

**IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF DECRIMINALIZATION OF SEX WORK IN NAIROBI,
KENYA**

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ABSTRACT:

The following study has been done to evaluate the impact of decriminalization of sex work industry in Kenya. This paper contains an emphasis on FSW, which was unintended but understandable, given the available studies' focus on women as a research group. This focus is to be expected, given two factors:

- 1) The majority of Kenyan sex workers are females, supplying sexual services to males, and
- 2) Studies of male and transgender sex workers are incredibly difficult, given that homosexuality is illegal and highly stigmatized in Kenya (even more so than sex work). Males who sell sex to men risk prison not only under prostitution laws, but under sodomy laws as well (a seven-year jail sentence).

The aim is to analyze both the positive and negative impacts of decriminalizing the sex work industry to both the sex workers and the society at large. It is done with a view also see what was done previously to address this issue and if it has worked, what more needs to be done and by who.

There is another type of sex work in Kenya, in which workers are home-based, providing sexual services from his or her apartment and sometimes offering domestic services as well. The reason why this branch is not included in this paper is that Kenyans who perform that kind of sex work often do not identify as sex workers. Therefore, they would not be likely to engage in protests, or possibly even find the decriminalization debate relevant.