

A note to researchers, students, reporters and artists who are not sex workers

Thanks for your interest in sex work justice. We need people to educate themselves about sex work, do research, study, listen and learn. It is possible to do all of this without exploiting sex workers in the process. We have drafted a few questions to assist you in doing that.

Frequently, simply reading the ample research and journalism sex workers have already offered to the world would answer some or most of the questions we get. See here for our extensive library of resources by sex workers:

<http://maggiestoronto.ca/resources>

Sometimes the project being proposed would be harmful and needs to be completely re-thought or shelved. Because we are committed to our communities, we work to ensure that any engagement with sex workers won't leave either individual workers or the community as a whole worse off.

When you contact us, please include the following:

1. What is your relationship to the sex industry?
2. How have sex workers been involved in the creation of, planning and execution of this project or story?
3. How do you believe that this project or story will directly benefit sex workers? For example, if this is a research project, how will you compensate the sex workers involved?
4. All work on sex workers involves some risk to the sex workers involved. How have you considered these risks and how will you prevent them?

Please keep the following in mind:

Our priority is to meet the immediate and long-term needs of sex workers in our efforts to live and work with safety and dignity. We are a vastly under-resourced organization with limited capacity to do this. **If you are a sex worker, please contact us.** If you are not a sex worker however, we need to know why we should take time and staff resources **away** from sex workers and put it towards you. In addition, sometimes the work you are proposing could potentially exploit or harm sex workers while at the same time building your career, research funds, reputation, belief in your own authority and desire for adventure. Therefore, the majority of the time, we decline your invitation. Please consider this before contacting us and include answers to the questions above. If, instead of or in addition to your project you would like to contribute to the movement for sex work justice, please feel free to make a donation on our website.

Thank you for supporting our work,
Maggie's: Toronto Sex Workers Action Project
www.maggiestoronto.ca