

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE SEX WORKERS PROJECT

Legal Services | Social Services | Policy Advocacy

## Advocacy Impact

We celebrated an amazing win after the long hard fight to eliminate the confiscation of condoms: with the New York State Governor's budget including a ban on their use in prostitution and loitering cases. We also celebrated passage of the Second Chance Act, protecting our clients and all New Yorkers from employment discrimination based on criminal convictions – Our Staff Attorney Robin Richardson was part of this successful campaign.

## Access to Health

Counselor Advocate Caro Rodriguez-Fucci founded a monthly Medicaid enrollment clinic at the Urban Justice Center so our clients who may not feel comfortable disclosing their immigration status, gender identity, or sources of income in other less supportive settings can have the same access to health insurance as all other New Yorkers.

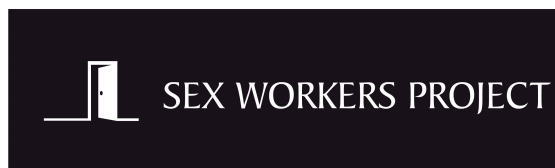


## 2015 Highlights

Happy holidays from the Sex Workers Project. As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2015 we look forward to a new year in which strides for the lives and welfare of sex workers will be greater than ever.

Thank you to our dedicated supporters for standing by us through a year of project expansion and legal and policy victories.

**URBAN  
JUSTICE  
CENTER**





### Change at City Hall

Jessica Penaranda, our Special Projects Coordinator, testified before City Council on the impact of the Human Trafficking Intervention Courts. Her project analyzing these courts and advocating for change continues.

### Trainings in Mexico

Using the unique skills developed working hand in hand with sex workers over the past 15 years, we trained over 1,000 service providers and constituents in 2015, including a unique training in partnership with local sex workers and the Colectivo Contra La Trata in Mexico City, cosponsored by the US Embassy and the Mexican Commission on Human Rights.

### Research in New Zealand

Director Sienna Baskin returned from her Fulbright research fellowship studying the health and safety impact of decriminalization of sex workers in New Zealand.

### National Policy

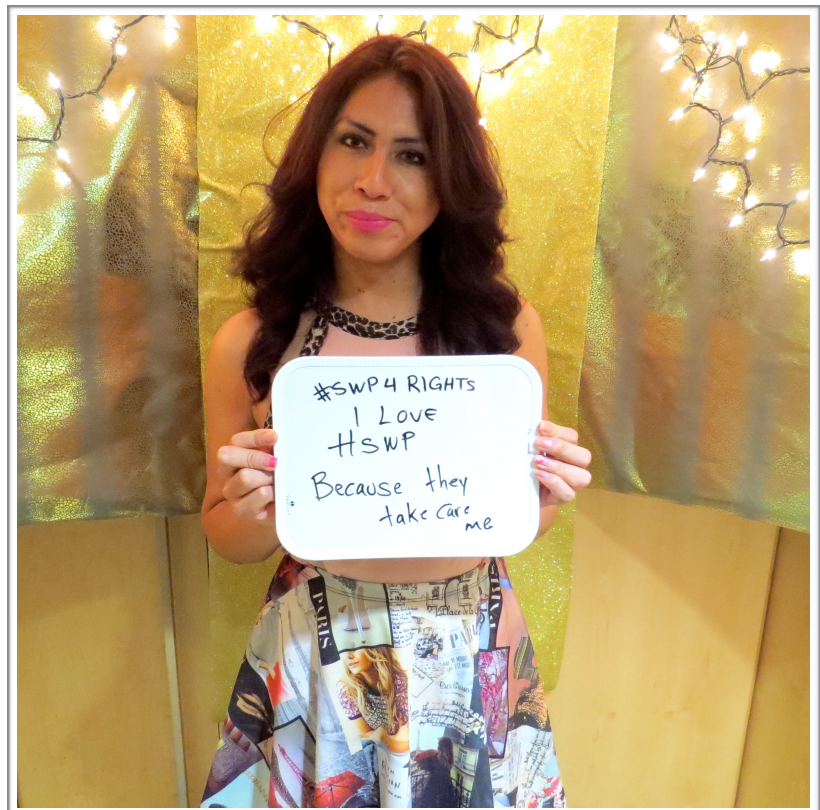
Kate D'Adamo, our National Policy Advocate has greatly increased our media presence and enriched our ability to support local sex workers and activists in campaigns for rights across the country, as part of a growing movement.

### International Developments

2015 saw a huge victory when the human rights organization Amnesty International voted to endorse decriminalization. This decision sparked many debates across the globe about the impact of laws on sex workers, generating conversation on every level. As we have been advocating for decriminalization to benefit our clients for so many years, we commend Amnesty for their commitment to protecting human rights and respecting the dignity of sex workers everywhere.

### Client-centered Services

In the midst of these developments, we continued to provide life-changing services to sex workers and survivors of trafficking, with over 150 active legal cases and over 100 ongoing clients receiving social therapy and case management.





### *Friendsgiving 2015*

Our annual Friendsgiving celebration gave us the opportunity to connect with supporters and clients and celebrate all of these achievements.

We honored Leigh Latimer and Lorena Borjas for their dedicated contributions with our first annual Advocate of the Year awards.

### *Complete the Healing*

We are targeting our end of year campaign on our long running work to reunite trafficking survivors with their children and families. So many of our clients have, sex workers and trafficking survivors, are devoted to their children and motivated to provide for them, even when their families are torn apart by criminalization or violence.

We are thrilled to report that all donations before the end of the year (up to \$3000) will be matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous donor. That's twice as much impact for every dollar you contribute till the end of 2015!



Join forces on social media to spread this campaign using #swp4rights and this donation link: <http://bit.ly/swprtr>.

Help us reunite more families this holiday season - by donating to support our legal and social services.

*Thank you for your support!*

*Happy holidays!*