing a state-by-state strategy to end the prohibition of prostitution. We are partnering with allies in Rhode Island and New Hampshire, employing professional lobbying firms to pursue a disciplined strategy toward enacting model laws that can be replicated in other states.

Following success at the state level, DSW will expand into lobbying Congress to remove federal laws that threaten the safety and trample the rights of sex workers, such as the Mann Act and Sesta/FOSTA. Instead, DSW is advocating for laws that actually combat human trafficking and improve the safety of all.

“Decriminalizing consensual adult prostitution would reduce human trafficking, improve public health, help people out of poverty, reduce street-based sex work, reduce crime, deter minors’ involvement, and stop the arrests and public humiliation of consenting adults who prefer to keep their sex lives private.

Opponents believe that prostitution leads to increases in sexually transmitted diseases and human trafficking. DSW responds that existing evidence actually points to the opposite of both claims. Opponents also allege that prostitution is inherently immoral, commercially exploitative, empowers the criminal underworld, and promotes men’s repression of women. DSW contends that decriminalizing sex work will empower vulnerable people in the sex trade to report crimes committed against them.
PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

There aren’t many public-opinion polls on this issue, but national support for decriminalization appears to have been increasing since 1995. In 2015 and 2016, between 44% and 49% of U.S. adults supported making “prostitution between consenting adults” legal.

And back in 2008, a decriminalization ballot initiative in San Francisco received 41% of the vote with almost no funding.

Amnesty International, the World Health Organization, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Libertarian Party, and the Democratic Socialists of America all have positions supporting decriminalization. There is growing support across the political spectrum to listen to sex workers and stop the arrests.

INTERNATIONALLY, criminalization has been linked to higher rates of violence and STD rates. New Zealand and New South Wales in Australia both decriminalized sex work in 2003. The impact of these laws has been consistently positive.

DSW’s PROJECTS

1. NEW HAMPSHIRE: In late 2018, DSW retained a Republican lobbying firm in Concord to work toward the passage of our model state legislation, which removes all penalties for adults engaging in consensual sex work, while maintaining penalties for human trafficking and the involvement of minors. This process will begin with the involvement of minors.

In 2018, the NH House committee voted against what is essentially our model state bill, which failed to progress toward consensus legislation in 2020. In 2016, a NH House committee voted against what is essentially our model state bill, which failed to progress toward consensus legislation in 2020.

2. RHODE ISLAND: Also in late 2018, DSW began working with a Democratic lobbying firm in Providence to dually lobby for our model legislation and a study-commission bill. While neither passed in 2019, there are strong indications that either or both chambers of the RI legislature could pass legislation in 2020 to study the impact of prostitution prohibition on public health and safety. Rhode Island has a long history of sex-worker activism, including a period of time when indoor sex work was decriminalized between 2003 and 2009, which reduced gonorrhea by 40% and reported rapes by 30%.

3. GRANTS PROGRAM: DSW’s grants program provides funding for projects that foster measurable changes in U.S. public policy that will lead to prostitution decriminalization on the local, state, or federal levels. Most initial grantees are statewide organizations working to change state-level laws.

4. TWO ADVISORY BOARDS: In 2020, DSW will build a robust “Policy Council” of academics, clergy, physicians, and other U.S. thought leaders. In addition, DSW will be launching a “VIP Advisory Board” of influential U.S. actors, musicians, comedians, and politicians who support the decriminalization of sex work.

5. PUBLIC RELATIONS: DSW is continually promoting its message of decriminalization through the news media by: (a) responding to major news developments, such as the arrest of Robert Kraft; (b) accurately describing the nature and impact of prostitution-related legislation and other policy developments; and (c) generating our own news, such as releasing public-opinion polls and an analysis of state-level prostitution laws.

WHY WE FIGHT

Police, social-service providers, health-care professionals, academics, and sex-worker-rights advocates know that the best way to reduce trafficking, street prostitution, sexually transmitted diseases, and violence against women is to decriminalize prostitution.

The criminalization of sex work wastes taxpayer money, demoralizes the police, and undermines the health and safety of citizens who aren’t even involved in sex work. Ending the arrest of otherwise law-abiding sex workers would positively impact all of the above.

DSW’s BUDGET

DSW is a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible educational organization. And its lobbying branch, the similarly named Campaign to Decriminalize Sex Work, is a 501(c)(4) lobbying organization. These two nonprofit organizations’ portions of the combined budget shown here are 90% and 10%, respectively.

EXPIESSES 2018 2019 2020 2021

NET REVENUES for the year 67,549 120,000 105,000 90,000

CASH ON HAND end of the year 67,549 187,549 292,549 382,549

REVENUES 2018 2019 2020 2021

Six-figure donors 220,000 560,000 640,000 720,000

Five-figure donors 48,000 390,000 410,000 430,000

Four-figure donors 0 40,000 50,000 60,000

Smaller donors 1 9,000 10,000 11,000

Foundation grants 0 25,000 50,000 50,000

Events & merchandise 0 1,000 5,000 9,000

TOTAL REVENUES 268,164 1,025,000 1,165,000 1,280,000