

Sex Work and the Law in Asia and the Pacific

■ Legal
 ■ Illegal
 ■ Not illegal (generally not prohibited but exceptions apply)
 ■ Information unavailable

		SEX WORK IN PRIVATE	SOLICITING	BROTHELS	
SOUTH ASIA	Afghanistan	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Bangladesh	Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Bhutan	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	India	Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Maldives	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Nepal	Legal	Illegal	Not illegal (generally not prohibited but exceptions apply)	
	Pakistan	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Sri Lanka	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
EAST ASIA	China	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Hong Kong SAR	Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Macao SAR	Legal	Illegal	Information unavailable	
	Taiwan, Province of China	Not illegal (generally not prohibited but exceptions apply)	Illegal	Legal	
	Mongolia	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Japan	Illegal	Illegal	Not illegal (generally not prohibited but exceptions apply)	
	Republic of Korea (South Korea)	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
SOUTH EAST ASIA	Brunei	Not illegal (generally not prohibited but exceptions apply)	Illegal	Illegal	
	Cambodia	Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Indonesia	Not illegal (generally not prohibited but exceptions apply)	Not illegal (generally not prohibited but exceptions apply)	Not illegal (generally not prohibited but exceptions apply)	
	Lao PDR	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Malaysia	Not illegal (generally not prohibited but exceptions apply)	Illegal	Illegal	
	Myanmar	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	The Philippines	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Singapore	Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Thailand	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Timor-Leste	Legal	Legal	Illegal	
	Viet Nam	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	POLYNESIA	American Samoa	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal
		Cook Islands	Legal	Illegal	Illegal
French Polynesia		Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
Niue		Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
Pitcairn Islands		Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
Samoa		Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
Tokelau		Legal	Illegal	Not illegal (generally not prohibited but exceptions apply)	
Tonga		Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
Tuvalu		Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
Wallis and Futuna		Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
MELANESIA	Fiji Islands	Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
	New Caledonia	Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Papua New Guinea	Illegal	Not illegal (generally not prohibited but exceptions apply)	Illegal	
	Solomon Islands	Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Vanuatu	Legal	Illegal	Not illegal (generally not prohibited but exceptions apply)	
MICRONESIA	Guam	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Federated States of Micronesia	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Kiribati	Legal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Marshall Islands	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	Nauru	Legal	Information unavailable	Illegal	
	Northern Mariana Islands	Illegal	Illegal	Information unavailable	
AUSTRALASIA	Palau	Illegal	Illegal	Illegal	
	New Zealand	Legal	Legal	Legal	
	Australia	Legal	Illegal	Not illegal (generally not prohibited but exceptions apply)	

Sources and limitations: The information in this table is based on 'Sex Work and the Law in Asia and the Pacific' a UNDP and UNFPA publication conducted in partnership with UNAIDS and APNSW (October 2012).