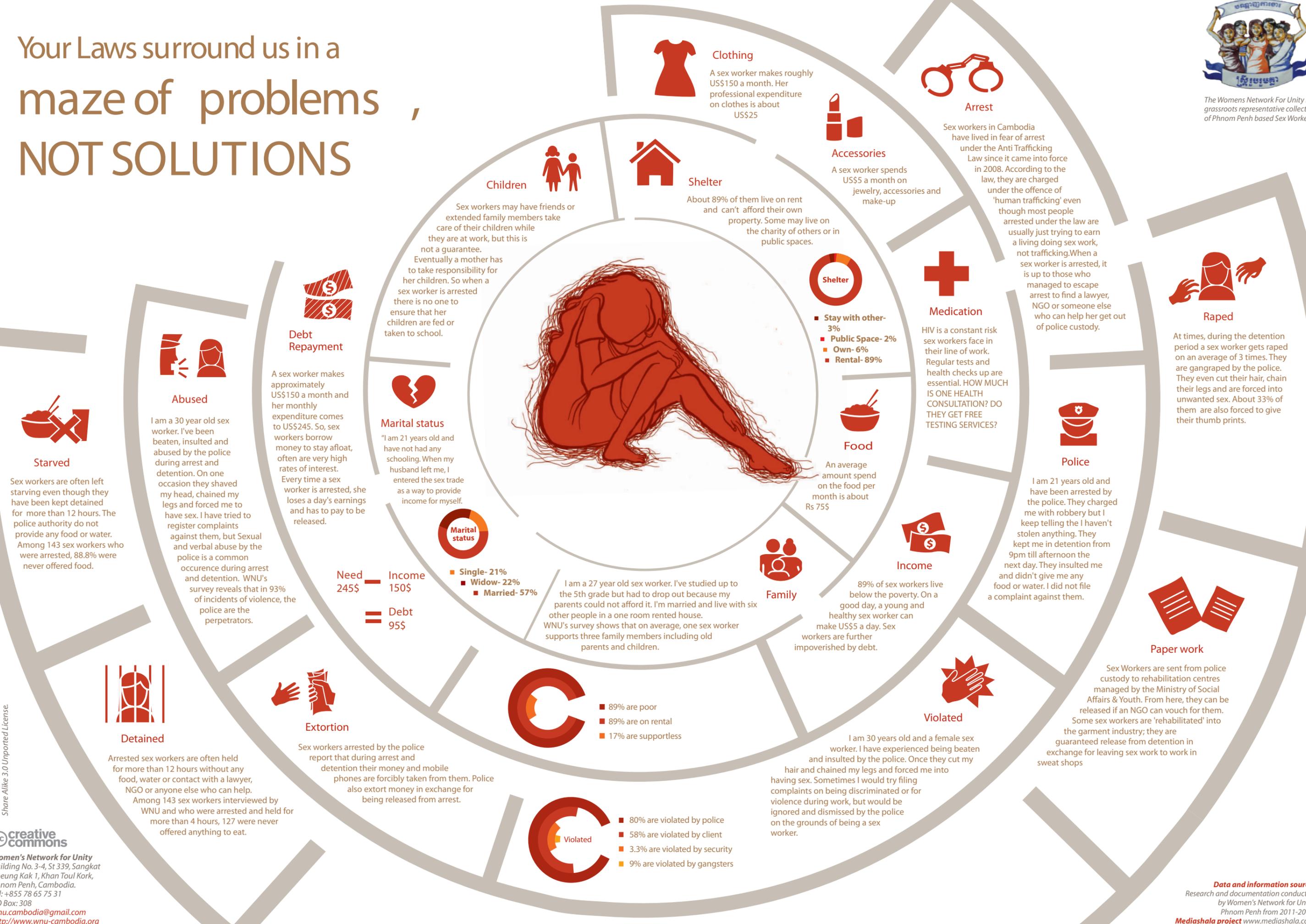


Your Laws surround us in a maze of problems, NOT SOLUTIONS



The Womens Network For Unity is grassroots representative collective of Phnom Penh based Sex Workers.



Starved
Sex workers are often left starving even though they have been kept detained for more than 12 hours. The police authority do not provide any food or water. Among 143 sex workers who were arrested, 88.8% were never offered food.

Abused
I am a 30 year old sex worker. I've been beaten, insulted and abused by the police during arrest and detention. On one occasion they shaved my head, chained my legs and forced me to have sex. I have tried to register complaints against them, but Sexual and verbal abuse by the police is a common occurrence during arrest and detention. WNU's survey reveals that in 93% of incidents of violence, the police are the perpetrators.

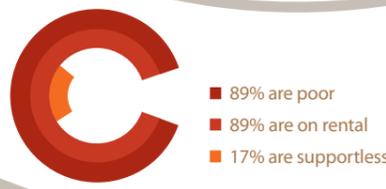
Debt Repayment
A sex worker makes approximately US\$150 a month and her monthly expenditure comes to US\$245. So, sex workers borrow money to stay afloat, often are very high rates of interest. Every time a sex worker is arrested, she loses a day's earnings and has to pay to be released.

Marital status
"I am 21 years old and have not had any schooling. When my husband left me, I entered the sex trade as a way to provide income for myself."



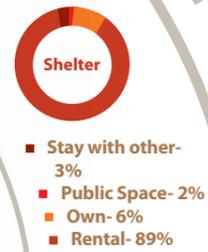
Need 245\$
Income 150\$
Debt 95\$

Family
I am a 27 year old sex worker. I've studied up to the 5th grade but had to drop out because my parents could not afford it. I'm married and live with six other people in a one room rented house. WNU's survey shows that on average, one sex worker supports three family members including old parents and children.



Income
89% of sex workers live below the poverty. On a good day, a young and healthy sex worker can make US\$5 a day. Sex workers are further impoverished by debt.

Food
An average amount spend on the food per month is about Rs 75\$



Shelter
About 89% of them live on rent and can't afford their own property. Some may live on the charity of others or in public spaces.

Clothing
A sex worker makes roughly US\$150 a month. Her professional expenditure on clothes is about US\$25

Accessories
A sex worker spends US\$5 a month on jewelry, accessories and make-up

Arrest
Sex workers in Cambodia have lived in fear of arrest under the Anti Trafficking Law since it came into force in 2008. According to the law, they are charged under the offence of 'human trafficking' even though most people arrested under the law are usually just trying to earn a living doing sex work, not trafficking. When a sex worker is arrested, it is up to those who managed to escape arrest to find a lawyer, NGO or someone else who can help her get out of police custody.

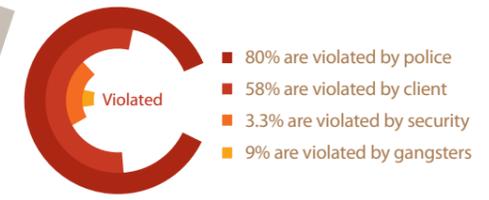
Medication
HIV is a constant risk sex workers face in their line of work. Regular tests and health checks up are essential. HOW MUCH IS ONE HEALTH CONSULTATION? DO THEY GET FREE TESTING SERVICES?

Police
I am 21 years old and have been arrested by the police. They charged me with robbery but I keep telling them I haven't stolen anything. They kept me in detention from 9pm till afternoon the next day. They insulted me and didn't give me any food or water. I did not file a complaint against them.

Raped
At times, during the detention period a sex worker gets raped on an average of 3 times. They are gangraped by the police. They even cut their hair, chain their legs and are forced into unwanted sex. About 33% of them are also forced to give their thumb prints.

Paper work
Sex Workers are sent from police custody to rehabilitation centres managed by the Ministry of Social Affairs & Youth. From here, they can be released if an NGO can vouch for them. Some sex workers are 'rehabilitated' into the garment industry; they are guaranteed release from detention in exchange for leaving sex work to work in sweat shops

Violated
I am 30 years old and a female sex worker. I have experienced being beaten and insulted by the police. Once they cut my hair and chained my legs and forced me into having sex. Sometimes I would try filing complaints on being discriminated or for violence during work, but would be ignored and dismissed by the police on the grounds of being a sex worker.



Detained
Arrested sex workers are often held for more than 12 hours without any food, water or contact with a lawyer, NGO or anyone else who can help. Among 143 sex workers interviewed by WNU and who were arrested and held for more than 4 hours, 127 were never offered anything to eat.

Extortion
Sex workers arrested by the police report that during arrest and detention their money and mobile phones are forcibly taken from them. Police also extort money in exchange for being released from arrest.

Children
Sex workers may have friends or extended family members take care of their children while they are at work, but this is not a guarantee. Eventually a mother has to take responsibility for her children. So when a sex worker is arrested there is no one to ensure that her children are fed or taken to school.

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