



Steel City  
Sex Worker  
Resource Guide

2021

By SWOP  
Pittsburgh



## **RIGHTS NOT RESCUE**

This free resource guide was lovingly assembled for sex workers in Western PA by the diligent members of SWOP Pittsburgh, and through submissions by local sex workers from across the industry.

If you are a sex worker and have additional resources to recommend, contact us so we can include them in future editions! Or, if you've had a negative experience with one of our referred resources, please alert us so we may reconsider including them in future editions.

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Cover images are screenshots taken from performers Gia Fagnelli & Chaos Waits during our virtual D17 showcase in 2020.

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This is the 2nd edition of SWOP Pittsburgh's Sex Workers' Resource Guide. There are new organizations and some refreshed categories. Included is a COVID-19 section with groups whose services have expanded to support others during the pandemic.

The global chaos we felt this past year marked a significant shift in our chapter's efforts. Like many orgs, we took a breather at the start of 2020. But in May and June, when power structures at the root of violent inequities shattered like a window, our efforts became more hands-on. We prioritized mutual aid and raised nearly \$1000 during our annual D17 event. We got a phone line and a website to make it easier for the community to reach us. We put together sex worker health kits. Most exciting of all, we gained some new volunteers!

In the coming year, our focus will remain on mutual & direct aid to the most vulnerable in our community. But our core priority remains to shift the dial to ensure that every person in this industry has the right to live free of fear.

No freedom without abolition.  
SWOP Pittsburgh

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Excerpted from a document by SexWorkersProject.org, 2012

*No matter your age, gender, immigration status, or whether you are committing a crime, US law guarantees certain rights that cannot be violated.*

## YOU HAVE THE RIGHT:

- to be free of illegal searches & arrests
- to remain silent
- to not answer questions from the police
- to have a lawyer

There are ways to stand up for those rights! Sadly, police may not always respect your rights. Always do what feels safest if you are afraid of violence.

If a cop approaches you on the street, you don't have to answer questions.

**Say: "Am I free to go?"**

If they say yes, then go!

If they say no, **then ask: "Am I being detained?"**

If they say no, then calmly leave.

If they say yes, ask why. Don't argue, but remember their badge number, what they look like, and anything they say or do.

If you are detained, an officer can question you, ask for ID, or pat you down outside of your clothes to check for weapons. They can't go into your pockets or bags without asking permission, or search you to try to identify your sex.

If a cop tries to search you, **say:**

**"I do not consent to this search."**

This does not give them an excuse to arrest you. They might arrest you anyway. If they do arrest you they can search you without asking permission.

You can also be arrested by an undercover cop. It is hard to tell when someone is an undercover cop, because they are not in uniform, and they can drink, do drugs, touch, be touched, lie, and pretend not to be a police officer. If an undercover cop does something you think might be against their rules, remember and tell your lawyer.

Do not say or sign anything without your lawyer there! Police are trained to lie in order to get info, and they can put snitches in the cell with you. Anything you say to anyone except your lawyer, doctor or therapist can be used against you, even if you are innocent.

**If you need medical help, ASK FOR IT,** even if they say it will take longer to get out.

Police sometimes take condoms away from sex workers. Police are not allowed to arrest you only because you have condoms. It is not a crime to carry condoms!

**Don't let the police scare you - carry condoms if you need to stay safe!**

Never resist or fight back.

If you are being arrested, **say:**

**"I am not resisting, officer."**

If you are arrested, they may not say "You are under arrest," or read you your rights. If this happens, **say:**

**"I am going to remain silent, and I want to speak to a lawyer."**

**Make an arrest plan.** If you think you could be arrested, make a plan just in case. Think of everything that would need to be taken care of if you were arrested and in jail for a few days:

- Children need to be cared for
- Pets need to be fed
- Your job or school needs to be called and give an excuse
- Your lawyer needs to be called
- You need someone to show up to court to pay bail and help you get home when you are released.
- Think of a friend for each of these tasks. Think of one responsible friend who can call the others to tell them you need help. Give this friend a copy of your ID with your legal name and birthdate.

## MAKE AN ARREST PLAN (continued)

- Call your friends and let them know your arrest plan. Give them keys to your apartment if they need them.
- If you have a few arrests on your record, try to save some money in case bail is set – give a friend access to this money.
- Tell your most responsible friend every time you go to work. Give them as much info as possible, in case something goes wrong. Memorize their phone number.
- If you are arrested while with someone you know, ask them to call your most responsible friend.
- Usually you can make a phone call after arrest.

# BLOGS AND PODS

## PODCASTS

### “Peepshow Column & Podcast”

Weekly column in Pittsburgh City Paper on sex work and sexuality by Jessie Sage, and a podcast by Jessie & PJ Sage.

### “Strange Bedfellows”

Strangebedfellowspdx.com  
Sex work podcast hosted by Elle & Jon

### “Masocast”

[www.masocast.com](http://www.masocast.com)  
Kink, BDSM, & sex work podcast

### “Sex, Magick & Dessert”

On Apple Podcasts  
Podcast with artists, witches, & sex workers.

### “The Oldest Profession”

Changing the stories people tell about sex workers. Changing the story changes everything.”

### SWOP-USA’s Resources page: [swopusa.org/resources/](http://swopusa.org/resources/)

A great collection of articles on things like racial justice, trafficking, capitalism, and how to be an ally.

# ...AND BOOKS

*Coming Out like a Porn Star: Essays on pornography, protection, and privacy*, edited by Jiz Lee

*Hustling Verse: An anthology of sex workers' poetry*, edited by Amber Dawn & Justin Ducharme

*To Live Freely in this World: Sex worker activism in Africa*, by Chi Adanna Mgbako

*Insatiable: Porn - a Love Story*, by Asa Akira

*Revolting Prostitutes: The Fight for Sex Workers' Rights*, by Molly Smith & Juno Mac

*Thriving in Sex Work: Heartfelt Advice for Staying Sane in the Sex Industry*, by Lola Davina

*Playing the Whore: The Work of Sex Work*, by Melissa Gira Grant

*Challenging Perspectives on Street-Based Sex Work*, by Katie Hail-Jar-  
es, Corey S. Shdaimah, & Chrysanthi S. Leon

*Sex Work Matters: Exploring Money, Power and Intimacy in the Sex Industry*, by Melissa Hope Ditmore

*Sex Lies & Statistics*, by Dr Brooke Magnanti

*Rent Girl*, by Michelle Tea

*Youth Who Trade Sex in the U.S. : Intersectionality, Agency, and Vulnerability*, by Carisa R. Showden, Samantha Majic

# COVID-19



Pittsburgh Restaurants Workers Aid

[info@pghrwa.org](mailto:info@pghrwa.org)

Email for inquiries. Go online to apply to receive PRWA care package, and to see map of distribution centers around the city.  
[pghrestaurantworkersaid.org/](http://pghrestaurantworkersaid.org/)



East End Community Health Center

**(412) 244-4700**

1 N. Linden St. Duquesne, PA 15110

Primary Care Health Services Inc. schedules COVID-19 testing & vaccinations.

Locations in Braddock, Homestead, Oakland, Hazelwood, McKees Rocks, West End, & Wilkinsburg.

[pchspitt.org](http://pchspitt.org)



Hugh Lane Wellness Center

**(412) 973-5053**

[info@hughlane.org](mailto:info@hughlane.org)

Food delivery services. Call to place delivery order.

# Food



**Just Harvest**  
**(412) 431-8960 x602**  
Food stamp Access assistance.

**Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank**  
**(412) 460-3663**  
1 N. Linden St. Duquesne, PA 15110  
Collect and distribute food to neighborhood food pantries. You can call to find out if you qualify for food pantry support and which pantry you should go to. They also have programs providing fresh produce and food for kids.  
[Pittsburghfoodbank.org](http://Pittsburghfoodbank.org)

**Foodpantries.org**  
National listing of food pantries that you can search by state.

# HOUSING



A Safe Place Matters



## Hearth

**(412) 366-9801**

Suburban transitional housing program for homeless women with children and survivors of domestic abuse.

[www.hearth-bp.org](http://www.hearth-bp.org)

## sisTersPGH

**(412) 259-3091**

2014 Monongahela Ave, Pgh, PA 15218

Supports the trans and non-binary community through multiple programs including transitional housing assistance and food aid.

[info@sisterspgh.org](mailto:info@sisterspgh.org)

## Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

**(412) 687-8005 (24 hr hotline)**

Provides 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, childcare, legal advocacy, medical advocacy, and support groups.

[www.wcspittsburgh.org/](http://www.wcspittsburgh.org/)

## Proud Haven

**(412) 953-4666**

517 E. Ohio St. Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Helping housing-insecure LGBTQ+ youth and adults find housing and resources.

[admin@proudhaven.org](mailto:admin@proudhaven.org)

[www.proudhaven.org/](http://www.proudhaven.org/)

## HOUSING (continued)



**True T: Op**  
**(412) 366-9801**  
**[info@truetpgh.com](mailto:info@truetpgh.com)**  
Trans-focused LGBTQIA+ emergency  
housing program that creates a safe space  
for individuals to obtain stable housing while  
achieving personal and professional goals.  
**<https://www.truetpgh.com/option-u>**

# HEALTHCARE

## Your Rights as a Patient:

- To NOT answer questions from health professionals and to refuse any testing or treatment;
- To use a friend's or a public address if you don't have your own;
- To communication accommodations (like translation). Try to give clinics a heads up about your needs before visiting for best results, but accommodations should be available.

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE



Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania

Planned Parenthood - Pittsburgh Family Planning Health Center  
(412) 434-8971 or 1-800-230-7526

933 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Offers:

- Hormone Therapy
- Gynecological care
- Contraceptive services
- Pregnancy testing
- Colposcopy and cryotherapy
- Pelvic and breast exams
- STI testing & treatment
- Emergency contraception options (depending on location):
- Mental Health Counseling services
- Medical and surgical abortion
- Professional counseling

Appointments encouraged, walk-ins welcome.

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE (continued)



The Midwife Center for Birth & Women's Health

(412) 321-6880, [info@midwifecenter.org](mailto:info@midwifecenter.org)

2831 Penn Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Pregnancy, childbirth, and primary gynecological and contraceptive clinic.  
Walk-in clinic during "With Woman Fridays", 12:30-5pm.



Allegheny Reproductive Health Center

(412) 661-8811

5910 Kirkwood St, Pittsburgh, Pa 15206

Offers abortion, gynecological care, prenatal care, contraception services, & STD testing.

*Dr. Sheila Ramgopal got a particular recommendation in our survey!*

Call for various appointment options.

## HARM REDUCTION + RESOURCE LINKAGES

Bridge Outreach

(412) 699-0462

[info@bridgepgh.org](mailto:info@bridgepgh.org)

A team of dedicated individuals connecting those in all walks of life to resources meant to alleviate a myriad of challenges, including, but not limited to: housing instability, food insecurity, medical and mental health inaccessibility, and unsafe substance-use.



## **LGBTQIA+ HEALTHCARE & SUPPORT**

**Central Outreach**

**(412) 322-4151**

*127 Anderson Street, Suite 101, Pittsburgh, PA  
15212*

Offers:

- Comprehensive Gay and Transgendered Health Care
- HIV Primary Care
- Hep C Primary Care
- PrEP & nPEP HIV Prophylaxis
- Drug and Alcohol Rehab
- Housing Resources and Referrals
- Women's healthcare
- Non-emergency contraceptives
- Clothing center



**Allies for Health + Wellbeing**

**(412) 345- 7456, [info@alliespgh.org](mailto:info@alliespgh.org)**

**5913 Penn Ave, 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15206**

Allies for Health + Wellbeing Offers:

- STI testing
- Counseling
- PrEP, PEP, HIV support services and treatment
- Hep C treatment
- Gynecological care
- Trans care
- Contraception Services



## HEALTHCARE (continued)

### **HIV / AIDS SUPPORT**



AIDS Free Pittsburgh  
650 Smithfield St, Suite 2400, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
(412) 586-6706  
AIDSFreePittsburgh@gmail.com

### **CRISIS SUICIDE HOTLINES**



Resolve Crisis Center  
Crisis line: 1-888-7YOU-CAN (796-8226)  
Non-urgent line: (412) 864-5004

333 North Braddock Ave, Pittsburgh, Pa 15208

Offers:

- Phone counseling
- Mobile crisis unit
- Walk-in center
- Residential services
- Child and adolescent crisis team

National Suicide Hotline  
1-800-273-TALK(8255)  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)



# MENTAL HEALTH

## SW-RECOMMENDED THERAPISTS & SUPPORT

### **Diane Dahm, LCSW**

5908 Bryant St, Pittsburgh, Pa 15206

[dianedahmcounseling@gmail.com](mailto:dianedahmcounseling@gmail.com), (412) 423-8227

**Gretchen Hoffer, NCC, LPC at Village Center for Holistic Therapy**  
[gretchen@villagetherapy.org](mailto:gretchen@villagetherapy.org)

*From their website:*

"I am fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) and have been working to increase services for the deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing in the Pittsburgh area. I work in the fields of trauma/PTSD, substance abuse, relationship issues, and managing mood disorders."

*Referral from sex worker:*

"She pushes the idea that other people's responses/behaviors/actions are not your responsibility. Highly recommend her."

### **West End**

68 Wabash Street, Suite 100  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

### **Shaler**

1407 Mt. Royal Blvd.  
Glenshaw, PA 15116a

### **Pineapple Support: Stigma-Free Therapy**

Professional mental healthcare for performers and producers working in the adult industry. Additionally offers LGBTQ+-focused therapy, sexual trauma support, and HIV support groups.

(Jamila Dawson is recommended!)

[pineapplesupport.org](http://pineapplesupport.org) | [contact@pineapplesupport.org](mailto:contact@pineapplesupport.org)

### **Lumos Transforms**

Multi-modality and personalized transformative services for recovery, deep healing, and personal growth. Woman-of-color owned.

*Referral:*

"The facilitators teach a toolkit of mindfulness practices that enable you to better handle working on our own shit and the world. There are free workshops and they also offer scholarships. I highly recommend... has helped me recognize what's happening to my body when I'm triggered. Great for people with trauma."

# ACCOUNTING

**Megan E Haselden, Steel City Accounting**

**(412) 626-7851, meg@steelcityaccounting.com**

Provides accounting, budgeting and tax services to communities often marginalized by traditional accounting firms.

**[www.steelcityaccounting.com](http://www.steelcityaccounting.com)**

**Erica Moulinier, Moulin Consulting**

**(215) 870-2655 [moulinconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:moulinconsulting@gmail.com)**

Accounting and Tax Preparation Services for Dreamers and Misanthropes.

**[www.moulinconsulting.com](http://www.moulinconsulting.com)**

**Daphne Roberts, Professional Accountant and Tax Preparer**

*East End, Pittsburgh, PA*

**[daphe.ltd@gmail.com](mailto:daphe.ltd@gmail.com)**

**Just Harvest - Tax Services**

**Text your zip code to 898-211**

**2-1-1 or 1-888-553-5778**

Walk-ins for tax services are not permitted, so please call for an appointment. There are three ways to schedule an appointment.  
[bit.ly/PA211TAXES](http://bit.ly/PA211TAXES)

**Safeword Tax Service**

**From website:**

“Providing tax planning, return preparation, and advocacy for members of alternative communities, including sex workers, pro-dom(me)s, exotic dancers, burlesque performers, kink retailers, sex-positive professionals, sex educators, polyamorous families, and LGBTQ+ individuals.”

**[www.safewordtax.com/](http://www.safewordtax.com/)**

# LEGAL SERVICES

## *Women's Law Project*



### Women's Law Project

**(412) 281-2892**

428 Forbes Avenue, Suite 1710, Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Free legal help in civil cases, especially sexual assault and harassment.

[www.womenslawproject.org](http://www.womenslawproject.org)



### Bukit Bail Fund of Pittsburgh

**(412) 593-4355**

[bukitbailfund@protonmail.com](mailto:bukitbailfund@protonmail.com)

Providing jail support and funds for bail.



### SWOP Behind Bars

**(877) 776-2004 Ext 555**

[swopbehindbars@gmail.com](mailto:swopbehindbars@gmail.com)

SWOP Behind Bars (SBB) provides community support for incarcerated sex workers, including a monthly newsletter, books, study materials, and sex worker pen pals for incarcerated sex workers. Upon release from jail or prison, they help sex workers meet their basic needs, provide resources, networking, and linkages for successful reentry into their communities.

[www.swopbehindbars.org](http://www.swopbehindbars.org)



### Crisis Center North

Crisis Center North

24/7 Hotline: (412) 364-5556

24/7 Textline: (412) 444-7660

Website & Web Chat: [CrisisCenterNorth.org](http://CrisisCenterNorth.org)

## LEGAL SERVICES (continued)

Crisis Center North provides services to victims and survivors of domestic abuse such as:

- Medical Advocacy
- Legal Advocacy (Help with Protection from Abuse orders, Magisterial Court, and Support Animals for during the Court Process)
- Counseling for All Age, Sexes, and Gender Expressions
- Economic Empowerment (Rapid Re-Housing, Micro-Loans, Financial Literacy Courses)
- Crisis Center North does **not** have a shelter but we can help arrange for shelter services if needed.

## HERBALISTS

### **Jocelyn Kirkwood, Stonefruit Community Herbalists**

Herbal consultations and education and Level One Somatic Experiencing sessions.

[www.wildcherries.org](http://www.wildcherries.org)

### **Birdie Radford**

406 Melwood Ave Suite 200b

Community herbalist, sliding scale herbal consults  
[aberdeenradford@gmail.com](mailto:aberdeenradford@gmail.com)

### **Michelle Soto, Cutting Root Farm**

**(615) 804-0064, [michelle@cuttingroot.com](mailto:michelle@cuttingroot.com)**

Herbal farm, blends to order, consultations and education.

# community



## SWOP Community Help Line (877) 776-2004

Jointly run by volunteers from SWOP-USA and SWOP Behind Bars. This support line is operated by tireless volunteers who are trained in rape counseling and crisis intervention.

## SWOP-Pittsburgh's Social Support Group

Monthly two-hour meet-up for current and former sex workers to talk about our jobs and lives and give and receive support. Email for the next date and location.

[swop.pittsburgh@gmail.com](mailto:swop.pittsburgh@gmail.com)



## Lysistrata

An online SW activist collective and emergency fund. Lysistrata is available to assist individuals in the case of emergencies related to illness, injury, homelessness, wrongful arrest and incarceration, unstable or abusive working conditions, domestic violence, discrimination, and a number of other crises that can impact sex workers. Priority goes to POC and trans workers.  
[www.lysistratamccf.org](http://www.lysistratamccf.org)

## “Self Care 101 for Sex Workers”, a free webinar.

Full slideshow and notes available online.

<https://tinyurl.com/swopsc>

# MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Roberta Guido, LMT

Text (412) 492-0140

[rmguidol@gmail.com](mailto:rmguidol@gmail.com) (that's a one after the name)

Massage Therapist working in Squirrel Hill specializing in Neuromuscular Therapy and Manual Lymphatic Drainage. Sliding scale rates available, just ask!

Eli Shumaker, LMT - Body Euphoria

5268 Butler St, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

(412) 328-3717, [beinclusivemassage.com](http://beinclusivemassage.com)

\*\*Closed until further notice, due to  
COVID-19.\*\*



# ABOUT SWOP

Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) is a national social justice network dedicated to the fundamental human rights of people involved in the sex trade and their communities, focusing on ending violence and stigma through education and advocacy. You can learn more about the national network at [www.swopusa.org](http://www.swopusa.org).

SWOP-Pittsburgh is a local chapter of the national network, founded in 2018. We are led by current and former sex workers and accompanied by dedicated allies. Aside from our monthly sex worker support and social meet-ups, our work has included:

- Annual vigil and storytelling on D17 - International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers;
- Awareness and media campaign on the impacts of FOSTA/SESTA;
- Successful pressure campaign against the Pittsburgh Police Department's practice of charging alleged sex workers with felonies for possession of condoms.;
- Successful disruption of the University of Pittsburgh's facial recognition surveillance technology Hackathon.

You can follow and contact SWOP Pittsburgh:

**SWOPPITTSBURGH.COM**

**@SWOP\_PGH** on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

**Or email us at:** [Swop.pittsburgh@gmail.com](mailto:Swop.pittsburgh@gmail.com)

**Venmo & PayPal:** [@swoppittsburgh](https://www.venmo.com/_/)

We're always looking for new members - both current and former sex workers - who want to build community and advocate for our rights. Allies who are dedicated to supporting a sex worker-led movement are welcome too! Introduce yourself via a DM or email, and we'll be happy to fold you into our volunteer team!





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[swop.pittsburgh@gmail.com](mailto:swop.pittsburgh@gmail.com)

SWOP USA  
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