



**National Organization for Women
Contra Costa County Chapter
P.O. Box 4794
Walnut Creek, CA 94596**

Resolution from National Organization for Women National Conference

Resolution K: National Organization for Women Supports Sex Workers

WHEREAS the National Organization for Women (NOW) in its 1998 Declaration of Sentiments declared that “We are committed to a feminist ideology and reaffirm our historic commitment to gaining equality for women, assuring safe, legal and accessible abortion and full reproductive freedom, combating racism, stopping violence against women, ending bigotry and discrimination based on sexual orientation and on color, ethnicity, national origin, women’s status, age, disability size, childbearing capacity or choices, or parental or marital status;” and

WHEREAS NOW historically has advocated for the decriminalization of all aspects of consensual adult sex and sex work that does not involve coercion, exploitation or abuse; and

WHEREAS NOW has been committed to addressing and eliminating commercial sexual exploitation, where commercial sexual exploitation is defined as force, fraud, or coercion to cause a commercial sex act with an adult or to cause a minor to commie a commercial sex act, as commercial sexual exploitation is an abhorrent abuse of human rights and must be criminalized as a matter of international law; and

WHEREAS decriminalizing sex workers’ work does not mean condoning a world which leads them onto the streets and we want them to enjoy all of their human rights and we will continue to fight for a world where that is possible;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Organization for Women (NOW) recognizes the need for education around the issues surrounding sex work vs. commercial sexual exploitation; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, recognizes and endorses the full bodily and economic autonomy of all people, as well as recognizing that sex work is work; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, NOW unconditionally supports sex workers, and the prosecution of all perpetrators of commercial sexual exploitation and perpetrators of commercial sexual exploitation of minors.

Submitted by:

Reproductive Justice Issue Hearing

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