

## Human Rights Violations of Sex Workers in Brazil

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**In partnership with:** The Prostitution Policy Watch<sup>ii</sup>, The Brazilian Network of Prostitutes<sup>iii</sup>, The Association of Warrior Women<sup>iv</sup>, The Group of Prostitute Women from the State of Pará (GEMPAC)<sup>v</sup>, Transrevolução<sup>vi</sup>, and Casa Nem/PrepareNem<sup>vii</sup>

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This report focuses on the civil and human rights violations of those engaged, or perceived to be engaged, in the commercial sale of sex in Brazil. It draws on Davida's advocacy for sex worker rights for nearly twenty-five years, and that of our partner organizations and network throughout Brazil. It also draws on the ethnographic and historical research conducted by members of Prostitution Policy Watch, both collectively and independently, over the past decade to document changing sex work conditions in Brazil.<sup>viii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> *Davida: Prostitution, Civil Rights and Health* (<http://www.davida.org.br>) was founded in 1992 by sex worker Gabriela Leite to improve the working conditions and the legal and societal status of prostitutes in Brazil.

<sup>ii</sup> *Prostitution Policy Watch (Observatório da Prostituição)*, (<http://www.observatoriodaprostituicao.ifcs.ufrj.br>) was founded in 2013 as an extension project of the Institute for Regional and Urban Planning at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). It conducts ethical research on sex work to promote the full protection of their labor and human rights, particularly as reflected in the design/implementation/execution of public policies and legislation.

<sup>iii</sup> Founded in 1987 by Gabriela Leite and Lourdes Barreto, the Brazilian Network of Prostitutes is comprised of sex worker organizations throughout Brazil. It's core principles include defending prostitution as a form of labor and ensuring and sexworkers' rights are acknowledged as sexual rights ([www.redebrasileiradeprostitutas.org.br](http://www.redebrasileiradeprostitutas.org.br)).

<sup>iv</sup> The Association of Warrior Women is a sex worker rights organization located in Campinas, São Paulo. <http://www.nswp.org/featured-member/associação-mulheres-guerreiras-warrior-women-association>

<sup>v</sup> Founded in 1990, GEMPAC is one of the first sex worker rights organizations in Brazil. It is located in the Northeast region, in Belém de Pará. <https://blogdasesquinas.wordpress.com>

<sup>vi</sup> Transrevolução fights for trans rights in Rio de Janeiro. The group is part of the Grupo pela Vidda – RJ, one of the first NGOs founded to support people living with HIV in Brazil. <http://www.pelavidda.org.br/site/>

<sup>vii</sup> The Casa Nem is a social, cultural, activist and living space for transgender people in situations of high social vulnerability in Rio de Janeiro. It is also home to the college preparatory course for the transgender population called PrepareNem: <http://glo.bo/2dTfMsY>

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