

Sarajevo, 17th December 2013
Press release

Marking of International day to end violence against sex workers

Today at 11:55 in front of the BBI Centre in Sarajevo, Association PROI activists marked 17th December - *International Day to end violence against sex workers* by opening 11 red umbrellas. With this unusual act, Association PROI wants to draw public attention on the issue of violence against women who willingly provide sexual services in exchange for money or other value.

Sex work follows society development from the very beginning and no country in the world has succeeded to forbid this phenomenon, no matter how big a punishment is. 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.

Eleventh 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.

For more information about this activity contact:

Association PROI
Maršala Tita 6, 71000 Sarajevo
Tel. +387 33 557 545
E-mail: info@ugproi.com; ugproi@gmail.com
Web: www.ugproi.com