

DECRIM IN SA

AN UPDATE ON THE PUSH TO DECRIMINALISE SEX WORK IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

International Women's Day with SIDAC

This year on International Women's Day members, of South Australia's Sex Industry Decriminalisation Action Committee (SIDAC) joined thousands of other women & allies to celebrate the past victories of our struggles and to continue to push for equality - as part of these struggles, we continue to strive for the decriminalisation of sex work and the recognition of sex workers rights in SA!

We started our day early with an information table at Australia's biggest International Women's Day event - a breakfast at Adelaide Convention Centre with over 2,500 of our closest friends. The support we received was overwhelming and many breakfast guests signed our petition calling for decriminalisation, picked up stickers and donned a badge to raise awareness and stand with sex workers. As host of the event Penny Wong gave a motivating speech where she highlighted her disappointment in the SA governments' failure to decriminalisation of sex work in 2019.

Next we went along to the International Women's Day Luncheon at the Adelaide Convention Centre. We joined with the South Australia Abortion Action Coalition (SAAAC) and together we enjoyed talks from many inspiring women including former Catherine House CEO Louise Miller-Frost. It was a joy to watch SIDAC member and all-around amazing women's rights campaigner Jessie MacGillivray receive an Irene Bell Award for service to the community!

To top off a busy International Women's Day, SIDAC attended the 2020 IWD March from Victoria Square to the steps of Parliament house. This years theme was '*Climate Change: Women Fight Back!*' and while SIDAC supports this theme and we recognise the important of climate change action, we still marched with the additional purpose of demanding the decriminalisation of sex work and the recognition of sex workers rights in South Australia.

Australian Christian Lobby Target Sex Workers

Recently the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) held their South Australian Conference. SIDAC members attended to protest their agenda of the Nordic Criminal model and their targeting of sex workers. While organiser quickly removed our members, we still had quite a few great and supportive conversations while we were there! About a week later ACL released a statement calling on South Australian Parliament to adopt the Nordic Criminal model despite the increases in stigma and violence experienced by sex workers in Canada, Ireland, France and Norway. In this statement, ACL again showed they know so little about sex work law reform that they cannot, or will not, recognise the important difference between decriminalisation and legalisation.



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