
YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE in the 6th INTERNATIONAL DAY to END VIOLENCE AGAINST SEX WORKERS!

IN SAN FRANCISCO:

There will be a memorial gathering at the Center for Sex and Culture hosted by Annie Sprinkle, and sponsored by Tina Butcher and Femina Potens,

1519 Mission Street (at 11th.)

December 17, 2008

Gather 6:00. Memorial 6:30-8:15.

Everyone is welcome.

We'll make a circle and anyone that wants can share their thoughts, feelings, poems, performances, memories, read the names of our dead, make a statement, sing a song, share related news, etc. So come prepared. There will be short readings from members of the Sex Workers Writing Workshop.

WHY AN INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END VIOLENCE TOWARDS SEX WORKERS?

By Annie Sprinkle

In 2003, "Green River Killer" Gary Ridgeway confessed to having strangled ninety women to death and having "sex" with their dead bodies. He stated, "I picked prostitutes as victims because they were easy to pick up without being noticed. I knew they would not be reported missing right away and might never be reported missing. I picked prostitutes because I thought I could kill as many of them as I wanted without getting caught."

Sadly some Seattle area prostitutes, their boyfriends or pimps, knew the Green River Killer was Gary Ridgeway for years. But they were either afraid to come forward for fear of being arrested themselves, or when they did come forward the police didn't believe them over the "upstanding family man" Gary Ridgeway. It seemed as though the police weren't working very hard to find the Green River Killer. If the victims had been teachers, nurses or secretaries or other women, I suspect--as Ridgeway did-- that the killer would have been caught much sooner. Ridgeway remained at large for twenty years.

From working as a prostitute myself for two decades I know that violent crimes against sex workers often go unreported, unaddressed and unpunished. Also there are people who really don't care when prostitutes are victims of hate crimes, beaten, raped and murdered. They will say: "They got what they deserved." "They were trash." "They asked for it" "What do they expect?" "The world is better off without those whores."

No matter how people feel about sex workers and the politics surrounding them, sex workers are a part of our neighborhoods, communities and our families and always will be. Sex workers are women, trans people and men of all

