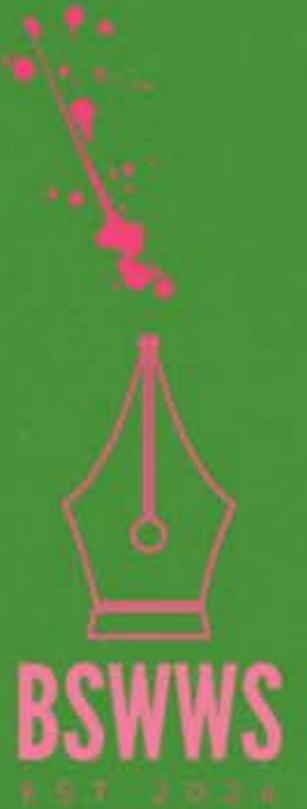


Presented by Keke Walker &
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Bridging The Gap

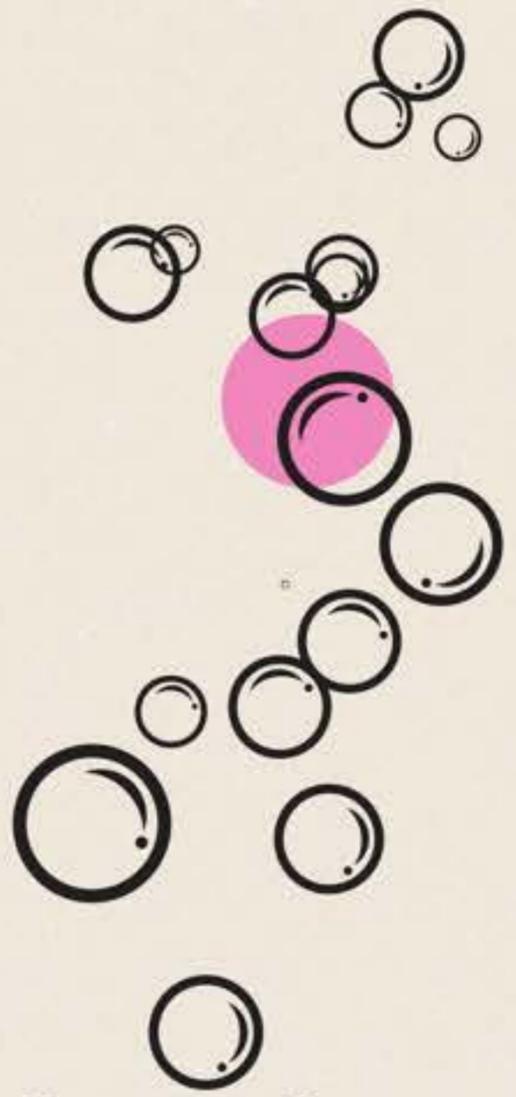


Creating Pathways for Dialogue,
Relationship, & Narrative Shift



Hey Y'all

WE ARE HUCK
(THEY/HE) AND
KEKE (HE/
SHE/THEY)!
COMMUNITY
ORGANIZERS,
ARTISTS AND
COLLABORATORS



ICE BREAKER

If you could be any form of water, what would you be? Share in the chat or on mic if you'd like!





Goals for today



- IDENTIFY WHERE ANTI-SEX WORK SENTIMENTS SHOW UP
- SHARE LIVED EXPERIENCES TO HUMANIZE OUR WORK
- LEARN RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING STRATEGIES ACROSS IDEOLOGICAL DIVIDES

Why Bridge the Gap?



- TO ENSURE SEX WORKERS ARE NOT EXCLUDED FROM SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK
- TO REDUCE HARM FROM EXCLUSION AND CRIMINALIZATION
- TO CREATE SAFER, MORE INCLUSIVE ORGANIZING SPACES

The Many Faces of the Anti-Sex Work Movement



ANTI-SEX WORK RHETORIC CAN APPEAR IN:

- FEMINIST ORGANIZATIONS; TERFS, SWERFS, & MARXISTS?
- HEALTHCARE & WELLNESS SETTINGS; "SEX IS SACRED"
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES
- GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT SPACES

THESE SPACES AREN'T ALWAYS MALICIOUS— BUT THEY'RE OFTEN MISINFORMED AND ADD TO OUR STIGMATIZATION, LEADING TO LESS CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

"Our body, our life, our class, our struggle!" An analysis of prostitution from the PMLT

I was given permission to share this analysis of the sex trade by...

Feb 24, 2021 267 4



The problem with the phrase "sex work is work"

Is sex work like all other work? And does it matter?

Sep 8, 2020 1.3K 5



The Problem with Sex Trade Expansionary Feminism, A Response to Kate Zen

Land and women are not for conquest

Aug 18, 2020 1.3K 9



A Socialist, Feminist, and Transgender Analysis of "Sex Work"





Identifying Community Partners

- SEEK THOSE WHO ARE OPEN, NOT PERFECT; "UNLIKELY ALLIES"
- LISTEN TO THEIR LANGUAGE, WILLINGNESS, AND TRACK RECORD
- RELATIONSHIPS TAKE TIME—DON'T RUSH THEM
- DUST YOURSELF OFF AND TRY AGAIN; PEOPLE CAN CHANGE!

VT Senator Tanya Vyhovsky, Sur Legal, Southerners On New Ground, The Eagle

American Jewish World Service, Dr. Bronner's, Asian American Writers' Workshop

Build Relationships Over Time

The background of the slide features a photograph of two young women embracing. The woman on the left is wearing a dark blue patterned short-sleeved shirt and light blue denim shorts. The woman on the right is wearing a white tank top, light blue denim shorts, and a black baseball cap. The background is a vibrant green with decorative, hand-drawn patterns in purple and white, including circles and wavy lines.

- SHOW UP IN SHARED ORGANIZING SPACES
- INVITE DIALOGUE THROUGH EVENTS AND PANELS
- SHARE HUMANIZING, GROUNDED STORIES
- FOLLOW UP AND STAY ENGAGED

Story from the Field - Bridging with AF3IRM

- YEAR-LONG ATTEMPT TO BUILD WITH AF3IRM BEGAN IN A GIVING CIRCLE COHORT
- WE BECAME GRANTEE COHORT MEMBERS VIA HAWAI'I PEOPLE'S FUND
- I INITIATED MULTIPLE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SAFE SPACE AND POSSIBLE MEDIATION
- RESPONSE: REJECTION AND DISMISSAL FROM AF3IRM LEADERSHIP



af3irm

An Imperialist Lie:

"Prostitution is the World's Oldest Profession"

-Rudyard Kipling, "On the City Wall" 1909



DECONSTRUCTING THE RACIST BASIS OF THIS PHRASE, ITS HISTORICAL INACCURACY, AND WHY BEING AGAINST THE SEX TRADE IS A BASIC PILLAR OF ANTI-IMPERIALISM.

#WORLDSELDSTOPPRESSION
@af3irm

af3irm
a transnational feminist organization

Ethical Contradictions

af3irm

The Oldest Professions *ACTUALLY* Held by Women

MIDWIFERY, AGRICULTURE, TOOLMAKING,
HUNTING, GATHERING, MEDICINE, HEALING

- "FOOD GATHERERS"
- "PROTECTORS OF DOMESTIC FIRE"
- "INVENTOR OF CLAY AND WOVEN VESSELS"
- "TRANSFORMERS OF RAW MATERIALS AND DEAD ANIMALS INTO NURTURING PRODUCTS"
- "HEALERS"
- EXPERTS IN MEDICINE

PRIOR TO THE FORMATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY AND THE CREATION OF PATRIARCHY, WOMEN HELD EQUAL STATUS AND ROLES IN CARETAKING, HUNTING, FARMING, AND MANY MORE PROFESSIONS.

(EXCERPTS FROM 'THE CREATION OF PATRIARCHY' BY GERDA LERNER)

#WORLDSOLDESTOPPRESSION
@af3irm



- AF3IRM DECLINED MEDIATION, SAYING THEY'D RATHER "FOCUS ON ENDING PATRIARCHY AND WHITE SUPREMACY."

- BUT WE **ARE** BIPOC, GENDER-DIVERSE, QUEER SEX WORKER ORGANIZERS

- IGNORING OUR VOICE IS ANTI-ANTHETICAL TO THE LIBERATION THEY CLAIM TO SEEK



Centering Sex Workers in Organizing

- INCLUDE ALL EROTIC LABORERS IN YOUR CAMPAIGNS
- WE LEAD AND GUIDE NARRATIVES TOGETHER AND IN UNDERSTANDING
- DON'T SANITIZE OR GATEKEEP "RESPECTABLE" SEX WORK STORIES
- HONOR BREADTH AND DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCES



Narrative Shifting Tools

- **KEEP RECEIPTS: FACTS, DATA, LIVED STORIES, COMMUNITY SUPPORT**
- **APPROACH WITH EMPATHY—NOT DEBATE**
- **A "NO" IS NOT A FAILURE—IT'S AN INSIGHT**
- **REJECTION TODAY MIGHT BE OPENNESS TOMORROW**



Why Keep Trying?



- STIGMA WON'T DISSOLVE IN ONE CONVERSATION
- OUR PERSISTENCE BUILDS CREDIBILITY IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND SHOWS WE CARE
- PEOPLE WATCH HOW WE RESPOND—THIS IS LEADERSHIP
- WE ARE THE MOVEMENT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR

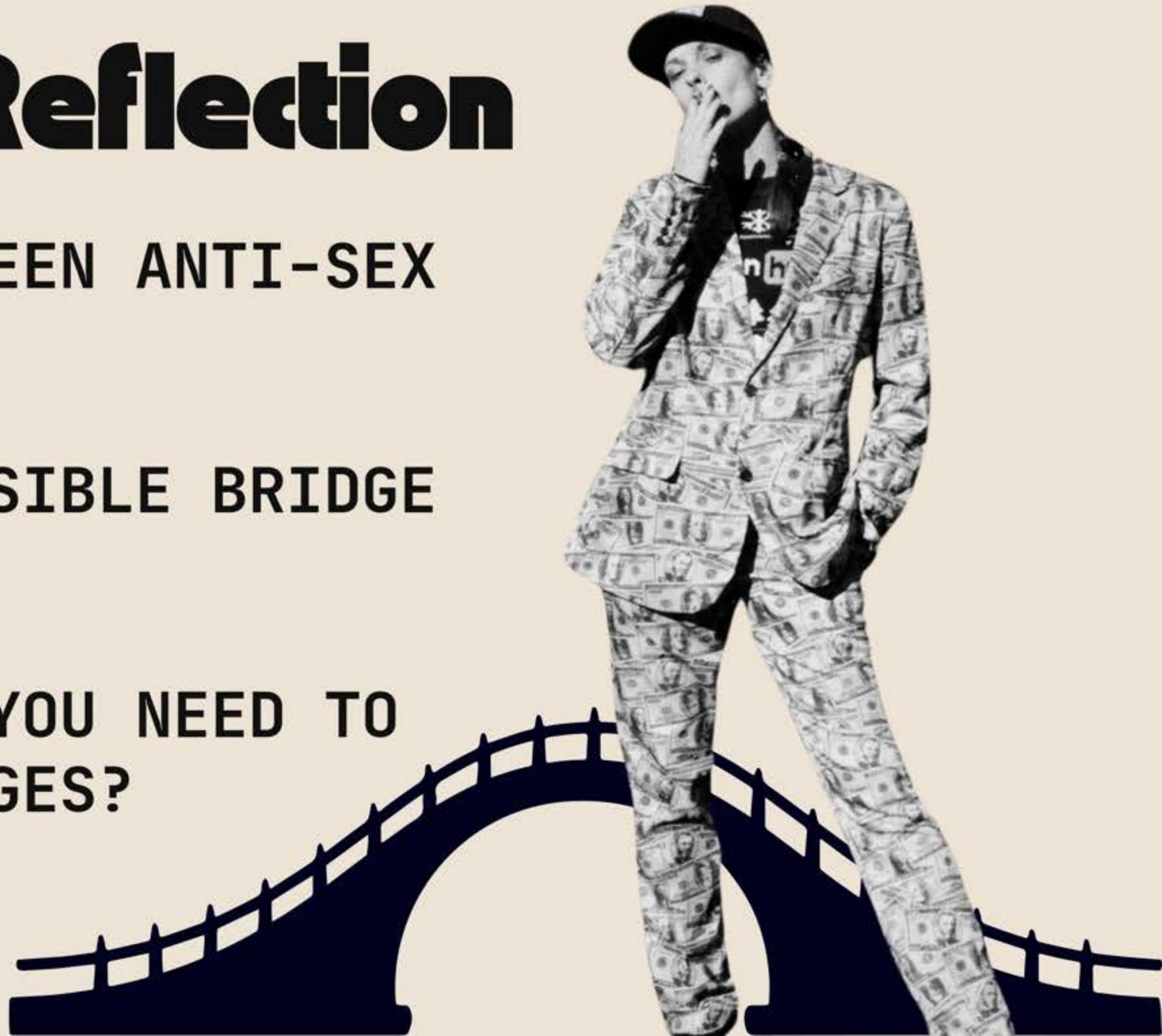
Final Reflections



- BRIDGING IS ABOUT CONNECTION, NOT CONVERSION
- EVERY ATTEMPT PLANTS A SEED
- MOVE FROM LOVE, JUSTICE, AND RELATIONSHIP
- WE DESERVE FULL PRESENCE IN ALL SPACES

Community Reflection

- WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN ANTI-SEX WORK BIAS?
- WHO ARE YOUR POSSIBLE BRIDGE PARTNERS?
- WHAT SUPPORT DO YOU NEED TO BUILD THOSE BRIDGES?



Resources & Community

-RADICAL COMMUNITY FUNDS

-RED UMBRELLA FUND

-NWSP

-FREEDOM NETWORK USA

-SWOP CHAPTERS

-SPOKES HUB, OUR PEERS HERE

-PEER-REVIEWED SEX WORK AND HARM
REDUCTION RESEARCH





Thank You



Reach out if you have questions or
need support! hawaii@swopusa.org,
Practicegoodconsent@gmail.com or 'via
IG: [@bipoc.swws](https://www.instagram.com/bipoc.swws)