

## Working with Paralegals

Hands Off partners trained current and former sex workers in rights and the legal recourse to provide (para)legal support to their peers. Paralegals intervened in situations such as cases where children were being taken from sex workers, they supported legal action against abuse by communities, and supporter sex workers in confronting client abuse and in contesting fines. Below you can find advice from partners when setting up a paralegal programme.

1. Create a WhatsApp group for paralegals to be able to share ideas and support each other.
2. Establish partnerships with legal allies such as lawyers and legal centres to make sure that paralegals can easily refer clients. The allies can also provide advice where needed.
3. Sometimes creative solutions are needed to address challenges sex workers face, but also to reach sex workers and motivate them to file a case. It is a good practice to create the space and time for paralegals for creative thinking and ideas.
4. Paralegals are peer counsellors and have on-the-ground knowledge on the needs of sex workers, however they are not lawyers or social workers. Make sure that their job description is clear.

