



14 March 2018
To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is written in support of the Sex Worker Outreach Program (SWOP NT) and the Sex Worker Reference Group (SWRG NT) submission of *recommendations* to amend the Northern Territory *Anti-Discrimination Act*.

Victims of Crime NT Inc. (VoCNT) (formerly known as VOCAL) was started in 1995 by a group of concerned citizens who felt that offenders were getting more rights than victims of crime. Over our many years of serving the Northern Territory community, we know that people who are affected by criminal activities may also be people who have been strategically targeted by perpetrators.

The SWOP NT and SWRG sex workers have stated in their submission ⁽¹⁾ in relation to stigma, discrimination and the correlation of violence against sex workers the following:

“We have to remove dangerous laws and address the social stigma and discrimination that incites violence against sex workers. As sex workers we acutely feel the impact of criminalisation and policing practices that perpetrate violence against us. The Northern Territory system of registration creates ‘perceived criminalisation’ via the unjustified police involvement in the regulation of sex work. This creates barriers to sex workers seeking to access support or justice when they experience violence and sends a message to perpetrators that sex workers can be targeted without legal consequences” ⁽²⁾

Crime has the potential to affect anybody regardless of occupation, skin colour, culture, gender, politics, social standing or beliefs.

We support SWOP NT and SWRG NT sex workers submission of *recommendations (in full)* in their contribution towards amending the *NT Anti-Discrimination Act* to protect sex workers from discrimination, they are members of our community, our families and our neighbours.

Our position at Victims of Crime NT is that ALL victims have the same rights, should be treated equally and have access to necessary support services.

Kind regards

Jeffrey Stanton
CEO

¹ SWOP NT and SWRG submission to *the Act*, 2018, Sex work in the Northern Territory in context of reforming the *Anti-Discrimination Act section*, para. 2, pg 15

² *SWOP NT - SWRG Media Release. D17*, <https://www.ntahc.org.au/news/swop-nt-swrg-media-release-d17>

