



20 May 2021

Level 3, 414 Elizabeth Street
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

Secretary to the Committee
C/- Parliament House
GPO Box 572
ADELAIDE SA 2001

www.afao.org.au

Dear Secretary to the Committee

Re: In support of Scarlet Alliance – Submission on Statutes Amendment (Repeal of Sex Work Offences) Bill 2020

I write to acknowledge and endorse the submission from Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association to the Select Committee on Statutes Amendment (Repeal of Sex Work Offences Bill) 2020.

AFAO is the national federation for the community-controlled HIV and LGBTIQ health response in Australia. Our [member organisations](#) include state-based AIDS Councils who provide primary healthcare and health promotion to LGBTIQ communities in their jurisdiction and national peak organisations representing key populations in Australia's community response to HIV. AFAO is recognised globally and nationally for policy expertise, health promotion and the coordination activities to strengthen our member organisations. Scarlet Alliance is one of our members.

AFAO recognises Scarlet Alliance as experts on the health, safety, and rights of sex workers. As such, we fully endorse their submission to the Select Committee to abolish offences relating to sex work. The decriminalisation of sex work in South Australia is an essential first step in ensuring the human, healthcare, and labour rights of sex workers. In addition to this, we draw your attention to the overwhelming evidence in their submission favouring the public health benefits decriminalisation has for sex workers. In the context of HIV, blood-borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections, decriminalisation removes barriers to healthcare. It increases access to testing and treatment services while reducing the impact of stigma and discrimination from clients, police, and the public. [The Lancet Series](#) on HIV and sex work, for example, demonstrated the decriminalisation of sex work would have the most significant effect on the course of HIV epidemics across all settings.

AFAO submits the criminalisation of sex work is a barrier to the efforts of AFAO and our members, whose deep connection and understanding of contemporary issues facing their communities have been at the forefront of Australia's successful HIV leadership. We also endorse SIN in their submission, who has largely driven the community response for decriminalisation in South Australia.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Heath Paynter, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, on +61 2 9557 9399 or at heath.paynter@afao.org.au. We welcome the opportunity for future engagement on the decriminalisation of sex work and its benefits for the HIV response.

Yours sincerely

Heath Paynter
Deputy Chief Executive Officer