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About the ICRSE
The International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe is a registered foundation in The Netherlands. Our main goals are:
- to bring sex workers and their allies together on an international level
- to further social acceptance of and respect for sex workers
- to guarantee sex workers’ civil rights
- to organise the support of sex worker allies

ICRSE works to further these goals by:
- building international networks of sex workers and their allies to improve or abolish oppressive laws
- promoting communication and information-sharing over the Internet and on paper
- organising conferences, study groups and meetings

As well, ICRSE aims to end the sexual stigma faced by women, gays and lesbians and transgendered people, and to promote self-determination for women in general.

To request copies of conference documents, you can reach us by:
- E-mail: info@sexworkeurope.org
- Telephone: +31 20 693 1300
- Or write us at: ICRSE, PO Box 51319, 1007 EH Amsterdam, The Netherlands
WE COULDN’T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

The organisers and participants of the European Conference on Sex Work, Human Rights, Labour and Migration would like to express their sincere thanks to the following people for helping make the conference such a great experience and a fantastic success:

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And everyone else who came and took part...

The ICRSE would like to extend heaps of heartfelt gratitude to all the participants who took the time to attend the conference, and provided their support, inspiration, insight, input and help. It was you, ultimately, who made it possible for this conference to achieve its goals, and turned it into such a great success. Congratulations to all of us!
Foreword

By A. Sorfleet

More than anything, I wanted to go to this conference in Brussels. Perhaps I should explain how it is that someone from Canada ended up writing the final report for an exclusively European conference about sex workers and their rights.

In May 2005 I attended a conference in Montreal: Forum XXX: A Sex Workers’ Rendez-Vous. There, I had the good fortune to meet two sex workers who serve on a committee that was organising a European conference on sex work and human rights. As I listened to their plans to create a manifesto on sex workers’ rights in Europe, I became increasingly excited.

Vancouver is a very long way from Belgium. Still, after reviewing the consultation I had written and designed for sex workers in Canada ($ex, Work, Education, Advocacy & Research! or “$WE@&R!”), the Organising Committee asked me if I would come to their conference and produce the final report.

The goals of this conference were to finalise and realise an authentic mandate from the sex workers of Europe, as well as a declaration of the rights to which sex workers are entitled under international law. Both documents required official endorsement by a democratic vote. Before I arrived, I felt that my role was only to observe and document this event.

I’m not sure that I succeeded in keeping my nose out. In fact, I made my opinions known at almost every opportunity. It would have been hard not to. The entire conference was the most exciting and exhilarating — and empowering — sex worker gathering I have ever attended.

Most fulfilling for me was the opportunity to take part in one of the manifesto workshops. I got to work on the first section with a fantastic team of extremely talented sex workers. There were two sex workers from Germany, two from France, two from Switzerland, one from Italy, one from Sweden, one from Spain, one from the USA, and me.

We didn’t end up finishing our section of the Manifesto in time for the afternoon plenary, where the conference delegation endorsed the other two sections. Our dedicated little editorial group worked on the draft at every possible opportunity. We worked on it over lunch and over supper. We worked on it late at night as well as during some of the other conference workshops. We were committed to getting it right, and getting it finished on time. And we did. We took it to the delegation near the end of the conference to be voted on.

The results speak for themselves. After some debate, the conference delegation wholeheartedly endorsed the Manifesto the evening before it was presented to the European Parliament.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in creating such a superb and important treatise. Congratulations to everyone who participated so genuinely and passionately in this democratic process: the European Conference on Sex Work, Human Rights, Labour and Migration. Hats off to you all! ♥

♥ Andrew Sorfleet is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art (OCCA) in Toronto. He has worked in the sex industry for more than a decade. He was a founding member of the Sex Workers’ Alliance of Toronto (1992-1995), and of the global Network of Sex Work Projects (1992-2006), and coordinator of the Sex Workers Alliance of Vancouver (1995-2005).
Starting at the Beginning...

In 2002 a small network of Dutch sex workers and activists gathered in Amsterdam to organise a conference that would give sex workers an opportunity to respond to the proliferation of repressive new legislation and policies being enacted throughout Europe. In 2003 the group, Sex-work Initiative Group Netherlands (SIGN), approached sex workers and allies across Europe and invited them to join an organising committee which would raise funds and host a European conference on sex workers’ rights. (Allies are people and organisations who—who although not sex workers—work in fields of importance to sex workers, such as labour, migration, human rights and health.)

The response was enthusiastic. The committee registered a foundation—the International Committee for the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe—a necessary formality that enabled the group to take on the legal responsibilities associated with organising such an event. In January 2004 the committee met for the first time, in Amsterdam.

The Organising Committee (OC) consisted of 15 members from several European countries, including female and male sex workers; migrant sex workers; former sex workers; and some people who had never been sex workers. In order to keep the working committee a manageable size, the committee did not attempt to represent every country in Europe. (For OC members, see Appendix B, p. 99.)

In preparation for the conference, the OC met several times, and subcommittees met more frequently. Conference supporters were sent e-mails; postings were sent to various e-mail listserves, and a conference website was created to promote the event. The OC’s finance group raised nearly €220,000 for the event (see Appendix A, p. 98).

The purpose of this conference was established: develop a set of tools which could be used by sex workers to defend and extend their human, labour and migrant rights at home. These tools would include a manifesto—a list of demands for rights to which sex workers should be entitled; a declaration of rights already defined under existing international agreements and treaties; and a list of recommendations determined by delegates while at the conference.

The OC struck two working groups to draft a manifesto and a declaration. The Manifesto Working Group compiled a list of headings (with examples from existing sex worker manifestos) and sent it to a list of supporters—organisations, sex workers and allies—who were asked to provide their own statements to be compiled into a draft manifesto for the conference.

The Declaration Working Group set out three questions which were sent to supporters to answer:

1. What experiences have you had where your workers’ rights have been violated?
2. What rights do you see as most important?
3. How could countries fulfil their legal obligations to ensure sex workers their rights?

The six-month consultation process collected 42 responses (including both individual responses and collective input from groups of sex workers and sex-work projects). Once responses to these questions were collected, the draft documents were circulated amongst OC members for feedback, and volunteers translated them into 13 languages.

Well-known human rights experts were approached for help with the Declaration. Notably, the advice and assistance of Alice Miller (USA),
Shivan Scanlan (Poland) and Jyoti Sanghera (Switzerland) proved indispensable.

Six months before the conference, the OC sent out an open call for applications from any wishing to attend. All sex workers who applied from European countries were accepted, as well as a few sex workers with special skills from outside of Europe. Applicants were encouraged to suggest possible workshop topics, submit plenary proposals, facilitate workshops, or contribute in some other way. Certain allies were specifically invited to participate in conference sessions because of their expertise in human rights, labour rights or migrants’ rights. (See Application Form, p. 105.)

The OC had difficulty finding sex workers and allies from countries in southeast Europe, either due to a lack of sex worker support organisations, or because of the difficulties posed by international travel.

On October 15-17, 2005, delegates from across Europe convened to polish and endorse a sex workers’ manifesto listing demands agreed upon by sex workers living and working throughout Europe, and a declaration of the rights to which sex workers in Europe are entitled under international law. This report documents the three-day event which resulted in this historic achievement.

Celebration, Connection and Challenge

Celebration

The sex workers’ rights movement in Europe has much to celebrate, including a wealth of knowledge, research, materials, dedication and talent. Many activists have been committed to defending and promoting equal rights for sex workers for 20 years or more. Sex workers in Europe have a rich culture and history, and this legacy shone in Brussels. A large area near the plenary room displayed an impressive collection of art and educational materials (see pp. 8-9 & 14-15). There were books, cards and pamphlets—as well as drier documents like annual reports, legal briefs and research papers—in Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian and Spanish.

There were beautiful works of art, produced by sex workers: lush photos, collages and books, which cleverly addressed some of the personal aspects of sex work. A fantastic video booth ran for the duration of the conference. Sexyshock (a women’s sex shop collective from Italy) and Carol Leigh (a.k.a. Scarlot Harlot), from San Francisco set up the booth, which offered delegates the opportunity to record their opinions and feelings on video. Sexyshock has distilled and produced an artistic video; a piece of prostitutes’ history, included with this report (see p. 65).

The celebration culminated in a superb party expertly organised by Marjan Sax. A sumptuous buffet and exceptional live adult entertainment made for a fun venue for delegates to unwind. Sex workers and allies had come together from the corners of Europe and beyond to celebrate our accomplishments, our friendships and our dreams for the future—and that’s exactly what we did.

Connection

One of the main objectives of this conference was to initiate and foster a network of sex workers and allies throughout Europe. Conference materials and documents as well as a translation service were made available in five languages: English, French, German, Spanish and Russian. In addition, volunteers offered translations in several other languages.

Bringing sex workers and allies together allowed participants to share their experiences and form connections that crossed borders and language barriers. The conference provided a rare opportunity to make the initial contacts needed to lay the foundation for a strong, expansive network.

...continued on p. 6. ➯
Such a network could document and track repressive legislation and policies regarding prostitution, migration and human trafficking, and their harmful effects on those who work in the sex industry. This network could also provide a mechanism for collective organising and lobbying for sex workers’ rights.

Challenge

The third major purpose of the conference was to collectively produce tools sex workers and their allies could use to secure and defend human and labour rights for sex workers at home.

The *Declaration of the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe* is based on international treaties signed by governments across Europe, and it outlines all the rights everyone should be entitled to under international law (see p. 77). It also highlights human rights abuses against sex workers across Europe. The assistance provided by our allies who work in human rights organisations (in particular, Alice Miller, University of Columbia; Jyoti Sanghera, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; and Shivan Scanlan, Senior Advisor on Anti-Trafficking Issues Human Rights Dept., Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) was crucial to the creation of this legal document. Your many hours of volunteer labour deserve a special mention, and we thank you.

*The Sex Workers in Europe Manifesto* demands changes that would address European society’s unequal treatment of sex workers (see p. 69). Conference participants split up into three working groups; each group undertook to examine, discuss and make changes to one-third of the Manifesto.

Participants then reconvened, and—following more discussion and debate—voted to endorse the Declaration and the Manifesto.

On the final day, conference delegates gathered at the European Parliament and officially presented these documents, which, for the first time ever, truly represented their collective voice.

Now, those who participated in this political event have tangible results: documents we can use as tools in our efforts to establish the recognition of sex workers’ rights in our own countries.
October 14: Day 0
Registration

Approximately 200 delegates arrived from all over Europe to represent the concerns of sex workers in 28 European countries: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland (Eire), Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine. As well, a handful of sex workers travelled from the United States and Canada to witness this unprecedented event.

Delegates were affiliated with sex workers’ groups, community-based service groups and non-governmental organisations. Other delegates represented national governments, or international bodies such as the United Nations and the European Parliament. Still others came from universities, labour unions and activist groups.

In all, delegates listed affiliations with 86 organisations, and 29 participants described themselves as “independent.” *(For a complete list of organisations with their website addresses, see Appendix D, p. 102.)*

A cocktail reception offered weary travellers a warm welcome to Brussels and to the conference, and allowed delegates to meet and socialise.

October 15: Day 1
For Sex Workers Only

The first day of the conference was reserved for sex workers alone. This decision provoked criticism and disappointment from certain allies, some of whom some had long demonstrated their commitment to the struggle for sex workers’ rights.

No definite criteria were used to qualify applicants as “sex worker” delegates at the conference. The application form asked if you were currently employed in sex work; in which country or countries; and what types of sex work have you engaged in. To ensure that you were not required to reveal your identity when applying, you were allowed to use a false name. Only those who identified themselves as sex workers on the form were selected by the OC to attend the conference as sex worker delegates. *(See Application Form, p. 105.)*

Delegates in the “Ally” category had to be aware that sex workers’ rights must be taken into account in their work, and had to be committed to helping to develop strategies to reach the goals of the conference, and to supporting sex workers beyond the conference.

Our allies deserve strong recognition for their help, expertise and commitment. They have proved invaluable in important projects such as compiling the Declaration of the rights of sex workers as set out in various international resolutions and conventions. Their support has been central to our success.

However, only sex workers can determine our priorities and needs. Therefore, it should be understood that the decision to provide sex workers with the opportunity to meet on our own was absolutely necessary in order for us to reach an agreement on the final text that would become *The Sex Workers in Europe Manifesto*.

*“I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciated the organisation, it was simply incredible. Thanks to you and all the organisers of this conference! It was a wonderful opportunity to meet sex workers from other countries, even from outside Europe, and that was so interesting, I’ve been learning so much... Even if we sometimes had some ‘conflicts’ here and there, I really felt a union these last two days, and it is so motivating.”*  

♥ Sex worker, France

...continued on p. 10. ➔
“WHY are we here?
WHAT do we want?
HOW do we get there?”

During the first morning session, Ruth Morgan Thomas officially welcomed delegates to the conference on behalf of the Organising Committee, and set forth the agenda for the three-day convention.

Privacy concerns were addressed immediately. Only the official conference photographer, Jean-François Poupel, was permitted to take photographs at the conference. Journalists were not allowed entrance.

Ana Lopes, from UK-based International Union of Sex Workers, kicked off the event with a performance requiring audience participation. Decked out in a great feather boa, Ana asked each participant to blow up the red balloon on his or her chair, write something on it, and send it up into the room. Then each of us were to grab a balloon from the air, read it, write something else on it, and bat it around. It wasn’t long before we were all chasing balloons all around the room, in a light-hearted and enjoyable start to a day of serious work.

We proceeded to initiate the Manifesto Working Groups. In addition, some participated in workshops on sex worker pride and on sex work and private life. Others joined a working group charged with conceptualising and planning a new network of sex workers and allies in Europe. (See Conference Programme, p. 104.)

October 16: Day 2
For Sex Workers and Their Allies
“Did you know?”

The first Sunday morning plenary session gave individual sex workers an opportunity to inform and educate everyone at the conference about issues related to labour, migration, human and sexual rights.
Stephanie Klee from HighLights (Berlin, Germany) talked about effects of the Prostitution Act (see p. 53). Laura Agustín spoke about some of the reasons migrant workers seek lucrative employment away from home and some of the realities they face as a result. (See Laura Agustín’s article, p. 40.) Next, Carla Corso from the Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostitute (Pordenone, Italy) spoke about sex workers’ rights and the laws in Italy. (See Carla Corso’s presentation, p. 58.)

Finally, Jesper Bryngemark informed us about the Swedish Government’s legal approach to controlling prostitution and some of its effects on sex workers. In Sweden, purchasing sexual services is a crime but selling them is not. Thus sex workers are not subject to criminal charges, but their clients risk prosecution. According to Bryngemark, Sweden is keen to export this social-policy model, and other countries—both within and outside Europe—are considering adopting similar legislation. (See p. 47 for Jesper Bryngemark’s presentation.)

Patricia Kaatee, Liv Jessen and Jaani Schulerud talked about the motives for—and consequences of—Amnesty International Norway’s decision to give Jessen a human rights award for her work defending sex workers’ human rights (see p. 37).

“Kiss My A$$!”

On Sunday night, conference participants and friends got together for dinner and a party aptly titled: “Kiss My A$$!” The venue was a night club, Club le Cercle (20 rue Sainte Anne, Brussels). A scrumptious Italian-style buffet, catered by the club, was spread out in several corners of the bar. Beer and wine were provided gratis for conference delegates for the first two and a half hours of the party!

The entertainment began at 10 PM: a variety show hosted by Sabina (who was billed as the one-and-only stripper from Finland), followed by disco dancing until 2:00 in the morning. (Read David Sterry’s report on p. 17.)

...continued on p. 13.

Kiss My A$$! – Cabaret Programme

- Homage to Grisélidis Réal – A poem about a great woman and a great fighter for sex workers’ rights from Switzerland. Read by Sonja Verstappen from Belgium with Zigane music.
- Scarlet Harlot from the United Sluts of America – Grab your make-up. Fix your hair. Prostitutes are everywhere! A political satire in song and schtick about the dilemma of the post-modern slut and the struggle to maintain dignity and freedom. By Carol Leigh from the USA.
- Mistress Zezetta Educates Her Slave Damien – She teaches him how to put a condom on his cock—and how to suck and lick it! By Jean-François and Thierry from ACT UP, Paris.
- Strip Act – Ruth Frost first wanted to be a striptease artist at age six. After first becoming a fashion journalist, she achieved her ambition, now dancing at pubs and clubs across London.
- Chicken! – Short version of David Henry Sterry’s the award-winning one-man show which toured the USA, Australia and Amsterdam. Based on his best seller, Chicken: Self-Portrait of a Young Man for Rent.
- Comedy from Kyrgyzstan – A beautiful central Asian country with not only a proud nomadic tradition, but also fantastic sex workers. By Shahnaz Islamova.
- We Proudly Present – Erotic award-winning and famous dancer from Scotland, Sarah Vernon!

“Sex workers and allies unite!”

After lunch was a plenary session where speakers shared their personal experiences of working in successful partnerships between sex workers and allies. Gail Pheterson and Margo St. James began the session with a lively presentation, including a slideshow of historic photos, about their partnership and the history behind the 1st and 2nd World Whores’ Congress (1985 & 1986) (see p. 21).

Ana Lopes and Martin Smith then gave presentations about partnership resulting in the formation of the International Union of Sex Workers (IUSW) in London, and the creation of a sex workers’ branch of Britain’s General Union (GMB)—the third largest trade union in the UK (see pp. 31 & 34).
October 17: Day 3
Sex Workers, Allies and Politicians

At 9:30 Monday morning, chartered buses started arriving at the hotel to transport conference participants to the European Parliament (EP) buildings in Brussels. Italian Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Monica Frassoni, and the Greens/EFA Group, had invited delegates to present the results of the conference to the EP.

Chaos was narrowly avoided as busloads of participants were ushered through security and metal detectors and given official ID tags permitting us to be inside the building.

Once we were all seated in one of the committee rooms, conference organisers began by delivering their opening remarks.

“I want to stress that this conference has been about celebration, it has been about connection, and it has been about challenge. I certainly felt that this conference celebrated sex workers and our work, our labour. It has given us value and I hope that it has empowered many of us to fight the fight even more forcefully from now on. I certainly think that we have made connections, and I think they are strong, and I hope that we can maintain them as strongly in the future. But I also think this conference has been quite challenging for us. We have worked incredibly hard; from the energy and the commitment that all of the participants have put in to the development of the documents, to the participation in the workshops. It has been absolutely amazing.”

Ruth Morgan Thomas, ICRSE Chair, from her opening statement at the European Parliament, October 17, 2005

What followed was an announcement of the official launch of the newly formed Network of Sex Workers and Allies in Europe. The conference recommendations were then read out to MEPs, who were provided with simultaneous translation in five languages.

...continued on p. 16.
To my friend Grisélidis

(Excerpt)

In my prostitute’s heart the memories bleed; my admirers and lovers of the past, my joys, that still dance in my head, they burn my youth and I see the eyes of the clients who I have loved for the time of a trick, clashes body to body, and immense prudishness.

In my prostitute’s heart where my sisters-in-arms rest, my eternal friends, my sisters in struggle, sometimes jealous, mocking, hurting; my proud sisters-in-arms, who respect their clients and who tattoo on their breast the symbols that tell them they are free and not dependent on anybody: whores but not submissive; “the real free women, that’s us!”

In my prostitute’s heart there is a real Friend who has taught us to keep our heads up high, to walk straight, without shame for what we are, always free to do that for which I am born and for which I fight: the freedom, the pride to be who I am, respect and honour.

I want us to continue that fight now that she is not here anymore. The fight for the right to equality, dignity, respect and freedom.

I salute you, sister prostitutes, sisters of the street, we are all daughters of the same mother, “Maria Magdalena.”

♥ Claudette

The crowd grows and red umbrellas start to fill the square.

PHOTO: Quentin Deltour (Espace P)

Ruth Morgan Thomas proceeded to present the Declaration to the Parliament, and it received its first official endorsement. Italian MEP Vittorio Agnolotto (of the Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left) expressed his full support and agreed—“happily,” he told us—to sign our Declaration.

After the Declaration was officially received by the MEPs, a closing ceremony was held at the European Parliament to mark the official ending of the conference. Ten sex workers, one after another, each wearing a red sash stood up and read aloud one of ten statements selected from the Manifesto. Some wore colourful feather masks; others read their statements in their mother tongues. (See “10 Statements; 10 Sex Workers,” on p. 3.)

Press conference

During the lunch hour, before participants went for lunch in the EP cafeteria, a panel of sex workers and allies held a press conference. (For a list of press clippings generated by the conference, see “Look Who’s In the News!” on p. 87.)

Panel debate

At 2:00 PM, conference delegates reconvened in one of the committee rooms for a panel debate on how to implement conference recommendations both nationally and throughout Europe. Panelists included sex workers and allies from the conference as well as members of the European Parliament. MEPs were enthusiastic.

Manifestion dans la rue

Chartered buses then took conference participants to Place de la Bourse, (the stock exchange), where we congregated under red umbrellas at 4:30 PM to begin a protest march through the streets of Brussels. Led by Espace P (a Brussels organisation that offers advocacy for sex workers), the demonstrators marched down the middle of the street (escorted by police), across avenue Anspach, along place de Brouckère, down boulevard Emile Jacqmain to boulevard d’Anvers, across, then along boulevard Albert II, and then through the red light district (rue de Matheus, rue d’Aerschot near Gare de Nord (train station), ending back at the Mercure Royal Crown Hotel (rue Royale 250) around 5:30 PM. (See Protest Route, inside back cover.)

And now, may I proudly present the stories, presentations and articles by participants that became the European Conference on Sex Work, Human Rights, Labour and Migration, Brussels (2005) ...
Afterword

By A. Sorfleet

Sex Workers’ Rights is beautiful and pursuasive because it features you. Your contributions—thoughts, words, visions and work from some of the most experienced and influential voices in the sex-worker-rights movement—make this historic event fruitful. This comprehensive record shows how we can assist our sisters and brothers in their efforts to organise, and gain for themselves recognition of their human and labour rights. Thank you for your dedication, patience, faith, perseverance and volunteer labour. Congratulations is in order!

Uniting for Sex Workers’ Rights!

During the conference in 2005 six European trade unions held an impromptu workshop to meet each other and consider future networking on sex workers’ labour rights issues. Since then, there was a fringe meeting of the International Labour Conference in June 2006 to discuss the role of trade unions in sex workers’ struggle for labour rights (see p. 114). In December 2006, another trade union forum to debate union representation for sex workers was held, this time by Verdi Union in Germany (see p. 112). The right of all workers to establish and join their own associations is fundamental to the International Labour Organisation (Convention 87).

Sex worker unionism worldwide also includes the Victoria branch of the Australian Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers’ Union; Sex Trade Workers Industrial Union (SEIU Local 790), San Francisco; Women’s Network for Unity, Cambodia; Movement of Greek Prostitutes (KEGE), Greece; UNITE, New Zealand. Sex worker organising has also been happening in India, South Africa, Ireland, Argentina, and Trinidad and Tobago.

National and international union interest in our labour rights is exciting and encouraging. It would not be possible, however, without the grassroots organising that is happening on a local level. Without the little sex worker associations, guilds, cooperative societies and support groups, even this conference would not have been possible. This conference in Brussels happened only because there was the capacity for one little local group in The Netherlands to reach out to other local groups spread across Europe and invite them to work collectively to achieve some goals in common.
The Road Ahead

The voice of one person alone is often hard to discern. Many voices together have a better chance to challenge injustice in the world. Fifteen people working collectively... Or 150; or 1,500 people — organised, fighting for a common cause — eventually change does come. There are well-organised, well-funded forces out there that aim to make sure that prostitution is NOT legally recognised as work — as a profession — anywhere in the world (see sidebar, p. 52). There’s only one way to oppose them.

Sex workers must stand united and defend their work, their livelihood, their professions. Only organisations with unified, formal membership can represent sex workers in their bid for direction and control over the profession. Our sisters and brothers need our help — all of our skill, experience, wisdom and support that comes from having fought in these battles already. Likely they will need our volunteer labour and money too. But, to quote Martin Smith (p. 34), we can’t do it for you:

“You have to face up to the personal challenge and the collective challenge of organising your own industry. And like any other group of workers that means defining exactly where the balance point is going to have to be in this industry, between personal liberties and individual rights, and the collective responsibility and collective action through strength and the type of strength of action we need to take.”

In the meantime, I say:

“PROMOTE SEX WORK: HIRE A HOOKER!”

One last thing: I want to thank our editorial team, Petra Timmermans and Jesper Bryngemark and also Ruth Morgan Thomas for their thoughtful work and their unwavering support during the long process completing this project. I also want to thank all of the book’s contributors for so generously and cheerfully providing your work. I am also very grateful to my friends and family at home, without their solid support I could have never accomplished this report. In particular I want to mention Chris Bearchell who volunteered her editing skills to the Manifesto and Declaration; Chris died in February 2007 of breast cancer. ❑

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Street Action: Protest Route

I. START: Place de la Bourse
II. OVER: Avenue Anspach
III. ALONG: Place de Brouckère
IV. LEFT: Boulevard Emile Jacqmain
V. CROSS: Boulevard d'Anvers
VI. UP: Boulevard Albert II
VII. THROUGH: Red Light District
VIII. PAST: Gare de Nord (train station)
IX. DOWN: Back streets
X. END: Mercure Royal Crown Hotel

MAP COURTESY: Accor Hotels