# NYPD Changes Condom Policy

August 5, 2014 By Trent Straube

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The New York City Police Department announced it would no longer confiscate condoms as evidence in cases involving prostitution, prostitution in a school zone, and loitering for the purposes of prostitution.

Advocates praised this step—it can encourage safer sex—but as the Access to Condoms Coalition notes, police can still use the possession of condoms to justify an arrest, and they can still confiscate condoms as evidence in human trafficking cases.

Lambda Legal adds: “The practice disproportionately affects transgender women, who experience such a high rate of false targeting by police as sex workers in New York City that it was the subject of a 2005 campaign by Amnesty International.” State lawmakers have introduced a bill to close loopholes in the NYPD policy change.

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