



WELCOME

FEDERAL SEX TRADE LAW

Page Act - 1875 - 1974

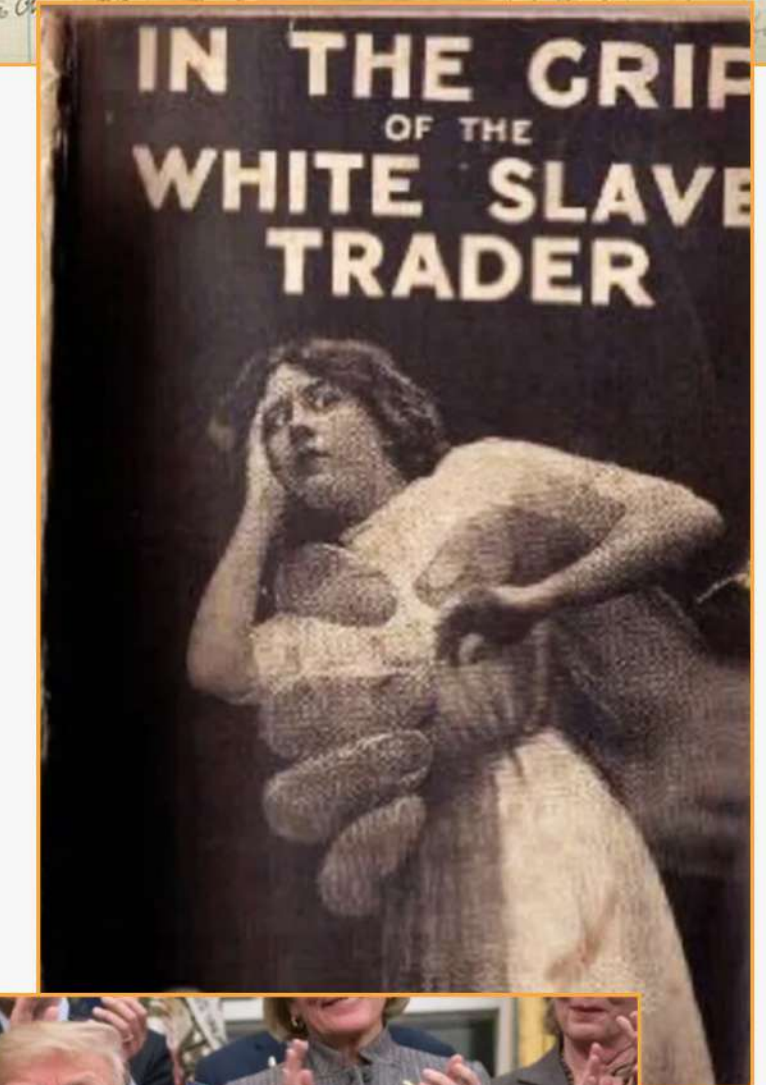
Precursor to the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act

Banned the migration of women from Asia "suspected of engaging in prostitution".



White Slave Traffick Act (aka Mann Act) - 1910

Made it a felony to transport "any woman or girl for the purpose of prostitution or debauchery, or for immoral purposes. Conflation of women's sexual independence with sex trafficking.



Trafficking Victims Protection Act - 2000

First comprehensive federal law in the United States to address human trafficking.

Sex trafficking is defined as *the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, where the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or where the person induced to perform such act has not attained the age of 18.*

SESTA / FOSTA - 2018

Amended Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to remove legal immunity for online platforms that host content promoting or facilitating prostitution.



SEX WORKERS RIGHTS IN THE USA

First Sex Worker Rights March – Jan 25, 1917 San Francisco

300+ sex workers march to protest the imminent closure of their brothels. Workers demand economic justice in light of the wage gap and lack of resources.

S.T.A.R. – 1970

Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera found STAR to provide shelter to homeless transgender youth, to prevent youth survival sex work.

“Sex Work” coined by Carol Leigh – late 70's or early 80's

Carol invented the phrase to frame prostitution as a labor rights issue and to counter the dehumanizing phrase “sex use industry” used by 2nd wave feminists.

Yang Song dies during police raid – November 2017

Yang Song jumped to her death in Flushing New York when her workplace was raided for a second time by police in the name of “stopping trafficking”.



RAPID MOVEMENT GROWTH

The presence of sex worker-led organizations in the US has grown by nearly 1000% in 10 years.



2015

~30 Sex Worker Orgs




2025

257 Sex Worker Orgs

These organizations advocate for the decriminalization of sex work

New Moon has provided resources to nearly 150 of these organizations.



**WHY ARE
SEX WORKERS
MOBILIZING?**

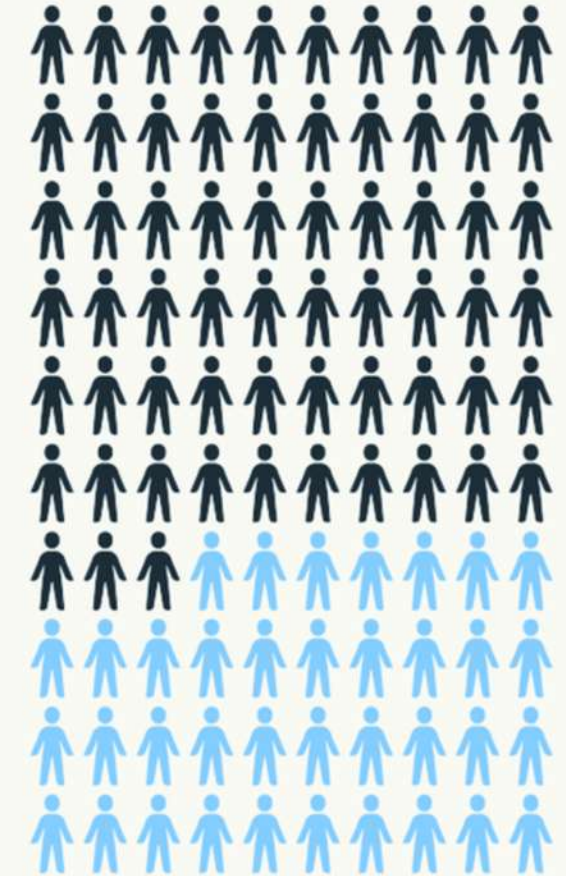
CONFLATION OF SEX WORK & SEX TRAFFICKING

Efforts to “abolish the sex trade” have led to danger & instability for sex workers.

- **Increased policing** – Raids, increased penalties
- **Increased surveillance** – Facial recognition
- **Increased discrimination** – Banking, housing, child custody
- **Increased censorship** – Removal from the Internet
- **Decreased tools for law enforcement** to investigate missing people
- **Erasure & discrediting of sex worker existence**

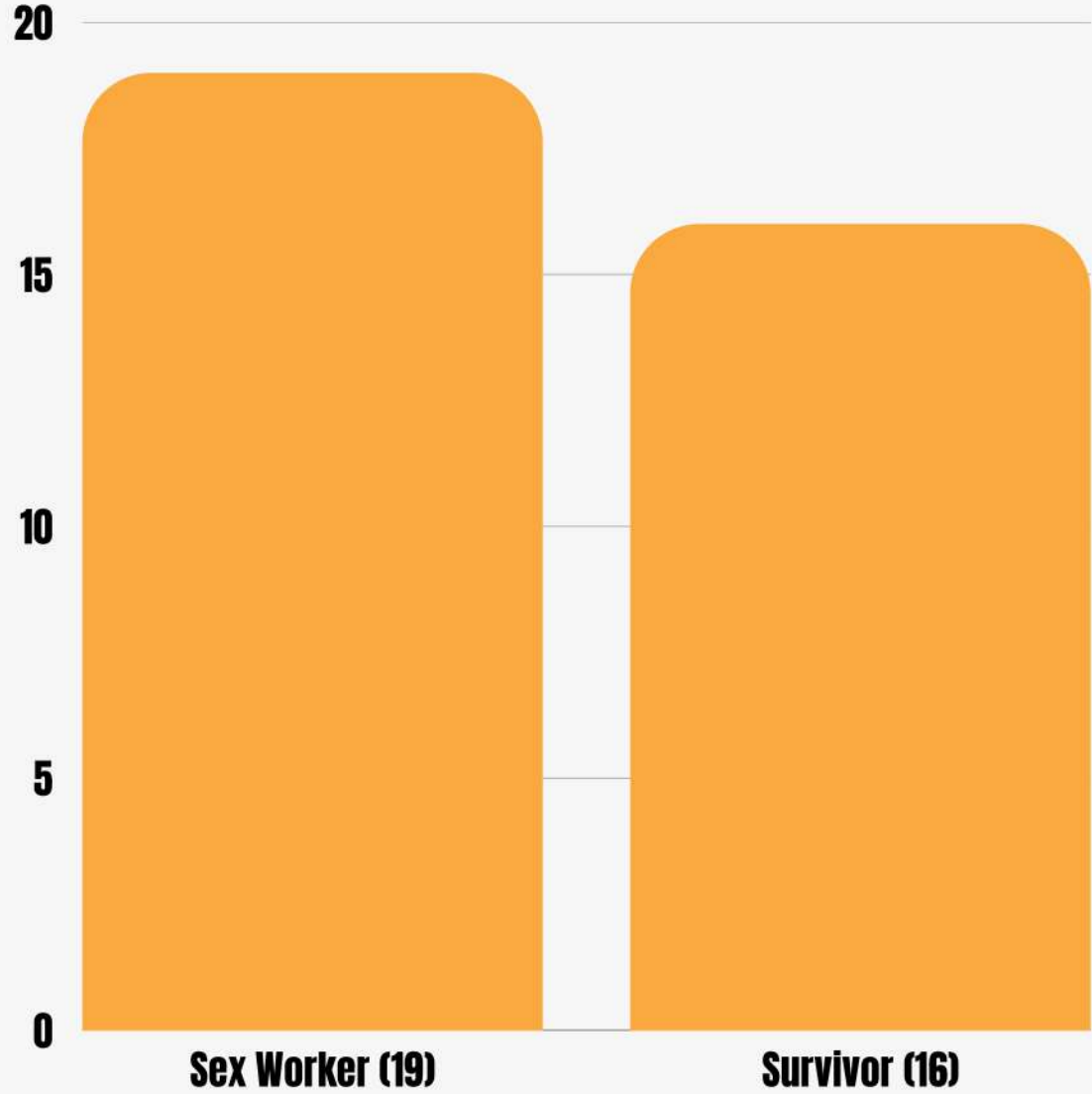
63%

of those working in adult
have lost a bank or financial
tool due to their work

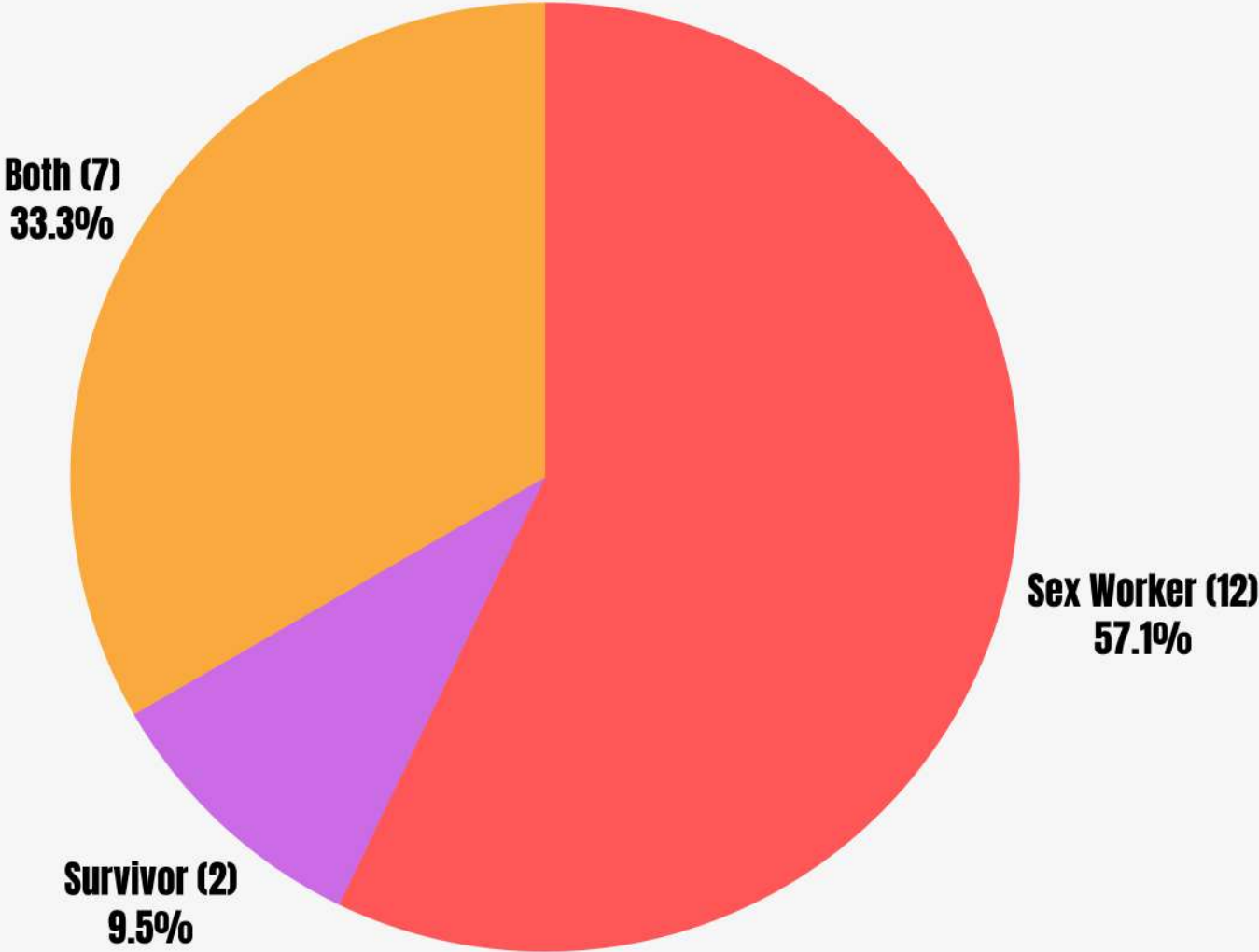


SEX WORKERS UNDERSTAND SEX TRAFFICKING

Sex workers are key to combatting sex trafficking because many of us have experienced it.

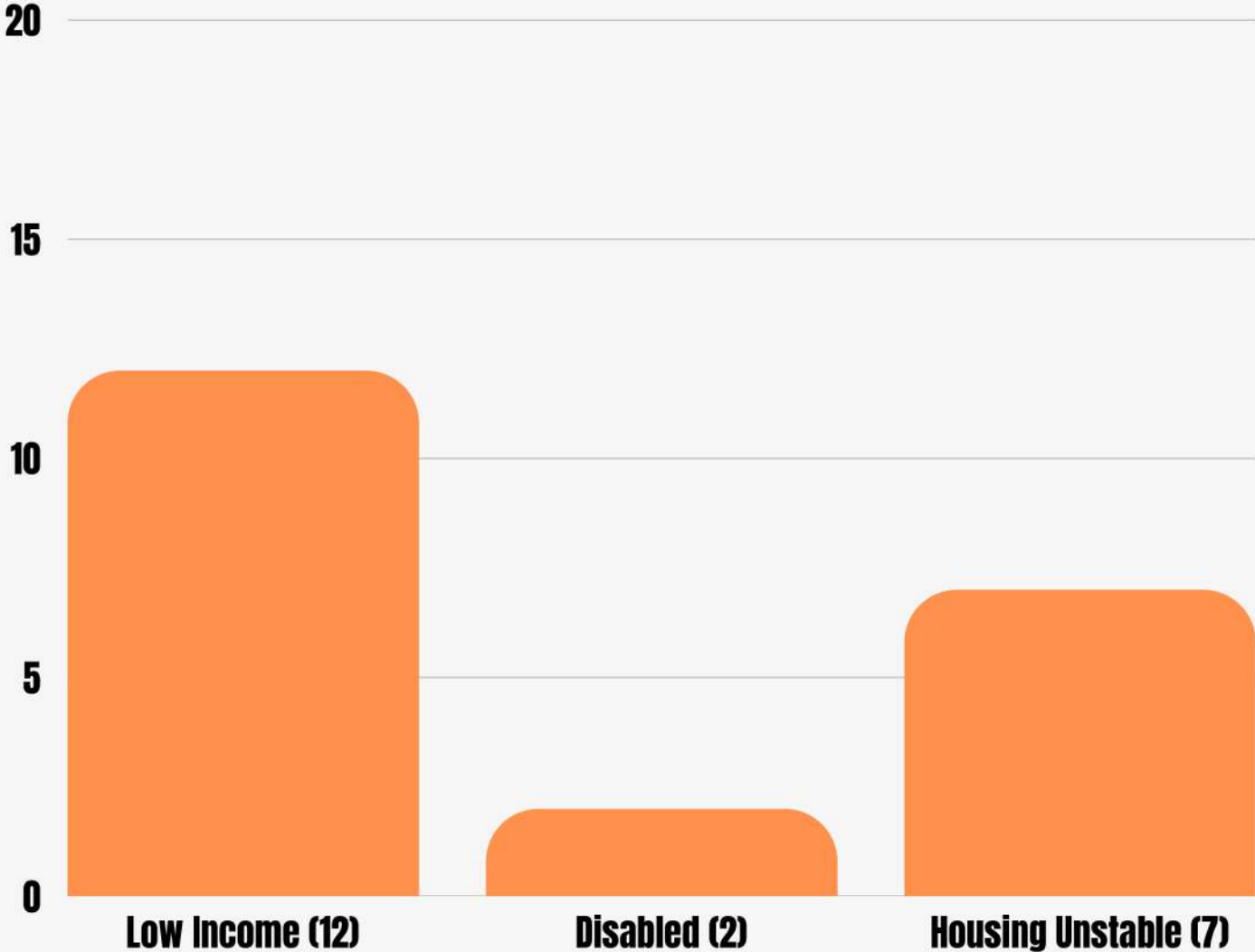


How do the leaders of your organization identify?
(20 organizations asked)



How do you identify?
(21 program participants asked)

SEX WORK & INTERSECTIONALITY



How do you identify?
(21 program participants asked)

DISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS

- **Vermont advanced a Constitutional Declaration of Rights**

- *...must not deny equal treatment under the law on account of a person's race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin.*


- **Equal Opportunity Act, Victoria Australia**

- Sex work is decriminalized
- Sex workers recognized as disproportionately LGBTQ+
- Nobody can be treated unfairly due to their occupation
- Enables sex workers to sue for discrimination



The screenshot shows the website header for the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission. It includes navigation links for "Quick exit", "Translations", "Get help", and "Search". The main content area is titled "Home / Profession, trade or occupation" and contains the text: "We should treat all Victorian workers the same, regardless of their industry. This attribute protects sex workers from discrimination. It is against the law to treat someone unfairly because of their profession, trade, or occupation." To the right of the text is a photograph of a young woman with dark, curly hair, wearing a necklace.

The screenshot shows a document titled "PROPOSAL 4 (Third Reading per Chapter II, § 72, Vermont Constitution and Senate Rule 83)". The subject is "Declaration of rights; government for the people; equality of rights". The "PENDING ACTION" is "Third reading of the proposal (second biennium)". Below this is the text of "PROPOSAL 4", Section 1, PURPOSE, which states: "(a) This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to specify that the government must not deny equal treatment under the law on account of a person's race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin. The Constitution is our founding legal document stating the overarching values of our society. This amendment is in keeping with the values espoused by the current Vermont Constitution. Chapter I, Article 1 declares 'That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights.' Chapter I, Article 7 states 'That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people.' The core value reflected in Article 7 is that all people should be afforded all the benefits and protections bestowed by the government, and that". At the bottom right of the page is the page number "- 338 -".



**SEX WORKERS
EXIST IN
VERMONT**

SEX WORK HAPPENS IN VERMONT

- **People are selling sex in VT**

- ~90 people counted advertising on 3 websites on 3/13/26
- It's likely that ~1/3 of them live in Vermont
- I personally know 10 other sex workers
- 100+ people attended the New England Sex Work Summit

- **There are likely hundreds of online sex workers in VT**

- Creating adult media
- Performing on cam shows
- Offering phone sex

- **People turn to sex work in hard times**

- OnlyFans reported a **75% increase in creator sign-ups** in the early months of the pandemic, with **60,000 new creators joining in March 2020 alone.**





**THANK YOU
FOR LISTENING**