

Lisbon, August 4, 2015

contactus@amnesty.org

Re: Amnesty International discussion among its Country Sections and within its International Secretariat, whether to adopt an official position calling for the decriminalization, also known as legalization, of the sex industry, including prostitution

Mr. Shetty, Ms. Burroughs, Mr. Hawkins, and the Amnesty International Board of Directors

We are writing on behalf of the Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights, a social, cultural and humanist non-governmental organisation, independent from political parties, religious institutions or governmental structures, whose members are women's rights NGOs. The Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights represents Portugal in the European Women's Lobby and in the Association of Women from Meridional Europe. The Platform has Consultative Status by the UN ECOSOC and is a member of the EU Civil Society Platform against trafficking.

We join our voices to the numerous organizations and individuals that have expressed deep concerns about Amnesty International's (Amnesty) reported deliberations on a policy position for the decriminalization or legalization of the commercial sex trade, including prostitution. As you debate this purported policy, we are urging Amnesty to examine the related issues and the violations that are perpetuated, primarily against young women and girls, in the context of decriminalization/legalization of the sex industry.

Supporting CATW's letter to Amnesty

<http://catwinternational.org/Content/Images/Article/621/attachment.pdf>, we also urge you to abide by the principles of human rights and international instruments that protect and promote the fundamental rights of women and other individuals bought, sold and exploited in the commercial sex trade.

Best regards,

Alexandra Sofia Silva, President

Margarida Medina Martins, Vice-President

Sílvia Vermelho, Treasurer

Ana Sofia Fernandes, European Women's Lobby Portuguese Board Member

Alliance for Parity Democracy (ADP)

Association of Women Against Violence (AMCV)

Association of Women XXI century

Coolabora CRL

EOS – Association of Studies, Cooperation and Development

MénNon – Association of Saint Tomé and Prince Women in Portugal

Portuguese Association of Women's Studies (APEM)

Portuguese Network of Young People for Gender Equality (REDE)