

Supporting someone who has been sexually assaulted



- Listen to them. Just listen.
- Don't define the experience for them because they may need time to come to terms with it, and work out what has happened. Don't say "That's rape!" or "are you sure?" Listen and focus on making them feel safe and supported.
- Ask if they want to talk about it, with someone else or are they okay with you.
- Do not interrogate them or ask what happened.
- Give them space to decide what they want to tell you and do next.
- Do they have support outside of work, do they have a safe place to go, do they want information?
- Respect their privacy and keep their details confidential.
- Let the sex worker know it's their decision what happens next.

- Get them support if they choose it.
- Don't tell their story without their consent.

People who can be contacted for support

- Police
- NZPC
- Rape Crisis
- HELP

OUR RIGHT TO BE SAFE AT WORK



S.A.S.S.I.

Sexual Assault Sex Worker Support Information



Our right to be safe at work

- As a sex worker, you have every right to be safe at work. Sexual assault is not part of the job or an occupational hazard. It is illegal behaviour.

NZPC

New Zealand Prostitutes Collective

- You have the absolute right to say NO to any form of sexual contact with clients; you don't need an excuse.
- You have the right to stop a booking at any time, even if you previously consented.

If rape or any form of sexual assault occurs, these are some ideas for consideration

- It is not your fault. Don't blame yourself.
- Your immediate reaction to rape or sexual assault at work will vary.
- It can be a rollercoaster time, you may not feel like telling anyone or you may look for support straight away from fellow workers, managers, or receptionists.
- Give yourself time to think.
- Remember, who to tell, and what kind of support you need should remain your choice.
- Ask others to respect your choices. Some people may advise you to call the Police, NZPC, Rape Crisis, or HELP straight away.

- Remember you don't have to call the Police or other support agencies and people unless you want to. If you choose to seek support from these agencies, they will respect your wishes and not force you to do anything you don't want to do.
- **However, the earlier you feel able to report a sexual assault to the Police, the better the chance of holding the offender to account and preventing further assaults.**

At the brothel

- Close up the room where the sex worker was assaulted, and do not touch the towels or sheets.
- Don't confront the client, it could be very dangerous to do so.
- Gather as much information as possible about the client. Does he have any distinguishing features like scars, tattoos? Does the brothel have his numbers, name, texts or security footage? Write this information down.
- Make sure the other workers know to keep details confidential – they may warn others about the client, but avoid talking about the worker.

The Red Umbrella is a symbol of sex worker rights internationally.



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www.nzpc.org.nz



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