

### Busie's story

My name is Busie and I'm 26 years. I have been a sex worker for 8 years and started in Pretoria. My biggest problem during sex work is when the clients don't want to use a condom and you end up being abused and beaten up. My biggest problem with the law and the police is that they don't recognize sex workers; they don't treat them like every human being.

We are harassed, abused by the police instead of them protecting us they are busy asking for bribes.

I think the best way to solve this would be if the laws change, for sex workers to be treated like everyone else, for their rights to be recognized. We deserve to be treated equally, we need our privacy, access to the law and we need for our jobs, sex work, to be recognized as work. Police need to do their jobs to catch criminals not sex workers because we are not criminals. Which laws are we breaking?

I had a problem with the laws and the police before. I was in the hotel where I was staying and found a client from the bar. We went upstairs to do business, and He didn't want a condom so I refused to have sex with him so he started beating me, so badly. I knew him and his place. I went to the police to his place and found him, but the police didn't arrest him because he told them I was a sex worker, so the cops took his side. He started threatening me but the cops didn't say anything. That was when I started to move form that hotel to another one.

One day I found a client who wanted the whole night at his place, so I didn't refuse because of the money he was offering. When we got to his place we had sex afterwards he brought his dog to have sex with me. The following day I went to the police station and the cops recognised me, they didn't take me seriously they just told me I was smelling. I just went out and went to the clinic.

I believe that the laws on sex work should say they decriminalise sex work.