

## LOCAL CHAPTERS

Contact your local SWOP chapter for legal and other resources, or to get involved in the sex worker movement at the local level:

- **ALABAMA**
- **TUSCON, ARIZONA**  
<http://www.swop-tucson.org/>  
[info@swop-tucson.org](mailto:info@swop-tucson.org)  
(877) 776-2004, ext. 4
- **MICHIGAN**  
<http://www.swop-mi.org/>
- **CHICAGO**  
<http://redlightchicago.wordpress.com/>  
(877) 776-2004, ext. 3
- **EAST (MN, NC, NY)**  
<http://www.swopeast.org/>  
(202) 470-0534
- **LAS VEGAS**  
<http://www.scapa-lv.org/>  
[info@swop-lv.org](mailto:info@swop-lv.org)  
(888) 722-7212
- **TEXAS**
- **LOS ANGELES/UCLA**  
<http://www.myspace.com/swopla>  
(877) 776-2004, ext. 5
- **NEW YORK CITY**  
<http://www.swop-nyc.org>  
<http://www.myspace.com/weareswank>
- **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

## Got SWOP?

If there's not already a local group working specifically on sex workers rights, we encourage you to start a SWOP chapter. Starting a new group can be a fun and challenging exercise. SWOP chapters have the unique position of being connected to a international sex worker campaign, while also maintaining the ability to work on local sex worker rights issues.

If you are already part of another like-minded group (COYOTE, Bayswan, PONY, Desiree Alliance, etc.), you are welcome and encouraged to work on SWOP's campaigns and serve as an SWOP affiliate for your area. We will call on you to help with national actions and lobbying, and you can still do the other work your group does at regular meetings.

If you are a part of a group that is not a SWOP affiliate, your group can still work on international, national and local SWOP campaigns. Some of the campaigns you can take part in include:

- \* Decriminalization of prostitution
- \* Emergency court support
- \* State campaigns for prostitution law reform
- \* Organize and produce events that create awareness about sex worker rights issues.

To get involved with SWOP or to start your own chapter, please contact SWOP-USA for more information. Members of the press may call our 877 number and dial extension 2 to speak to a SWOP representative about current and ongoing sex worker issues.

**If you are a sex worker and need support, legal advice, etc., please call our 24-hour phone service at (877) 776-2004.**

SWOP-USA

912 COLE STREET, #202  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94117  
[HTTP://WWW.SWOPUSA.ORG](http://www.swopusa.org)  
(877) 776-2004  
[INFO@SWOPUSA.ORG](mailto:INFO@SWOPUSA.ORG)

# SWOP USA



## JOIN THE RESISTANCE

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**SWOPUSA.ORG**

**(877) 776-2004**

**912 COLE ST. #202  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
94117**

SEX  
WORKERS  
OUTREACH  
PROJECT

## **ABOUT US...**

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Sex Workers Outreach Project-USA is a national social justice network dedicated to the fundamental human rights of sex workers and their communities, focusing on ending violence and stigma through education and advocacy. Local chapters work to build community and make their areas safer for sex workers, their families, and friends.

Operating in one of the most prominently violent societies today, sex workers are seldom afforded protection or recourse from violent acts committed against them because of the precarious, often graft-ridden relationship between sex work and law enforcement. Society tolerates violence against sex workers because of the stigma and myths that surround prostitution. Only until these falsehoods are corrected and sex workers are legitimized will we be able to effectively prevent and minimize the structural and occupational challenges of sex work.

SWOP works to educate policy-makers and the public on the institutional harms committed against sex workers, and advocates for alternatives. We also offer toll-free telephone services for sex workers and allies seeking legal advice, court support, or information on additional sex worker resources (please call 877-776-2004 for these services).

Our first major action was to organize the first annual International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers in 2003 with the Green River Memorial to the victims of Gary Leon Ridgeway. In 2004, SWOP spearheaded a voter ballot

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**(877)776-2004**

initiative to decriminalize prostitution in Berkeley, CA. Some of our more recent work focuses on amending so called "protective" legislation like the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 (and now its reauthorization in 2005 with the new End Demand provisions) which has increased criminal penalties and the stigma associated with sex work.

SWOP promotes proven and effective social policy approaches to the sex industry. In order to reach its goals, SWOP adopts the principles and practices of nonviolent action in order to reduce violence and achieve dignity and rights for sex workers.

## **ANNUAL SWOP EVENTS**

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**DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

<http://www.swopusa.org/dec17/>

*International Day to End  
Violence Against Sex Workers*

In December 2003, one of the most prolific serial killers in the U.S. was sentenced for his violent crimes against prostitutes. SWOP organizes with sex workers around the globe each December to call attention to these senseless murders and hold vigils in remembrance of those who have been lost.

**MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>**

<http://www.swopusa.org/March3/>

*International Sex Workers' Rights Day*

This day originated in 2001 when over 25,000 sex workers gathered in India for a sex worker festival. The organizers, Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, a Calcutta based group whose

membership consists of more than 50,000 sex workers and members of their communities. SWOP has joined with India and sex workers across the globe to celebrate March 3rd.

### **GAY PRIDE**

<http://www.swopusa.org/pride>

Each June, SWOP chapters across the U.S. partner with Gay Pride organizations at local festivals to celebrate and liberate our communities together, and continue to educate the public about our issues.

### **TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**

<http://www.gender.org/remember/day/>

This day was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender violence or hatred. Held each November, SWOP stands in solidarity with transgender sex workers and the transgender community at large to remember and honor those who were lost to hatred, stigma, and discrimination.

### **NATIONAL SEX WORKER CONFERENCE**

<http://www.desireealliance.org/>

SWOP partners with Desiree Alliance and other organizations to coordinate a national conference for U.S.-based sex workers. This convergence creates a space for dialogue between hundreds of sex workers and their allies to share personal experiences and skills, identify workers' most pressing needs, share training and networking skills for developing solutions, and to collaborate on strategies for social and political change on local, state, national and international levels.

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