

## Information for sex workers

Sex work is offering sexual services for payment.

englisch / English

You can get free help and advice regardless of where you come from or your immigration status. All organisations have a duty to maintain confidentiality.

**Aliena** 0041 (0)61 681 24 14 or 0041 (0)77 522 38 06  
Advisory center for women in the sex trade  
Webergasse 15, 4058 Basel

**LadyCheck/Aidshilfe beider Basel** 0041 (0)61 205 09 10  
Gynaecological clinic for female sex workers  
HIV/Aids prevention and advice

**Opferhilfe beider Basel** 0041 (0)61 205 09 10  
Support for people affected by violence

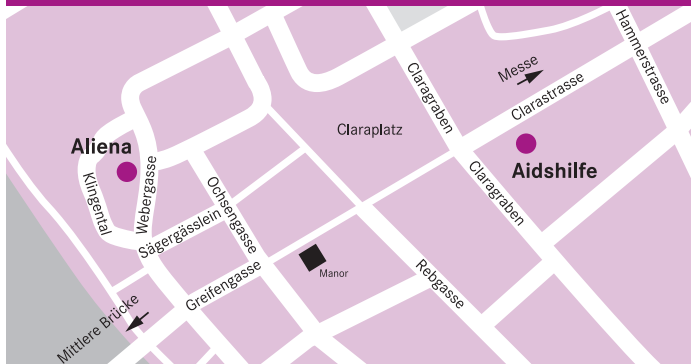
**FIZ in Zürich** 0041 (0)44 436 90 00  
Advocacy and Support for Migrant Women  
and Victims of Trafficking

**frauen\_oase** 0041 (0)61 693 22 59  
Point of contact and advisory centre for  
addicted women

**Rahab Heilsarmee** 0041 (0)61 270 25 05  
Support and pastoral care for sex workers

**Sita – Seelsorge im Tabubereich** 0041 (0)79 304 84 15  
Pastoral care for sex workers

**In emergencies:** Police emergency 117  
Medical emergency 144



### Your rights as a victim of threats, injury, robbery, rape or human trafficking

- **Free support from Opferhilfe beider Basel** (psychosocial counselling and legal advice, emergency financial aid, reimbursement and compensation)
- **Medical care and protection**
- **The right to file a complaint with the police:** We need your cooperation to help catch the offenders.

**You are a victim of human trafficking** if you have been brought to Switzerland under false pretences, forced into sex work or other work, must pay off debts or referral fees, are being subjected to violence or threats, or have had your money taken from you. Human trafficking is a serious violation of human rights and is prosecuted as a crime in Switzerland.

## **Sex work is legal in Switzerland but you have to follow the rules.**

**Important:** Tourists are **not** allowed to work.  
This includes sex work.

### **As a sex worker, you have the right**

- to be treated with respect and decency.
- to always insist on sex with condoms. Protect yourself and your health!
- to make decisions about your body and your services
- to say “no”! – Your guardian and your clients do not have the right to demand services from you against your will.
- to visit an advisory centre.

### **As a sex worker you must**

- obey the laws of Switzerland.
- show your papers for inspection.

### **If you break the law and**

- you are here without permission, you will be fined and you may have to leave Switzerland.
- you have committed a criminal offence, e.g. drug trafficking, theft or assault, you will be prosecuted. Conviction may result in a fine, imprisonment or deportation.

### **The police have a duty to**

- protect victims of crimes such as threats, bodily harm and human trafficking and refer them to advisory centres
- bring charges for any criminal activities, e.g. human trafficking and violent crime.
- inspect bar owners with regard to criminal offences such as promotion of prostitution.
- check identity, residence and work permits.

### **During an inspection, the police may**

- inspect your papers (passport, residence and work permit)
- enter your room.
- search you – if they suspect you have committed a crime. As a woman, you have the right to ask to be searched by a female officer!
- arrest you if you don't have a work or residence permit.
- take you to the police station if you can't produce an identity card.

### **During an inspection you have the right**

- to be told the name of the officers.
- to refuse to sign any documents you don't agree with or don't understand.
- to refuse to make a statement if an accusation is made against you.
- to a receipt for all the belongings the police have taken from you.

### **During proceedings, you have the right to**

- an interpreter.
- a lawyer.