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PRESS RELEASE

Marking of International day to end violence against sex workers

On Monday, 15/12/2014 PROI will start realization of a Facebook campaign "Red Umbrella" which aim is to mark the 17th December - International Day Against Violence Against Sex Workers. The campaign will last five days (15-19 December), and the activities of the campaign can be followed on FB page PROI <https://www.facebook.com/udruzenjePROI>

As in previous years, we want to join thousands of sex workers and those who support them in their demands to reduce stigma, abuse of power and all the other manifestations of violence against them. We would like to draw the public attention on the issue of violence against people who provide sexual services.

We invite all people to join the campaign and oppose the violence against sex workers.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, as in the rest of the world, a great number of sex workers live and work and they daily suffer various forms of violence, from psychological and physical to economic and sexual. According to the newest official statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina there are 4.000 sex workers, and research data from 2011 shows that 85% of them suffered from different kinds of violence.

Twelwth year in a row, 17th December - *International day to end violence against sex workers* have been marked worldwide, especially in countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina where sex work is illegal and criminalized. It's originally conceived as Memorial Day for 49 sexual workers who were killed by serial killer known as „Green River Killer“. Today, the International day to end violence against sex workers is an opportunity for uniting sex workers around the world. By marking this day, attention is drawn to all crimes committed against sex workers around the world, as well as need for decreasing stigma and discrimination of this very vulnerable population. Symbol of resistance to discrimination and violence against sexual workers is red umbrella. Red symbolizes beauty and umbrella stands for resistance to attacks from sky and from people.

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