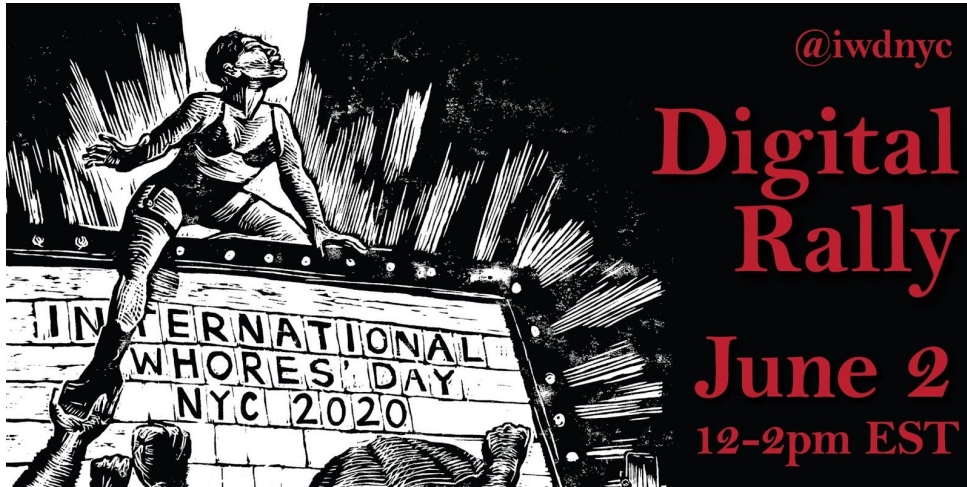


International Whores' Day 2020 Digital Rally Fact & Term Sheet for Media



Event Information

Name of Event: International Whores' Day

Organizers: IWD NYC 2020 Coalition and Kink Out

Background: On June 2nd, 1975, over 100 sex workers began an 8-day occupation at the Saint-Nizier Church in Lyon, France to protest criminalization of sex work. Since then, sex workers across the world gather every June 2nd to protest and celebrate.

Terms to Use and Avoid

Terms to avoid: hooker, prostitute, lady of the night, streetwalker, sugar baby, whore (outside of community use in quotes or the day's internationally recognized name), gigolo, john, trick, Vic, pimp, working girls¹

Terms to use: sex worker, provider, client²

Note: Sex workers use the phrase "International Whores' Day" as a reclaiming of the word, "whore". While press and the public can refer to the celebration as "International Whores' Day," do not refer to the sex workers attending or organizing the event as "whores.

¹ Adapted from Schulte and Hammes, "[Media Guide on Sex Work](#)" (2017)

² Adapted from Schulte and Hammes, "[Media Guide on Sex Work](#)" (2017)

Glossary of Terms

Sex work/Sex worker: Umbrella term for people who sell sex as work. Includes, but is not limited to, exotic dancers/strippers, internet-based cam workers, adult film actor/actress/stars, pro-dommes, phone sex operators, GFE (Girl Friend Experience) workers, escorts, indoor, outdoor, full-service, and street-based workers.³ This does not automatically include people who are survivors of sex trafficking, who did not consent to selling/trading sex because of choice or circumstance.

(Sex) Trafficking: Trafficking is the exploitation of people in the sex trades, often conflated with sex work more broadly. Typically Sex Trafficking includes physical or sexual coercion, the transport of people across geographical borders for the purposes of exploitative labor, rape, deception, abuse of power and/or bondage incurred through forced debt.⁴

Sex trade: An umbrella term for the field of sex services and labor. This can be a more inclusive term than “Commerical Sex Industry” because it expands inclusion to those not recognized as workers in criminalized fields within the trade and those engaged in survival acts that are often invisibilized. “People in the sex trade” is also the broadest term available, encompassing both sex workers and survivors of sex trafficking.

Decriminalization: Decriminalization is the repealing of laws that criminalize sex work and activities associated with performing sexual labor, including selling sex, buying sex, accessing housing as a sex worker, and occupying public spaces as a sex worker. Current proposals for the decriminalization of sex work leave intact many laws against sex trafficking.⁵

[Amnesty International](#), [UNAIDS](#), the [ACLU](#), and the [World Health Organization](#) all endorse the decriminalization of sex work as a human rights issue.

Legal / Legalization: Legalization of sex work introduces government regulation and oversight into sex work. Places that have adopted this model heavily regulate a legal strand of the sex industry while continuing to criminalize workers who cannot or will not comply with various bureaucratic requirements, such as mandatory health testing, employment in certain venues, having madatory management or registering publicly as a prostitute.⁶

Nordic Model / End Demand / Swedish Model: Criminalizes the purchase of sex and punishes third parties (such as managers, drivers, roommates, and landlords) while ostensibly

³ Adapted from Schulte and Hammes, “[Media Guide on Sex Work](#)” (2017)

⁴ Adapted from Schulte and Hammes, “[Media Guide on Sex Work](#)” (2017)

⁵ Adapted from Schulte and Hammes, “[Media Guide on Sex Work](#)” (2017)

⁶ Adapted from Smith and Mac, *Revolting Prostitutes* (2018)

decriminalizing those who sell sex.⁷ While advocates are often well-meaning, this model actually puts sex workers further at risk.

FOSTA/SESTA: FOSTA (Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act) and SESTA (Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act) were two bills passed in April 2018. They have expanded liability for internet platforms that “knowingly facilitate sex trafficking.” In practice, since the passage of these laws, websites that host content related to the sex trade (strippers’ Instagram accounts, street-based workers who use Venmo, escorts that host their websites on third party platforms) have increased surveillance and work to deplatform any content that might be connected to the sex trade.⁸

For more information on FOSTA/SESTA see Hacking//Hustling’s 2020 report, “[Erased - The Impact of FOSTA/SESTA](#).”

EARN IT: EARN IT (Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act) is a bill proposed in March 2020 that would expand on FOSTA/SESTA by allowing for more lawsuits against websites over user-created content and communication unless platforms comply with new government speech guidelines. EARN IT would create a 19 person commission that sets government control of online speech, which many believe is a thinly veiled attempt to mandate encryption backdoors. This puts encryption at risk.⁹

For more information on EARN IT, see Hacking//Hustling’s resources [here](#).

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Fact & Term Sheet written by the IWD NYC 2020 Coalition. For more information:
internationalwhoresday.com // internationalwhoresday@gmail.com // [@iwdnyc](https://twitter.com/iwdnyc)

⁷ Adapted from Smith and Mac, *Revolting Prostitutes* (2018)

⁸ Adapted from Hacking//Hustling, <https://hackinghustling.org/what-is-sesta-fosta/>

⁹ Adapted from Hacking//Hustling, <https://hackinghustling.org/earn-it-act/>