

Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 128
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Publication:
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

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Sisters Inside Inc. is an independent community organisation which exists to advocate for the human rights of women in the criminal justice system

8 March 2024

Committee Secretary
Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

By email only: HBBMC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Sisters Inside welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (the **Bill**).

About Sisters Inside

Established in 1992, Sisters Inside is an independent community organisation based in Queensland, which advocates for the collective human rights of women and girls in prison, and their families, and provides services to address their individual needs. Sisters Inside believes that no one is better than anyone else. People are neither “good” nor “bad”; rather, environment, context and life chances shape people’s decisions and ‘behaviour’. Therefore, criminalisation – and *to be criminalised* – is neither inevitable nor neutral. Instead, criminalisation reflects legal and carceral systems that are structured by and reproduce racialised, gendered, hetropatriarchal and ableist hierarchies.

Feedback on the Bill

Sisters Inside welcomes and supports the Bill. Sisters Inside wishes to acknowledge the determined advocacy of sex workers and peer organisations, namely Respect Inc, DecrimQLD and Scarlet Alliance, in bringing about this important legislative change.

Informed by our values, Sisters Inside advocates for the abolition of prisons, policing and other forms of state-sanctioned violence, control and imprisonment. We recognise that abolition requires us “to imagine a constellation of alternative strategies and institutions” (Davis, 2003, p.107). Decriminalisation of sex work is a welcome legislative amendment to reduce the number of women in Queensland affected by policing, imprisonment and state violence. Additionally, as sex workers have pointed out, decriminalising sex work is fundamentally important because it improves women’s safety across Queensland by allowing sex workers to self-organise and work safely together.

In the spirit of this legislation, Sisters Inside strongly encourages the Queensland Government to investigate other offences that must be decriminalised to reduce the impact of imprisonment, policing and stigmatised healthcare for women and girls.

Should you wish to discuss this submission further, please feel free to contact me at

[Redacted]

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

Debbie Kilroy
Chief Executive Officer
Sisters Inside Inc

