



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Contact: Maxine Doogan

415-265-3302, stoptheraidsusa@gmail.com

California Sex Workers Rally To Push Back On Superbowl Human Trafficking Myth

SAN JOSE— The stoptheraids.org is a coalition of sex workers who are rallying at the San Jose Convention Center on Monday, February 2, 2026 from 3-5pm ahead of Superbowl LV to tell the media and the fans alike that large sporting events like Superbowls and World Cups **do not cause forced labor in the sex industry**.

Every year, law enforcement and grifter nonprofits haul out the disproven myth that forced labor in the sex industry increases during large sporting events. They then use that manufactured lie to justify making arrests to 'rescue victims'. Despite the spin by law enforcement, all the data shows that almost **all of these arrests are for prostitution (a misdemeanor)** and that these operations hardly ever find actual victims. They are consensual sex workers. Essentially that means that arresting us for prostitution in 'human trafficking operations' is simply a scam to pad their numbers.

This year is of particular concern because the head of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem has vowed to be at this year's Superbowl to enforce her harmful and draconian immigration laws. And we can certainly expect that ICE, in combination with local law enforcement, will **run prostitution stings to sweep up deportation targets** that disproportionately impact our immigrant community.

This will be in combination with the newly enacted AB 379, which re-criminalizes '*loitering with intent to purchase a commercial sex act*'. Sadly, Governor Newsom signed AB 379 into law last year, and it gives **law enforcement wide latitude to arrest anyone they claim to be 'loitering for sex' which includes stepping outside of a strip club or walking in front of an adult venue**.

We want to give journalists and members of the public a chance to talk with us and learn the truth about these bad laws that spread lies and target our community.

Come stand with us and/or drive around the block and honk your support.

WHAT: Rally To Push Back On Superbowl Human Trafficking Myth

WHEN: 3pm to 5pm, Monday February 2nd, 2026

WHERE: San Jose McEnery Convention Center 150 W San Carlos St, San Jose, CA 95113

WHO: Sex worker and harm reduction organizations including the Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and Research Project (ESPLERP), The Sidewalk Project, USPROSTITUTES Collective, Strippers United, Stripper Worker Center, Stoptheraids.org,

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