

Sex work is a legal profession in the Netherlands. People who migrate from another country to the Netherlands and do sex work sometimes face specific challenges while they're here.

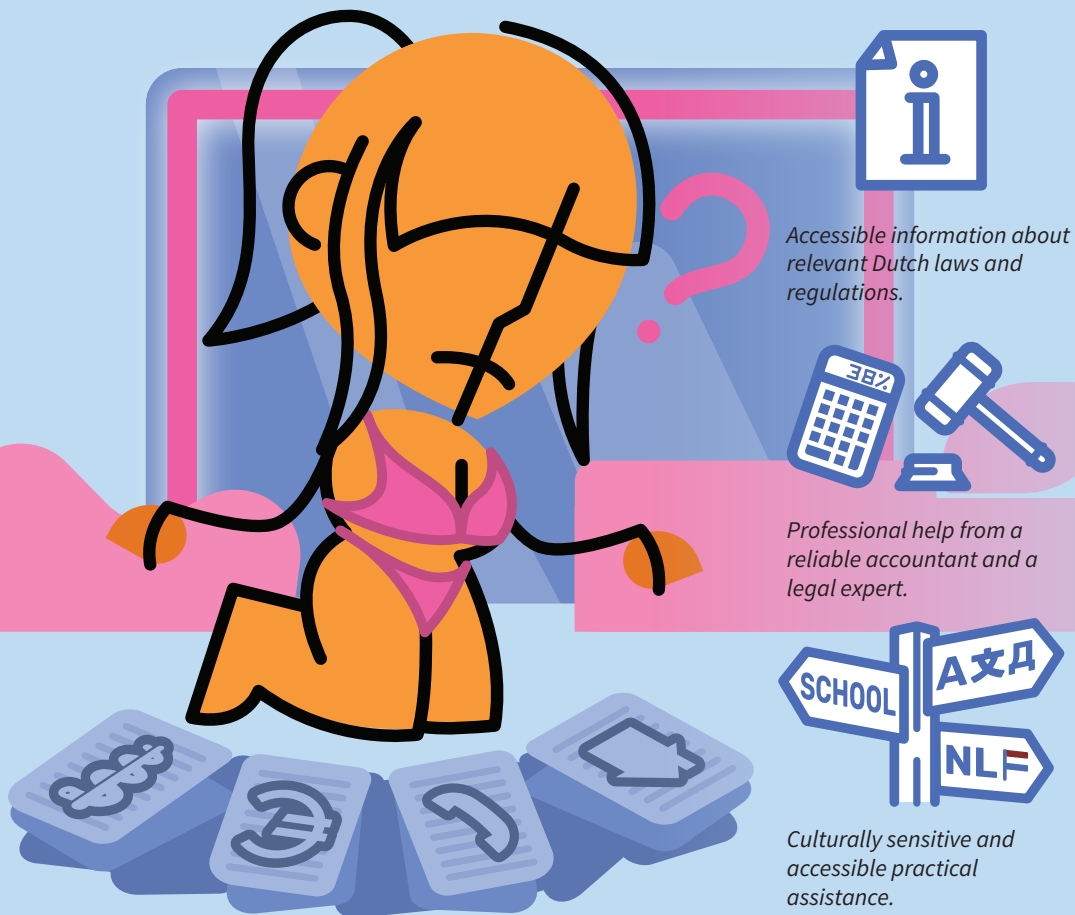
What are these challenges? And how can immigrated sex workers be supported?

SEX WORK

Lack of knowledge and exploitation

Financial problems arise if sex workers are not aware that they need to take out health insurance or file tax returns. Also they might not be aware of their housing rights or their rights at their place of work.

Some people try to take advantage of this knowledge gap. For example, sex workers may be pressured to work longer hours, or are scammed by someone pretending to be an accountant.



Stigma, inequality, violence, stress and loneliness

Sex workers regularly face stigma. People who have immigrated to the Netherlands can experience inequality. Consequently migrant sex workers might want to keep a low profile. They can be hesitant to ask for help after being a victim of violence and can feel like they have no one to talk to who understands them.

At the same time the pressure to send money to family in the country of origin can lead to high work pressure and even more stress.



Health

Taking care of your body is important, especially for sex workers. Some migrant sex workers are reluctant to discuss their work with a general practitioner because of fear of being judged.



Transgender sex workers

Sex workers face discrimination and violence. Transgender sex workers even more so. They are more likely to feel excluded from regular support systems. Transgender sex workers regularly experience low self-esteem. Lack of gender sensitivity at professional organizations makes it harder to speak up.

