

Violation of the right to protection from the violence of migrants of sex workers in the Russian Federation

Submission prepared by the Charitable Women's Fund "Astra"

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I want to present you only one case about sex workers migrants. In Russia, sex work is an administrative offense and is punishable by a small fine. But sex workers always are morally condemned, and this is the result of the inability of the state to respect rights and protect us. In addition to the fine, we receive humiliation, beatings, rape and even murder.

In May 2016, together with his accomplices, nationalist Vyacheslav Datsik broke into one of the brothels on Vasilievsky Island in St. Petersburg, shooting everything on a video camera. For the previous two months there had been over 30 such attacks. Threats looked real: those who broke in crashed furniture, dishes, walls, windows, said that it would also happen to the women. They shouted, cursed women, threatened, used physical force. Threatening with the mount, they forced 11 sex workers and one client to completely undress and walk naked several blocks at night to the police department. In this state, women were brought and handed over to policemen at the police department, where sex workers based only on the words of the attackers were detained under Article 6.11. for engaging in prostitution. The police arrested the women and held them in the department for more than 36 hours.

The most affected by these attacks were female sex workers from Africa and women from the former Soviet republics. And now, I'm sorry, I'll use obscene language, repeating only what these criminals said.

"You are a black monkey, you come to Russia to infect with AIDS with the last white men"

"We need all the" vetch "monkeys, and all the peasants who come here, and then infect their wives, send them to Africa, having cleared morality in our country."

Since Datsik attributes the victims to unworthy women, he insists that this violence is justified and calls it "human rights activities to cleanse society from prostitutes", and himself "a fighter for morality." One of the girls (Nigerian) jumped out of the window frightened and broke her spine. Her case was excluded from the Datsik case file. For 22 months the investigation and court sessions lasted. For all these months the media tried to present Datsik as a hero and a defender of morality. All the victims were threatened.

On March 19, 2018, the St. Petersburg court found him guilty and ruled 3, 5 years of strict regime.

Do you know why all migrant sex workers most often pay a bribe to a policeman, while African girls jump out of the windows for fear? They are all afraid of the police, are afraid of deportation. They have no rights, because they are migrants! The police, which should protect, acts towards them almost as a fascist datsik. The inadequacy of law enforcement practice in relation to an administrative offense "for engaging in prostitution" is a legal form of state violence against 3 million people, including migrants.

Recommendations to the Government of the Russian Federation

1. Implement the recommendations of the UN Committees on the decriminalization of sex work, introduce mechanisms for monitoring of violence against sex workers by the police.
2. To stop the practice of police and public raids.

We appeal to the OSCE to recognize crimes against sex workers as hate crimes.