# FIRST
## Decriminalize Sex Work

# Dec 17: Vancouver Sex Workers Gather to Mourn Violence and Build Solidarity

VANCOUVER:  On December 17th, in honour of the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, sex workers and their allies in Vancouver will be gathering to commemorate all sex workers who have been murdered and assaulted because of the stigma and criminalization of sex work, and to support those left behind.

This annual event comes just 11 days after Canada's new prostitution law, the misnamed *Protection* of *Communities and Exploited Persons Act,* came into force. The new law threatens to replicate much the same conditions that led to many horrific murders and assaults of sex workers in the past, including in Vancouver. "Sex workers will not be safe, and will not rest, until these dangerous new criminal laws are declared unconstitutional – again – and struck down once and for all," said Esther Shannon of FIRST.

**Event Details:**

Wednesday December 17, 2014, 5:30 pm
Please note: Times are approximate except for initial start time

5:30 –  Gather at **Vancouver Public Library Atrium**, Central Branch, 350 W. Georgia. Look for the red umbrellas. (Media spokespeople will be available for interviews at this time.)
5:50 –  Brief performance by group.
6:00 –  Depart Robson Street for march to Art Gallery steps, Robson St. side.
6:20 – Gather on Art Gallery steps for brief performance.
6:45 –  Depart Art Gallery to W. Georgia Street, enter Pacific Centre mall (via glass-roofed dome), traverse mall, exit at Dunsmuir, pause for final performance near exit door.
7:10 – Group will then proceed by bus to Pivot Legal Society (121 Heatley St.) for private gathering, open to all sex workers and allies (no media please).

This event is sponsored by FIRST, PACE Society, Pivot Legal Society, and SWAN Vancouver.

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