Coalition for Rights & Safety for People in the Sex Trade

a network of community groups in Seattle/King County area

Coalition for Rights & Safety for People in the Sex Trade is a network of individuals and organizations promoting self-determination, safety, well-being, and human rights of sex workers and people engaged in the sex trade through public education, policy advocacy, and other activities from empirical, harm reduction, and social justice perspectives.

Since its birth in March 2017, the Coalition has conducted a large community survey investigating how various policies are impacting people in the sex trade, including everyday policing, online platform shutdowns, and others; advocated for policy changes to make emergency assistance accessible to people in the sex trade; helped communities mitigate and respond to crises arising from raids and other state interventions; etc.

In the 2019 legislative session, our and our partners’ advocacy played a role in the passage of two State legislations: HB 1382 that protects our community from being charged with prostitution when we seek emergency assistance after experiencing violence, and HB 1756 which creates safety standards for adult entertainment workers at strip clubs.

We are also partnering with other groups to establish culturally competent outreach toward and organizing with migrant workers working at massage parlors in Chinatown/International District and to strengthen our Asian American and sex worker communities to resist and respond to harmful raids that displace and impoverish vulnerable workers.

More recently, we are helping the launch of Aileen’s, a new peer-centered organizing and hospitality space for women working along the Pac Hwy in south King County.

Current Coalition members:

- API Chaya
- BABES Network
- Church of Harm Reduction
- Entre Hermanos
- Gender Justice League
- Green Light Project
- Lavender Rights Project
- Legal Voice
- Northwest Network POC-SWOP
- Safe Night Access Project (SNAPS)
- Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) Seattle
- Sexual Violence Legal Services
- Surge Reproductive Justice
- Trans Health Law Project
- U.T.O.P.I.A. Seattle
- Rad Care

Support Aileen’s, Support Women on Pac Hwy

Aileen’s is a new peer-centered organizing and hospitality space in Federal Way for women working along the Pac Hwy. This is the area south of Seattle stretching from around SEATAC airport to the south end of King County that is home to many women who trade sex and where Gary Ridgeway, a.k.a. Green River Killer, sought his victims.

We are fed up with the lack of services and resources for empowerment in south King County. Pressing concerns include homelessness, legal issues, CPS involvement, substance use problems, domestic violence, police harassment and brutality, sexual assault and harassment, racism, transphobia, among others.

Women along the Pac Hwy need a safe place to get off the street, even for temporarily, a place to get and give support without being hated or judged, a place to share safety information like the bad date line and receive life saving harm reduction tools.

We are currently forming a steering committee of peers to guide Aileen’s as we envision and create our space. Initial plans include a kitchenette with hot drinks and snacks, a dressing room and clothes closet, lounge area, computer and phone access, and an office space offering peer counseling, harm reduction and overdose prevention services, and community resources and referrals.

Aileen’s is by and for women in the sex trade, women who are homeless or unstably housed, women doing survival sex, coming out of prison, having their kids taken by CPS, struggling to make ends meet, as well as women with former lived experience, and sex workers from all walks of life. We welcome volunteers/allies willing to complete our training.

Please support the work of Aileen’s by making a generous donation online at www.gofundme.com/aileens or to: Church of Harm Reduction, PO Box 3484, Federal Way, WA 98063. Aileen’s is a joint project of community groups including Church of Harm Reduction and Coalition for Rights & Safety for People in the Sex Trade.

For more information:

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