

## **The workshop "Empowerment of sex workers in Amsterdam":**

Sex work is a worldwide phenomenon, but the appreciation of sex work differs across the world. What do sex workers have to say about this? Is the social situation of sex workers better in the Netherlands than in America? Does a sex worker in Amsterdam receive more government protection than an MSW in Cape Town? How do "we-cultures" deal with this phenomenon? How is an Australian escort agency for gigolo's organized and what do women think who pay for their services? Short videos will be shown on sex workers from different countries. This allows the workshop participants to get a broader picture of the complexity of the job, the circumstances, the types of sex work and personal reasons of the sex workers who have chosen this profession.

In 2000 prostitution was legalized in the Netherlands. Previously, it was tolerated. In 2005 the situation of sex workers was evaluated and researchers concluded that further empowerment was required and that special care was needed for victims of human trafficking. This resulted in 2008 in the opening of P&G292, which offers information, advice, and support to sex workers in the Amsterdam region. Both nurses as well as social workers are part of the staff. The aims consist of improving health, education, and social and employment status. In addition, P&G292 identifies and reports human trafficking. The target group are all sex workers in the window areas, clubs, escort home, soliciting on the streets etc., regardless of their residence status or nationality. A contraindication is addiction (hard drugs), i.e. if sex work is a means to fund the addiction.

In this workshop you will become acquainted with the challenges and the individual problems P&G292 is confronted with in a playful and an interactive way. Obviously, the methods that are part of the repertoire of P&G292 also will be discussed with the workshop participants.

More information: <https://www.pg292.nl/en> and <http://hvoquerido.nl/english/>