

read online or print this zine

mousiecat.itch.io/sw-anti-work

check 'em out

aair-directory.org

database for sex trade advocacy.

hackinghustling.org

intersecting sex trade and tech. watch their virtual panel on anti-work and check out the “dis/organizing” community toolkit on building collectives beyond institutions.

criticalresistance.org

abolitionist movement to end the prison industrial complex.

about me

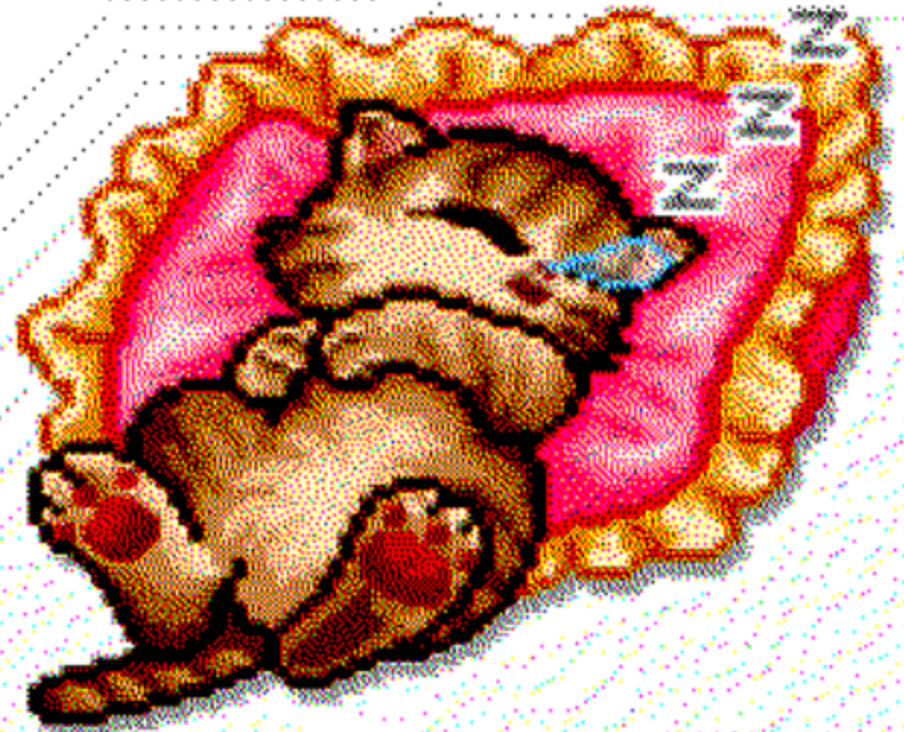
i'm frankie! i've dedicated my life to working as few hours as possible while achieving as much independence as possible...to varying degrees of success. in addition to sex trade advocacy and prison abolitionism, i'm learning to code! i aim to build online spaces that are creative, liberatory, and free from surveillance and capitalism. also i love cats and dancing.

connect

Please reach out, I'd love to connect!

mousiecat@proton.me

**sex work is
(anti)work**



**trading sex to escape
the workplace**



what is anti-work?

Anti-work is a critique of work and jobs as we know them. It challenges the value we place on a “good work ethic,” it especially calls attention to the exploitation of workers under capitalism, and, maybe most importantly, it urges us to remember that life is precious, and we should do everything we can to enjoy it on our terms.

To survive and to be seen as “adults,” we are expected to work at least 40 hours a week following someone else’s orders, doing work that we probably wouldn’t do at all, or would do very differently if we had a choice.

Sacrificing all this time to be bossed around prevents us from spending our time more meaningfully: on friendships, on pursuing our passions, on sprawling out and lazing around like a spoiled house cat, and even on creating the world we want to live in.



imagine freedom

Colonialism and capitalism warp life on this beautiful, abundant Earth into trappings of scarcity and servitude. To keep this going, they gaslight us all into thinking that this is the only world that is possible.

To escape this false reality, we must delve into our imaginations. So please imagine...

What would you do if you and everyone else no longer had to worry about money? You have access to all your needs, no strings attached. You are free.

Write or draw about it on the next page, create visions in your mind, or talk about it with a friend.

jobs...can't get 'em, can't keep em', don't want 'em

It's not just that jobs suck, they're also really inaccessible! We don't live in a society that makes it easy to find and keep good work.



Hiring discrimination is real. If you are houseless, trans, Black, indigenous, brown, disabled, a migrant, neurodivergent, or queer, many places simply won't hire you. If they do, you might be faced with a soul-sucking negotiation of how much harassment you have to experience versus how much you have to suppress your authentic self.

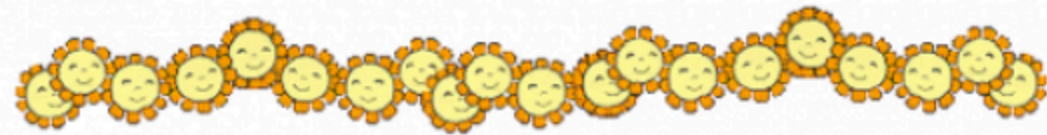
If you do manage to get a job, it can be hard to keep it! Lacking transportation, struggling to keep up with the job's demands, or being unable to deal with continued aggressions towards your identity are just a few factors that could end up costing you the gig and putting you back on the demoralizing job hunt.



But dammit, we are still trapped in a society that requires us to pay money for our most basic human needs like food, shelter, and sexy clubbing outfits. So, how do we get by while retaining as much of our time and autonomy as possible?

For many of us, the answer is sex.

Jobs can feel like you're trading ownership of a large part of your waking hours in exchange for financial security (if you're lucky), but trading sex feels more like surfing the turbulent waves of the market: being cunning and resourceful, keeping your ear to the ground, and strategizing how to get the resources you need to live the life you want.



keep the anti- in your work

As you organize, don't forget to enjoy your life and the people around you! If you simply can't do anything but survive and try to experience joy now and then, that's okay! You don't have to earn your right to exist.

The objective of our organizing is to make life easier! If we set harsh, unrealistic expectations on our organizing, and judge ourselves as unworthy if we don't keep up, we will find ourselves replicating the very workplace we are striving to escape.

Make time to be lazy, to dance, to laugh, to engage in all your nerdy hobbies, and to sprawl out in the sunshine like a spoiled cat.





make the workplace your shitty ex

Let's invest in our own resources and reduce our dependence on capitalist entities! Maybe with...

money pots

give each month if you can, use it to help SWers in crisis and build sustainable resources.

trade/barter markets

mutual aid

skill shares

free shops

gather donated items, like clothes, plan B, condoms, and COVID tests. Pop up a shop for free ninety-nine.

direct support networks
like abortion access groups

housing strategies

reduce rent with swerker roomie networks, or even save up to buy communal housing/working spaces.

fight criminalization

Cops are the protectors of the capitalist state.

Connect your fight for sex work decrim to larger prison abolitionist struggles! Fight to defund police, close prisons, and end surveillance. Never let your abolitionist peers forget sex workers' needs, and always center the people most targeted by police.



Trading sex doesn't require being hired by an employer. It can be done independently, with no boss telling you what to do or when you should do it. And, unlike the jobs where bosses steal the bulk of the money made by workers, when you trade sex independently, you keep all the cash and goods given for your labor, and you call the shots on how to spend those resources.

That's not to say it's easy. It's not, especially when the capitalist state doesn't want independent sex work to exist.





freedom ain't easy

When trading sex is criminalized, it's much harder to advertise your services, whether you're working the street or finding clients online. When people do show interest, your leverage to screen for safety is at a bigger disadvantage, because when clients are criminalized, they are often more reluctant to provide information or to take extra time before getting into a car or hotel.

Due to the stigmatization and criminalization of sex workers and clients, the client pool is smaller and their entitlement is often bigger. With fewer potential clients, many of whom have internalized negative attitudes towards sex workers, you may have to compromise your desired rates and boundaries to make ends meet.



connect!

Do you have sex worker community? If so, how did you connect to it or build it? How can you reach out to someone without it? How can you help them strategize building their own local community?

If you don't have community, do you know of any other local sex workers, even if they do different types of work than you, that you could reach out to? To start, could you ask them to coffee? Or if there are multiple people, could you host a potluck? Get those conversations started!

Are there other reachable cities with communities you can connect to? What about communities you can access online?

Any sex worker conferences or festivals you can travel to to make long-distance connections? Many of these events offer scholarships.

Reaching out is the most powerful way to give and receive protection and love!





how do we get that freedom and keep it?

WE DO IT TOGETHER, BABY!

Tap into those skills that you already have. Be cunning, be resourceful, keep your ear to the ground, and strategize on how to create community with other sex workers.

Connect with communities that already exist and scheme together on how y'all can be safe, make money, build power, and thrive.



Doing this work alone is hard, dangerous, and alienating, but communities can help each other screen clients, steer clear of cops, exchange information to keep each other safe, and share resources for building your trade.

Communities can also provide space to share about your experiences (good and bad), build friendships, and relax in a haven of people who embrace and accept you for what you do and who you are.

There's also the risk of violence.

Whorephobia, which dehumanizes sex workers and normalizes violence against us, is a central force in patriarchal capitalism. Since our police state wants everyone to depend on cops, if you do face physical and sexual assault, it's harder to find support that doesn't involve dangerous interactions with police.

Because we must be so cautious about disclosing our sex work, finding each other to form support networks is harder, too. When we find each other, keeping each other safe is challenging and risky, because many of the ways we support each other are criminalized and can even be legally considered "trafficking".





if capitalism had its way...

...it would either **eliminate us** by making our trade too dangerous, draining our resources, and locking us up—all strategies that hit Black and brown, trans, migrant, and houseless sex workers the hardest...

...or it would **own us** by turning sex work into another one of their jobs by legalizing it in ways that control exactly how and where we work, prevent us from keeping all of the money given for our services, make us work under coercive conditions of bosses and managers, and restrict our access to these workplaces by requiring the approval of business owners and government entities—which would again be the most restrictive against Black and brown, trans, migrant, and houseless sex workers.



why do they make it so hard?

BECAUSE WE ARE A THREAT TO THE CAPITALIST STATE.

BECAUSE FREEDOM IS A THREAT TO THE CAPITALIST STATE.

Capitalists want to keep us on the grind, working our bodies beyond what is healthy, building them more and more wealth and power, and keeping us too exhausted to organize for liberation.

When we find ways to make money independently, that frees us from our dependence on the jobs that exploit us. It challenges the idea that we have to submit to the rules they give us in order to survive.

When we don't depend on the capitalist state and the jobs it tries to trap us in, it loses its control over us. And with our freedom, who knows what we are capable of?