



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Saturday, 14
December, 2012

Contact :Kris Morgan
media@swop-chicago.org\
www.swop-chicago.org
(312) 252-3880

December 17th, 2012 --“Veneration of Whores”

Sex Workers Outreach Project-Chicago [SWOP-Chicago] Hosts Candlelight Vigil and Celebration on the Tenth International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers.

This Monday, SWOP-Chicago will hold a celebration and candlelight vigil to commemorate the tenth **International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers**. The event, titled “Veneration of Whores,” will run from 7:30-9:30p.m. at ArTango, on Chicago’s North side at 4203 N Ravenswood. Burlesque performances, art installations, an interactive commemoration wall, live music and speakers will round out the evening to address all those touched by violence.

The Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers was started in 2003 by the Sex Workers Outreach Project in the wake of the conviction of Gary Ridgway, the Green River Killer, who killed at least 48 individuals involved in the sex trade. Since 2003, events are held on December 17th around the world to call for an end to the violence sex workers face and bring communities together to recognize the multiple forms of violence involved in the sex trade. SWOP-Chicago's celebration and vigil is joined by events in seven U.S. cities.

This event is free and open to the public. SWOP-Chicago invites sex work communities, allies, advocates, friends and family to join us in celebrating the lives of those who have passed and honor the resilience of all who are connected to the sex trade.

DJ **All the Way Kay** will supply music for the evening. Burlesque dancers **Phaedra Black & Helena Handbasket**, and musicians **Alec Lehrman** and **Eric Seligman** will also offer their talents to the celebration. Performances begin at 8:15 p.m.

The candlelight vigil will commence at 8:35 p.m. Following the vigil, SWOP-Director Serpent Libertine will recant the history of December 17th and connect it to local issues currently afflicting sex workers. Attendees will be invited to speak about violence, resistance, or individuals who were lost this year.

This year's event will also feature:

- An 'altar' commemorating the life and anti-violence work of Robyn Few, co-founder of SWOP and the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, who passed away this year
- Video installation scrolling the names of sex workers who were lost in 2012.
- 40x60 in commemorative wall to be created at the vigil. Attendees are invited to bring an item, picture, card or story to commemorating a victim of violence or representing a moment of resilience.
- Red umbrella art installation.
- Donation bar and silent art auction.

Sex Workers Outreach Project Chicago [SWOP-Chicago] is a grassroots organization dedicated to improving the lives of current and former sex workers in the Chicago area, on and off of the job.

More information on December 17th and Global Events Can be found at
<http://www.december17.org/event-locations/>