

ANSWERS
Code of Ethics and Guidelines
2022

ANSWERS Code of Ethics and Guidelines has been viewed and approved by the Co-founders, and will continue to be reviewed and updated on an annual basis or when needed.

OUR MISSION

Supporting sex workers and their rights through outreach, education, and support services while working to end violence and stigma directed towards them. ANSWERS is for decriminalization and destigmatization.

OUR VISION

To have a community of sex workers that is fully integrated, accepted, safe and enjoys equal opportunities within Canadian society.

OUR PURPOSE

- Fight against the social stigma, discrimination and harm sex workers experience.
- Improve the quality of life and working conditions for sex workers.
- Provide outreach, support and advocacy for sex workers.
- Inform and educate the public about the difference between human trafficking and sex work.
- Work towards decriminalization of sex work and labour rights for sex workers.
- Provide support and assistance to sex workers.
- Provide outreach to health care workers, police and social workers.
- Continue to build healthy and positive relationships with all levels of government.
- Provide outreach and form alliances with other community organizations and activists.
- Provide outreach to sex workers in all fields of sex work to build community and solidarity.
- To liaise with MPs, MLAs, Councilors, Municipal personnel as we work together to educate to establish trust, understanding and respect.
- To promote health by providing support services, outreach, education, and resources to sex workers experiencing physical, mental and emotional distress.
- To relieve poverty by providing food and basic necessities of life to sex workers in Edmonton and the surrounding area, who are experiencing significant economic hardship.
- To educate by providing resources, research and training to sex workers, law enforcement, health care workers, teachers, social workers and the public that will:
 - create a shared understanding of the important differences between human trafficking, sexual exploitation and sex work;
 - eliminate the stigma, discrimination and physical, mental, social and emotional harm associated with sex work by choice and necessity; and
 - build healthy and safe communities of practice for all sex workers.
- To advocate for better quality of life, safer working conditions and decriminalization of sex work through building and actively promoting positive and collaborative relationships and alliances with the public, community organizations, law enforcement and all levels of government.

ANSWERS Ethical Promise:

- To do no harm.
- To uphold confidentiality at all times.
- To be open and honest in how information is being gathered and presented, and for what use.
- Obtain informed consent and necessary permissions from participants prior to conducting surveys and recorded sessions.
- To create a safe space for people to question how their information and stories are being used and withdraw consent at any time.
- To provide resources for participants if they become traumatized from participating in recounting their lived experiences.
- To protect and preserve all records with the utmost security, confidentiality and safe disposal.
- Maintain respectful and ethical professional relationships with all participants.

ANSWERS Ethical Guidelines:

- ANSWERS reserves the right to compensate participants for their time participating in events and information requests, be it monetary, gifts, future collaboration or other exchange of goods and services.
- ANSWERS will provide a safe space for people to question how their information and stories are being used. If needed, ANSWERS will provide resources for participants if they become traumatized from participating in recounting their lived experiences.
- ANSWERS respects the participants rights to withdraw their participation consent at *any* point.
- ANSWERS will remove participant/ community member information from their database if requested, without any negative repercussions.
- ANSWERS will need all vendors, presenters, volunteers and others directly involved with community members to sign an Oath.