**Municipal Supervision of Sex Companies Act (WGTS)**

Dear reader,

I am a sex worker, and the implementation of the WGTS will ensure that:

1. I am discriminated against on the basis of my profession;
2. I lose my right to privacy because of this;
3. My special personal data will be registered with all possible consequences without there being a 'significant public interest'.

**1. Discrimination against sex workers**

Special personal data can’t simply be stored and processed. This concerns data such as race, ethnic origin, health data or data relating to someone's sexual behaviour or orientation. Thus also: being a sex worker. The WGTS will allow my data to be stored and processed. This is discrimination. **The WGTS discriminates against sex workers compared to other citizens in the Netherlands, who are still allowed to protect their special personal data.**

**2. Privacy**

Trust in (local) government to protect sensitive data is low. Think of the data leak of the GGD during the corona period, the benefits scandal and the tattle-tale agreements between municipalities and housing corporations, of which we know from our lived reality that municipal inspectors who visit home (sex) workers pass on information to housing corporations and sex workers subsequently become homeless. The risks associated with the outing of special personal data are extremely high for me or fellow sex workers. I may be evicted, may not be able to buy or rent (another) house, not get a (business) bank account, not get another job (outside the sex industry) or be threatened or even experience violence from my environment.

**The WGTS says that my fundamental rights and interests must be protected. But this change in legislation puts my privacy and security at risk!**

**3. Significant public interest**

The law can only be introduced when there is a significant public interest, since storing and processing special personal data is currently not allowed. **Making it easier to control the rules of Municipal Act 151a is not enough of a ‘significant public interest’ to justify this restriction of my rights.** The government has often tried mandate the registration of sex workers. Thanks to our justice system, it is still prohibited to store and process special personal data. In 2020, the Council of State[[1]](#footnote-1) and the Dutch Data Protection Authority[[2]](#footnote-2) were also opposed for this very reason to the Legislative Proposal for the Regulation of Sex Work (WRS), in which the registration of sex workers was also proposed.

These reasons are still valid. **That is why I call on the government to enter into and maintain a dialogue with us, the sex industry, about the rights of sex workers, building trust and having a conversation about what we do need to work safely. Equal rights and a cooperative policy through meaningful participation, without excluding sex workers in a risky way as is proposed now, is and remains the way to a safe and healthy sex industry.**

(Signature/name you want to sign with)

1. <https://www.raadvanstate.nl/@121782/w16-20-0238-ii/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/sites/default/files/atoms/files/advies_wet_regulering_sekswerk.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)