



# DR: Protect rights of sex workers



Dear Parliamentarians,

Police in the Dominican Republic routinely rape, beat, and humiliate women who engage in sex work. Transphobia fuels extreme forms of sexual abuse and humiliation against transgender sex workers. We call on you to take concrete measures to protect sex workers from gender-based torture, including the approval of an anti-discrimination bill.

**For more information on this petition please contact: [jhansen@amnesty.ca](mailto:jhansen@amnesty.ca)**

Sincerely,

**Petition Signers: Complete if you wish to receive email alerts and updates about Amnesty's human rights work (1-2 times per month)**

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## **Protect the rights of sex workers in the Dominican Republic**

“If they can have her, why can’t we?” The police are raping and torturing sex workers in the Dominican Republic. We must demand their protection and rights now.

Dominican police are routinely raping, beating and humiliating women who engage in sex work – often at gunpoint. Transwomen women suffer particularly extreme forms of sexual abuse and humiliation due to the additional transphobia they face.

The sexist, macho culture among the National Police, along with the intense social stigma and discrimination against sex workers, embolden the police to unlawfully abuse their powers. They torture women sex workers as a form punishment and social control.

“Bitch, this is what you are good for” - A police officer said to a sex worker before he raped her.

Some of the workers are also women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in the Dominican Republic, fighting for their rights. But they are often excluded from human rights and feminist movements due to their sex work.

For all women to be free, we must begin by fighting for the rights of the most marginalized women. When we raise our voices in support of women sex workers, we raise our voices for all women.

**Sign your name and demand the Dominican Republic to take concrete measures to protect these women from gender-based torture and ill-treatment, including the approval of an anti-discrimination bill.**