









# CASW ELECTION PRIORITIES

## • THE CRIMINAL CODE and SOCIAL POLICY



CASW is seeking commitments from the federal parties to **ban so called “conversion therapy”** through legislation and foster better health, safety, and dignity for sex workers through **the decriminalization of sex work**

			
<p><b>The CPC</b> has committed to:  <a href="#">implement the ban</a> promised by the Trudeau Liberals” but will “clarify that the ban does not criminalize non-coercive conversations”</p> <p>There is no mention of sex work in the CPC platform.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Commitment made but with potentially concerning caveat</p>	<p><b>The LPC</b> has committed to:  <a href="#">Re-introduce legislation</a> within the first 100 days in office, to eliminate the practice of conversion therapy for everyone, and extend coverage of the ban to include people over 18 years of age</p> <p>There is no mention of sex work in the LPC platform.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Strong commitment but other aspects absent</p>	<p>The <b>NDP</b> has committed to:  <a href="#">immediately legislate a ban</a> on conversion therapy in Canada, and work with provinces and territories to support eliminating this practice in all parts of the country</p> <p>There is no mention of sex work in the NDP platform.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Strong commitment but some pieces missing</p>	<p>The <b>GPC</b> has committed to:  <a href="#">Make the sex work</a> industry legal and public</p> <p>*note CASW is seeking decriminalization not full legalization of sex work</p> <p>Ban conversion therapy</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Strong commitments but information is lacking, and commitments are adjacent but different from CASW priorities</p>

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and SOCIAL POLICY page 2**

### LEARN MORE:

- **[ban so called “conversion therapy” through legislation](#)**

In 2018, CASW released a position statement strongly condemning all forms of conversion therapy, which can take many forms, but can be broadly defined as any therapy with the goal of changing or converting an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity, regardless of age. Conversion therapy is not evidence based, widely discredited, and causes great harm.

- **[foster better health, safety, and dignity for sex workers through the decriminalization of sex work](#)**

It’s important to note that in *Decriminalization, Exit Strategies, and the Social Determinants of Health* linked above, CASW proposes decriminalizing consensual adult sex work: CASW vehemently condemns practices involving minors or trafficked persons. That said, while this paper is specifically on the topic of sex work, the recommendations proposed are also meant to address the issues of human trafficking, involuntary sex work, and any other forms of coercion. The same policies that will create more safety, health, and dignity for sex workers will also help create the kind of society in which people are robustly supported – a society in which minors and adults are better protected from trafficking, coercion, and survival sex work.