



WOMEN WITH A VISION

December 17, 2018 | News

[MAYOR CANTRELL ISSUES STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST SEX WORKERS](#)

NEW ORLEANS — Mayor LaToya Cantrell today issued the following statement on the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers:

“This is a public health issue, and one we need to discuss openly as a community. Stigma and shame put lives at risk,” said **Mayor Cantrell**. “The City of New Orleans will work to secure and uphold the human rights of all individuals, especially those most at risk of abuse and neglect. All of our residents matter and deserve equal protection under the law.”

International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers was established by advocacy organizations around the world to bring awareness to the high rates of deadly violence faced by people engaged in sex work. Much of this violence goes unreported.

According to research from the Urban Justice Center's Sex Workers Project (SWP), 46 percent of sex workers were victims of violence while in their work. The SWP also reports that 80 percent reported being threatened or beaten. LGBTQ sex workers face even higher rates of violence.

Women with a Vision, a community-based nonprofit, began hosting a week of events leading up to this day, including a second line on Sunday, Dec. 15.