



sesta survey

data on the digital discrimination of fat and poc sex workers

existing testimony

I remember spending hours reviewing my Twitter feed, deleting any tweets that referred to "sex work" because many of us were afraid we'd have our accounts shut down, which we rely on for advertising and marketing. I cried a lot because I felt like I was losing an important part of my identity and my online expression.

It was a really scary, anxious time when FOSTA passed. I remember having panic attacks and suicidal ideation because I was afraid I was going to lose my livelihood.

FOSTA made safety screening impossible and illegal. It's terrifying how lawmakers don't care about our safety

As somebody who was trafficked, it's incredibly insensitive that lawmakers pushed this kind of thing under the guise of lowering traffic.

The bottom line is digitally discriminating and deplatforming sex workers is an act of violence.

Going to the brothel was a very awful experience, the one that I went to there was a lot of drama that ensued and it was not a safe place.

Not only was my life, my safety, my voice, and my ability to speak freely on social media threatened or at risk. But the lives of my fellow workers... I know women who've had to resort to doing things they've never wanted to do to survive..

FOSTA put the power in the hands of pimps and exploitative clients.

Then FOSTA hit. I had no choice but to keep seeing my old clients, including a rapist and other boundary crossers, at less than half of what I wanted to charge

I have a friend who was put out on the street by her pimp when the websites fell. The very first night she was robbed and raped at gun point. When she got back to her pimp, he beat her because her money was stolen.

Before Fosta, I was ok. I could pay all my bills. I had stable housing and clients who I could screen. When Fosta came into law, I lost everything.

Conditions became extremely unsafe and definitely made it less likely for myself or others to help

As a result of FOSTA, one of my colleagues had her income plummet... She still has to make hard decisions between paying a bill or refilling prescriptions.

"four years of fosta"

I've seen a LOT of people who were ground down in the past few years because of how hard it is to get good clients now, and some of them ended up taking their own lives. The mental health toll has been astronomical.

It feels more dangerous to self identify even in academic or organizer spaces because of what's going on online.

Safety decreased as clients from websites tried to get services that strippers didn't supply.

Of those that are truly trafficked all you did was push it further underground and you can't help them, if you can't see them.

We have been targeted by social media platforms for censorship, even when our expression does not violate any of the platform's terms of service. It's harder to share safety information, harder to warn others of active predators, and harder to have a normal, non-sex-work related social media presence.

Just talking about sex work can get you suspended from social media, financial institutions like PayPal or Bank of America can close your account, landlords can put you on the street.

If policy makers want to stop trafficking, they have got to make the work safer for independent workers.

The police said they could only arrest him for assault if they also arrested her for prostitution.

Our voices have been left out of policy and legislation for too long, we don't need legislators speaking for us when we have voices. It's time to start collaborating with sex workers and reflecting our needs in everyday life. Sex work is work and we need human rights.

"I didn't report it because I was afraid I would be arrested for being with the client to come to the knowledge in the first place.

I have been kicked off of social media platforms for even attempting to discuss rights related to sex work

She told me that a few years before she caught a prostitution case and DCYF threatened to take her kids and made her jump through all kinds of hoops to keep her kids and it took her almost 2 years to have that case closed.

A bunch of whorophobic bullshit law stuff making sex work even scarier.

