



Vision and mission

VISION (= IMAGE OF THE FUTURE, DESIRED SITUATION IN THE LONG TERM)

Ghapro/Pasop strive for a society where voluntary, adult prostitution has a place, where sex workers enjoy optimal protection and have maximum right to self-determination.

Sex workers deserve tailor-made help and advice. Sex workers from the whole of Flanders can contact Ghapro/Pasop for specialised medical, social, psychological and legal support and advice. Sex workers participate and have a voice in our services.

Ghapro/Pasop are *the* expertise centre in Flanders on prostitution.

MISSION (=REASON FOR BEING, VALUES, IDENTITY)

Reason for being

We define sex work as the exchange of sexual services in return for money or goods. We define sexual services broadly, it includes erotic massages, performances in the pornographic industry, telephone and webcam sex.

For us, sex workers are men, women and transgenders who offer sexual services in exchange for money or material goods. This can happen occasionally or structurally to earn a living. Not all sex workers face the same risks, these are obviously dependant on the sexual acts performed by the sex worker.

The group of sex workers is diverse, permanently in motion and evolving with the social context. Because of their work in the sex industry, they run specific medical, social, psychological and legal risks. Many sex workers find themselves in a precarious position. They are a stigmatised group in society. Due to a lack of clarity in the legal context, their rights are not very well protected.

As a consequence, sex workers struggle to connect with the regular medical, social, psychological and legal support services.

Identity

Sex workers lie at the heart of the services offered by Ghapro/Pasop.

Our offer is based on medical, social, psychological and legal support. If possible and needed, we will refer to the regular support services.

We **lower the threshold** as much as possible. For this reason, our support is **anonymous** and **free of charge**. **Outreaching** is a fundamental characteristic of our medical and social support. We strive to reach as many sex workers as possible (gender, nationality, sector, legal/illegal stay, ...) and pay special attention to the **most vulnerable groups**.

We have a customised offer for **former sex workers and the relatives of sex workers**.

Health of sex workers.

We act as the centre of expertise for sex work. We continuously keep our eye on the ball and from there spearhead the support for sex workers.

In the social debate, we are **advocates** for improving the rights of sex workers.

We carry out all these components of our services in **co-operation and alignment** with other prostitution organisations, with the broader professional field, with the academic world and with the policies.

We also have a **policy-supporting** function.

Values

Following values lie at the heart of our services:

- There is a strong focus on the **relationship of trust** with the sex workers, it constitutes the basis of the support offered. Our support workers show a genuine interest and respect others for who they are.
- We use a **multi-disciplinary** (medical-social-psychological-legal) approach. By offering multiple disciplines in house or by referring quickly, we avoid that clients have to go through several intake conversations or are sent from pillar to post.
- We opt for a culturally sensitive approach. Our support workers are aware of their own beliefs, values and norms and realise these do not apply to everyone. We show an openness for the individuality of each person and leave space for differences.
- **Sex workers participate** to our services at multiple levels. This can be by working with experts, via structural co-operation with sex workers societies or via informal and formal surveys of our (sub)target groups.
- **The right to self-determination** is an important principle in prostitution. Sex workers must be able to determine which acts to perform and which clients to receive. Sex workers should also have the casting vote when it comes to their working hours, the use of intoxicants, medical supervision and other work-related issues.
- Ghapro/Pasop provides care to their own staff members through a **training and support policy** that delivers coaching, team consultations and intervision tailored to their function and personal needs.