



**ammar.**  
sindicato de trabajadoras  
sexuales argentinas



# SEX WORK

**SEX WORK IS THE VOLUNTARY ACTIVITY OF PERSONS OVER THE AGE OF 18 WHO OFFER OR PROVIDE SEXUAL SERVICES IN EXCHANGE FOR ECONOMIC REMUNERATION.**

THE TERM *SEX WORK* WAS COINED BY CAROL LEIGH (FEMINIST, SEX WORKER, ARTIST AND MEMBER OF AMERICAN SEX WORKERS ' ORGANIZATIONS) TO CONFRONT THE NEGATIVE CONNOTATION THAT THE WORD "PROSTITUTE" HAD AND TO GROUP ALL THE PEOPLE WHO EXERCISE SEX WORK, INCLUDING STRIPPERS, PORNSTARS AND WEBCAMS.

# SEX WORK IS WORK

# HISTORY OF AMMAR

THE ASOCIACIÓN DE MUJERES MERETRICES DE LA ARGENTINA AMMAR IS THE ORGANIZATION OF SEX WORKERS OF THE COUNTRY IN DEFENSE OF THEIR RIGHTS.

WE STARTED ORGANIZING OURSELVES AT THE END OF 1994 AT CIUDAD AUTÓNOMA DE BUENOS AIRES TO DEMAND THE END OF POLICE VIOLENCE, WHICH WE FACED EVERY DAY. SINCE 1995 WE ARE NUCLEATED TO THE CTA (CENTRAL DE TRABAJADORES DE ARGENTINA), SINCE 1997 WE BELONG TO THE RED DE TRABAJADORAS SEXUALES DE LATINOAMÉRICA Y EL CARIBE (REDTRASEX) AND IN THE 2016 WE LEAD THE CREATION OF FUERTSA (FRENTE DE UNIDAD EMANCIPATORIO POR EL RECONOCIMIENTO DE LOS DERECHOS DE LXS TRABAJADORXS SEXUALES DE ARGENTINA).

TODAY WE HAVE SUBSIDIARIES OF OUR LABOR UNION IN 8 PROVINCES (SAN JUAN, MENDOZA, SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO, BUENOS AIRES, RIO NEGRO, NEUQUEN, ENTRE RIOS, SANTA FE) AND CAPITAL FEDERAL.

# PUTAS FEMINISTAS

WE CLAIM THE WORD **WHORE** TO TAKE AWAY THE NEGATIVE CONNOTATION IT ENTAILS. ONE OF THE FIRST SEX WORKERS TO CLAIM POLITICALLY THE WORD *WHORE* AS AN IDENTITY WAS THE BRAZILIAN **GABRIELA LEITE**, WHO WAS THE FOUNDER OF THE NETWORK OF PROSTITUTES IN BRAZIL. WITH THE IDENTITY *PUTA FEMINISTA* WE NOT ONLY DISPUTE THE PEJORATIVE CHARACTER OF THE TERM BUT A PLACE IN FEMINISM.

**WE'RE FEMINIST WHORES BECAUSE WE GET OUT OF THE RULES, BECAUSE WE DISPUTE OUR PLACE IN FEMINISM AND WE BET ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE MOVEMENT THAT DOES NOT LEAVE ANYONE OUT: NEITHER THE TRANS, NOR THE BLACK, NOR THE LESBIANS, NOR THE WHORES.**

FEMINISM STARTED USING THE WORD *WHORE* TO QUESTION ITS USE AS AN INSULT TOWARDS WOMEN, LESBIAN AND TRANS WHO TRANSIT THE PUBLIC SPACE, USING THE CLOTHES WE WANT, LIVING OUR SEXUALITY FREELY OR JUST NOT COMPLYING WITH CERTAIN SOCIAL ROLES... BUT **WITHOUT DEFENDING SEX WORKERS RIGHTS**, OR TAKING ACCOUNT THAT IT IS BECAUSE OF THE **STIGMA** TOWARDS SEX WORK THAT THIS WORD IS USED TO CALL THOSE WHO DON'T COMPLY WITH EXPECTED GENDER ROLES, HISTORICALLY IMPOSED SOCIAL NORMS, OR SIMPLY GET OUT OF WHAT THIS HETEROPATRIARCHAL SOCIETY EXPECTS.

**AS LONG AS THERE IS STIGMA TOWARDS SEX WORKERS, THE WORD "WHORE" WILL BE USED OFFENSIVELY AND AS AN INSULT TO OTHER WOMEN.**

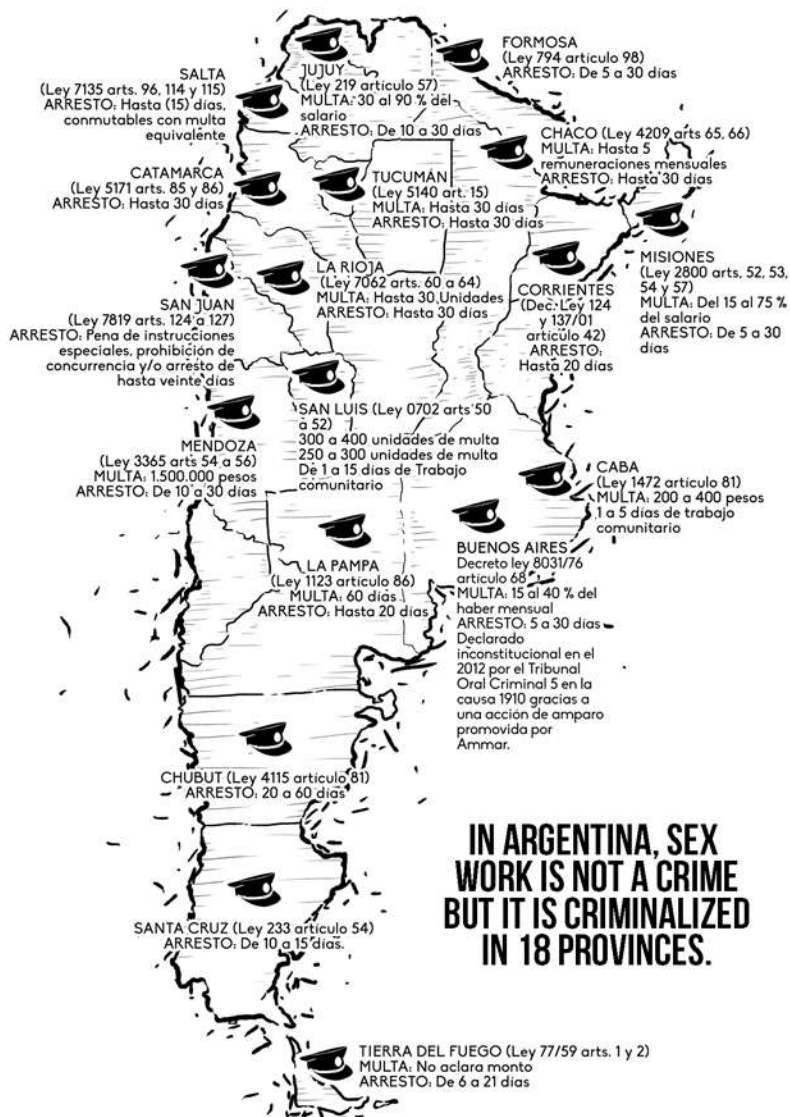
# LEGAL STATUS OF SEX WORK

**SEX WORK IS NOT ILLEGAL IN ARGENTINA. HOWEVER, ALL THE PLACES WHERE WE CAN WORK OR OFFER OUR SERVICES ARE PENALIZED. IN PRACTICE, PEOPLE ENGAGED IN SEX WORK ARE CRIMINALIZED THROUGH VARIOUS LAWS THAT SANCTION ACTIVITIES THAT HELP US TO CARRY IT OUT AND THAT DO NOT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN SEXUAL WORK WITH CONSENT AND SEX TRAFFICKING.**

**ALTHOUGH WE DEVELOP OUR WORK IN PRIVATE HOMES WE SUFFER VIOLENT INSPECTIONS AND POLICE RAIDS, AS WELL AS EXTORTION AND THEFT OF OUR BELONGINGS. STIGMA IS ALSO PRESENT IN HEALTH SERVICES, TO WHICH MANY SEX WORKERS DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO FEAR OF DISCRIMINATION.**

**IN 2011 THROUGH DECREE 936, SEX WORKERS COULD NOT OFFER MORE SERVICES IN THE CLASSIFIED ADS OF THE NEWSPAPERS. THIS PUSHED US INTO MORE CLANDESTINITY AND PRECARIOUSNESS AND WE STARTED USING OTHER STRATEGIES LIKE PUBLISHING SMALL FLYERS ON THE PUBLIC SPACE.**

# MAP OF SEX WORK CRIMINALIZATION IN ARGENTINA



**IN ARGENTINA, SEX WORK IS NOT A CRIME BUT IT IS CRIMINALIZED IN 18 PROVINCES.**

# #LA CALLE ES DE TODXS

CAMPAIGN FOR THE REPEAL OF CONTRAVENTIONAL CODES IN ARGENTINA

IN ARGENTINA SEX WORK IS NOT A CRIME -IT IS NOT TYPIFIED AS SUCH IN THE PENAL CODE- BUT IN 18 PROVINCES IT IS A CONTRAVENTION THAT INCLUDES FINE AND ARREST OF UP TO 30 DAYS. THIS SERVES AS A CONTROL TOOL THAT GIVES RISE TO ABUSIVE AND DISCRIMINATORY BEHAVIOUR BY THE POLICE.

CONTRAVENTIONAL CODES CRIMINALIZE THE USE OF PUBLIC SPACE FOR SEX WORKERS AND OTHER WORKERS LIKE STREET VENDORS AND ITINERANT SELLERS. BY HAVING A SMALLER HIERARCHY, THESE REGULATIONS PUT POLICE OFFICERS IN THE PLACE OF A JUDGE, AND THEIR POINT OF VIEW IS SUFFICIENT TO CONSIDER THAT SOMEONE IS COMMITTING A FOUL AGAINST *MORALITY AND GOOD MANNERS* OR *AGAINST PUBLIC DECENCY AND MORALITY*.

WE DENOUNCE THAT THE POLICE INSTITUTION IS BASED ON THESE RULES TO VIOLATE THE CITIZEN GUARANTEES AND TO PERSECUTE THE WORKERS OF THE POPULAR ECONOMY, AMONGTHEM, SEX WORKERS. WE QUESTION THAT THE AMBIGUITY OF THE CONTRAVENTIONAL ARTICLES ENABLES POLICE ARBITRARINESS AND CLAIMS FOR ITS ELIMINATION AND FOR RESPECT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK AND TO FREELY USE PUBLIC SPACE.

# WHAT DO WE WANT?

**WE WANT SEX WORK TO BE DECRIMINALIZED.**

**WE WANT INSTITUTIONAL VIOLENCE TOWARDS SEX WORKERS TO STOP.**

**WE WANT STIGMA AGAINST SEX WORKERS TO STOP.**

**WE WANT THE REPEAL OF CONTRAVENTIONAL ARTICLES AND**

**WE WANT ALL REGULATIONS CRIMINALIZING OR PENALIZING THE EXERCISE OF SEX WORK ON THE PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE TO STOP.**

**WE WANT A LAW THAT RECOGNIZES OUR RIGHTS AND ENABLES US TO ACCESS SOCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDES US RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS AS SEX WORKERS.**

**WE WANT THE LAW 26842 OF SEX TRAFFICKING TO BE REVISITED, SINCE IT EQUATES TRAFFICKING AND SEX WORK.**



# WHAT DO WE WANT?

WE WANT TO GENERATE PUBLIC POLICIES FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO WANT OTHER JOB OPTIONS RATHER SEX WORK.

WE WANT THE MEDIA TO ADRESS ABOUT SEX WORK FROM A RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE AND NOT TO STIGMATIZE SEX WORKERS.

WE WANT JUSTICE FOR SANDRA CABRERA, REFERENT OF AMMAR ROSARIO MURDERED ON JANUARY 27, 2004 FOR REPORTING POLICE COMPLICITY IN TRAFFICKING NETWORKS AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN THE VICINITY OF THE BUS TERMINAL IN ROSARIO.

WE WANT JUSTICE FOR ALL THE MURDERED CIS AND TRANS SEX WORKERS, AND PUNISH TO THEIR ASSASSINS.





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## FOLLOW

-  ASOCIACIÓN DE MUJERES MERETRICES DE LA ARGENTINA
-  AMMARREDTRASEX
-  PUTASFEMINISTAS

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