Sex Work Policy

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY: Women’s’ Officer
CONTACT: womens.officer@sheffield.ac.uk

Council notes:

- The Student Sex Work Project reports that 4.8% of students have been involved in the sex industry and 21.9% of students have considered working in the sex industry.
- Sex work can be direct (e.g. prostitution, escorting), indirect (e.g. pornographic acting, telephone work) or organisational (e.g. brothel manager or receptionist).
- Sex work can be voluntarily or involuntarily undertaken.
- Sex workers’ rights organisations such as The English Collective of Prostitutes campaign for decriminalisation.

Council believes:

- The criminalisation of voluntarily undertaken sex work increases the stigma around it, making it harder for sex workers to seek legal or medical support, to unionise and to report dangerous clients.
- Involuntarily undertaken sex work, e.g. forced prostitution, should remain illegal.
- Sex workers can be any gender, their motivations are diverse, and labour conditions, violence and secrecy are major concerns.
- Sex work is work, and sex workers should have workers’ rights.

Council resolves:

- To work with sex workers’ rights organisations and students involved in sex work to ensure the Union and University offer appropriate, non-judgemental support to student sex workers.
- To campaign on ending the stigma against sex workers, and to challenge myths around sex work.
- To campaign to decriminalise sex work.

POLICY HISTORY:

The above policy was passed by Students’ Union Council in April 2015.

This policy was renewed in November 2017 for 12 months with a view to bringing revised policy during this academic year.