

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Sex Workers, Call Foul on Media Junket Who Perpetuate Super Bowl Sex Myth

News agencies should beware of false claims made by law enforcement and nonprofits alike during prostitution raids

"We may have had certain precincts that were going gangbusters looking for prostitutes, but they were picking up your everyday street prostitutes. They didn't notice any sort of glitch in the number of prostitution arrests leading up to the Super Bowl." — Phoenix police Sergeant Tommy Thompson, following the 2008 Bowl, quoted in the [Phoenix New Times](#)

New Orleans — Super Bowl LIX [law enforcement, NOG's and for profit corporations](#) have joined forces using myths of forced labor in the sex trade as cover for harassment and arrest of sex workers. The Stop the Raids Committee 2025 calls for the halt of harmful prostitution arrests and street sweeps under the guise of stopping sex trafficking, and advises the news media to beware the claims made by law enforcement and nonprofits who justify them.

Every year, law enforcement backed by their government funded nonprofits use [long debunked claims](#) of sex trafficking at the Super Bowl to justify mass arrests of sex workers and clients. During these periods, police often use entrapment (even posing as children), or use misleading titles like "Human Trafficking Operation" to hide the fact that few if any arrests involve trafficking, in an effort to secure positive press coverage and more funding for themselves.

These raids are violent and dangerous. Sex workers, like other members of the public in New Orleans, have just gone through a traumatic experience of being in close proximity to a terrorist attack whose effects on their economy are still being felt. Now they are being further targeted by federal, state and do-gooder non profiteers' false and misleading information and the prostitution sting operations that will further disrupt their stability

Additionally this year immigrant community members are in fear for their lives with no way to gain citizenship to avoid being deported. These prostitution raids, done under the guise of rescuing victims will most certainly result in the violent xenophobic deportation process of women who are just trying to support themselves and their families. We demand these dangerous and damaging raids by law enforcement be stopped! Adults should have the right to not have their private, consensual sexual activities criminalized.

The Stop The Raids Committee educates about the truth behind the Superbowl myth. We welcome the chance to talk with the media about the truth behind the raids.

<https://stoptheraids.org>

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