

Urban Justice Center

Sex Workers' rights and Human Trafficking

<https://www.urbanjustice.org/2019/02/01/lawyer-and-escort-rj-thompson-wants-to-end-the-stigma-around-sex-work/>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

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RJ Thompson, a.k.a. Carlos Alexander, is a lawyer and sex worker. He became an escort to pay off his college debt, and says his salaries as a public interest nonprofit lawyer were never sufficient to get a handle on his debt.

Ive had many clients sort of wanna rescue me, tell me they can help me get out of the work before they know that Im an attorney. That Im multilingual. That Ive lived in 10 cities. he explained. Their sort of assumption about who does sex work is very narrow sometimes.

He also helps provide legal and social services to sex workers and survivors of sex trafficking.

The Sex Workers Project has been a leader in the national sex workers rights movement, he stated. You know, many of our clients are transgender women, many are undocumented, many are queer, many are people of color.

Thompson wants to dispel the myth that all sex workers are victims and said sex work is like any other job.

We often, in society and in the media, hear so much the victim narrative, around sex work. And terrible exploitative human rights abuses happen to some sex workers, he explained. But its important to note that terrible exploitative things happen in all labor sectors, and theres nothing different about sex work other than the sexual stigma and social stigma thats attached to it.

Thompson hopes that he can change peoples minds about what it means to be a sex workers and educate them on the complex profession.