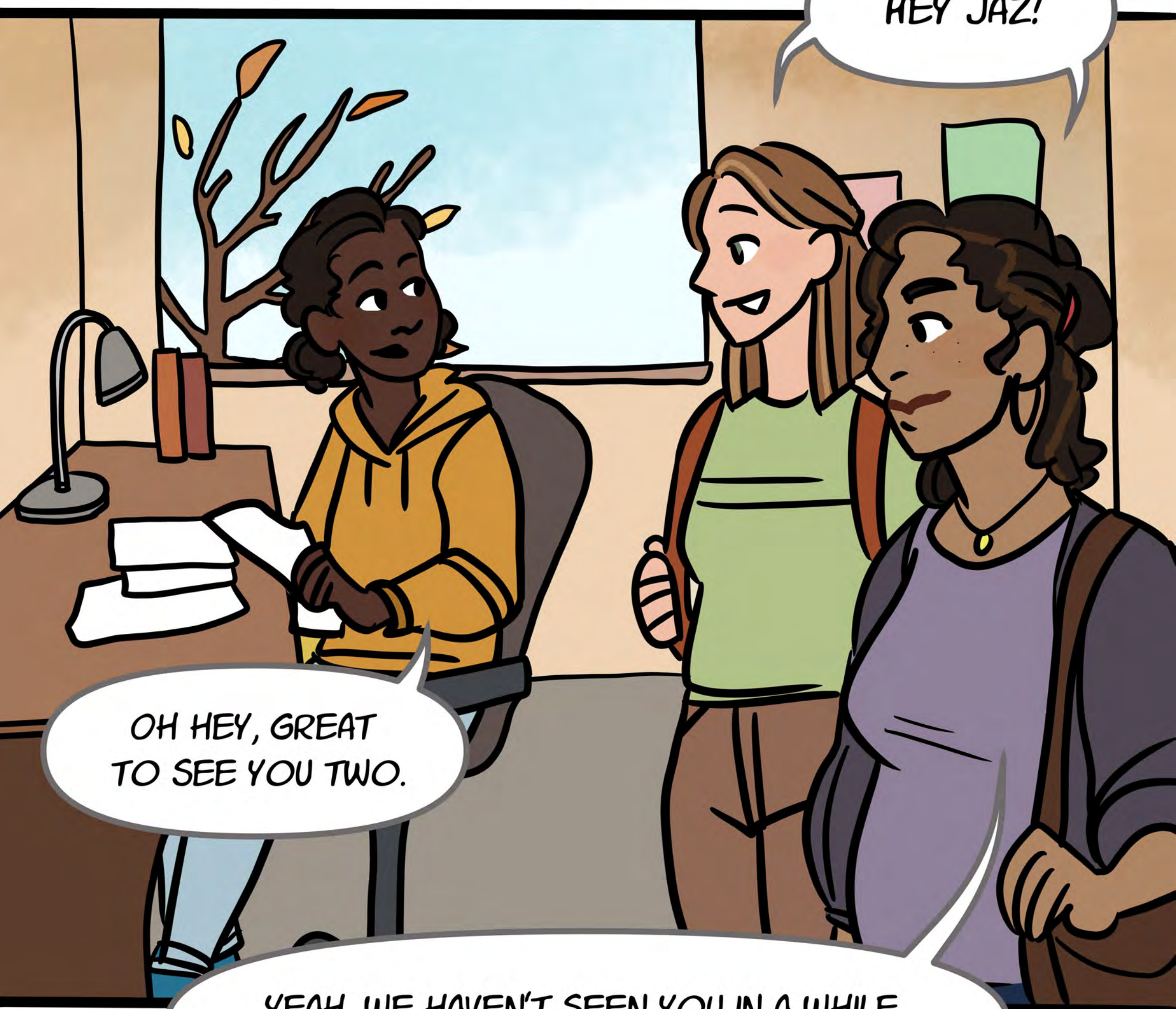


SEX WORK IS NOT TRAFFICKING: JAZ CONNECT SOME DOTS AND WORKS THROUGH THE IMPLICATIONS WITH SELINA AND JULIE...



HEY JAZ!

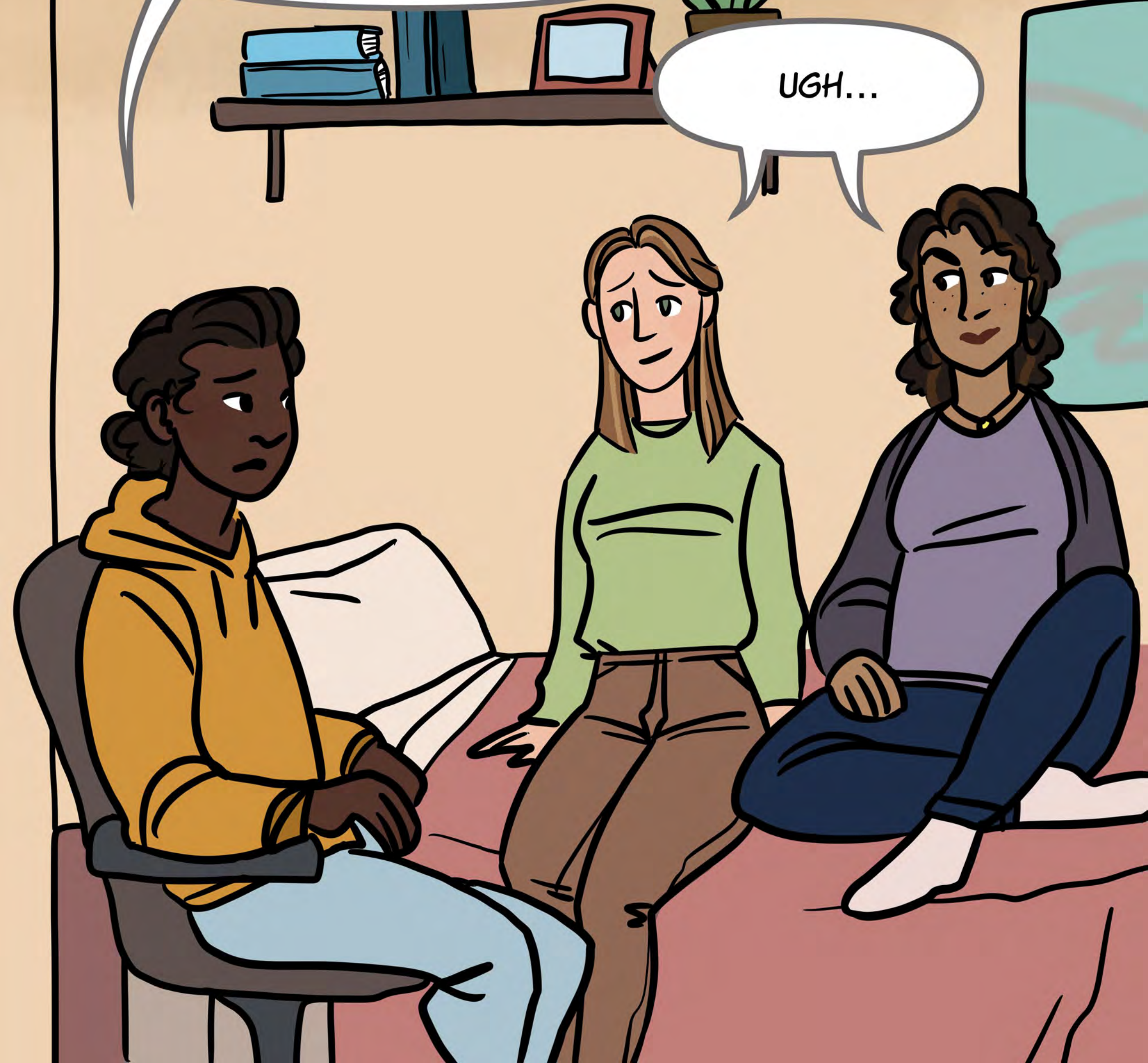



OH HEY, GREAT TO SEE YOU TWO.

YEAH, WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE. WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO LATELY?

I'VE BEEN BUSY WITH MIDTERMS AND A TERM PAPER

UGH...





HEY, REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT SEX WORK?

I WANTED TO SHOW YOU THIS: IT SAYS RIGHT ON MY STUDY PERMIT THAT I'M PROHIBITED FROM WORKING IN THE SEX INDUSTRY.

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

CONDITIONS:

STUDY PERMIT

Not valid for employment in businesses related to the sex trade such as strip clubs, massage parlours or escort services.



YEAH, THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING A STATEMENT ABOUT WHAT KIND OF WORK FOLKS ON PERMITS CAN AND CAN'T DO.

ESPECIALLY WOMEN.

REALLY, THEY'RE BASING THIS ON STEREOTYPES OF RACIALIZED AND MIGRANT WOMEN IN THE SEX INDUSTRY.



DOES THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH CONCERNS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



IN THE READING I'VE BEEN DOING ABOUT SEX WORK, TRAFFICKING SOMETIMES COMES UP.

SOME STUFF MAKES IT SOUND LIKE NO ONE DECIDES TO DO SEX WORK AND LIKE ALL SEX WORKERS ARE TRAFFICKED.



LOTS OF PEOPLE THINK SEX WORK IS ALWAYS EXPLOITATIVE.

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS NARRATIVE IS SO ENTRENCHED IN EVERYTHING THAT SEX WORK GETS CONFLATED WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

PEOPLE THINK SEX WORKERS ARE VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING.



OH, YEAH, I TOTALLY SEE HOW THAT'S PROBLEMATIC.



IT SURE IS.



LIKE FOR EXAMPLE, THE U.S. DEFINITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

AN ACT SUCH AS ABDUCTING, TRANSFERRING, RECEIVING, OR HARBOURING INDIVIDUALS, BY MEANS OF FORCE, FRAUD, OR DECEPTION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLOITATION...



RIGHT.
WHEN IT'S MORE LIKE,

MANY PEOPLE DECIDE
TO DO SEX WORK FOR A NUMBER
OF REASONS.

EVERYONE MAKES INCOME-
RELATED DECISIONS BASED
ON THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES. SEX
WORKERS ARE NO DIFFERENT.



YEAH, I MEAN, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT
SEX WORKERS NEVER EXPERIENCE EXPLOITATION. THEY MIGHT
EVEN DEFINE THEIR EXPERIENCE AS TRAFFICKING. BUT THE
ASSUMPTION THAT SEX WORK IS TRAFFICKING
IS HARMFUL.



OH. HOW SO?

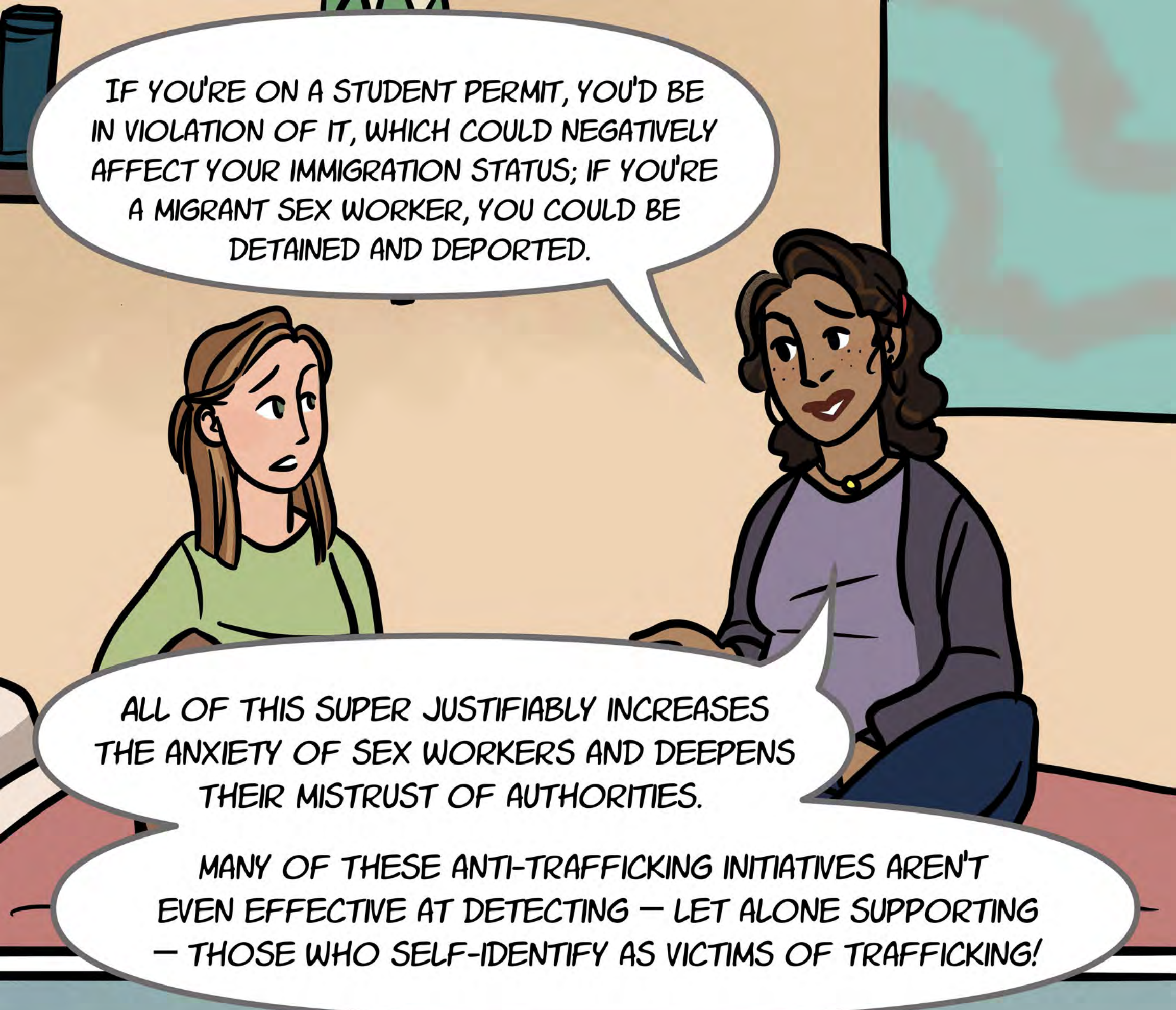
WELL, BY ASSUMING
THAT ALL SEX WORKERS ARE
TRAFFICKED, WE DENY THE AGENCY
OF SEX WORKERS.

THANKS TO, YOU KNOW, RACISM, INDIGENOUS,
BLACK, AND ASIAN WOMEN ARE ESPECIALLY LIKELY TO BE
STEREOTYPED AS LACKING THE CAPACITY TO MAKE
INFORMED DECISIONS.

ASSUMING VICTIMHOOD LIKE THIS
EMBOLDENS POLICE TO SURVEIL SEX WORK
ESTABLISHMENTS AND CONDUCT
STING OPERATIONS.

WHICH IS A HUGE VIOLATION OF PRIVACY
AND TOTALLY HARASSMENT.

ALL THIS IN
ORDER TO "PROTECT"
SEX WORKERS FROM
HUMAN TRAFFICKING.



IF YOU'RE ON A STUDENT PERMIT, YOU'D BE IN VIOLATION OF IT, WHICH COULD NEGATIVELY AFFECT YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS; IF YOU'RE A MIGRANT SEX WORKER, YOU COULD BE DETAINED AND DEPORTED.

ALL OF THIS SUPER JUSTIFIABLY INCREASES THE ANXIETY OF SEX WORKERS AND DEEPENS THEIR MISTRUST OF AUTHORITIES.

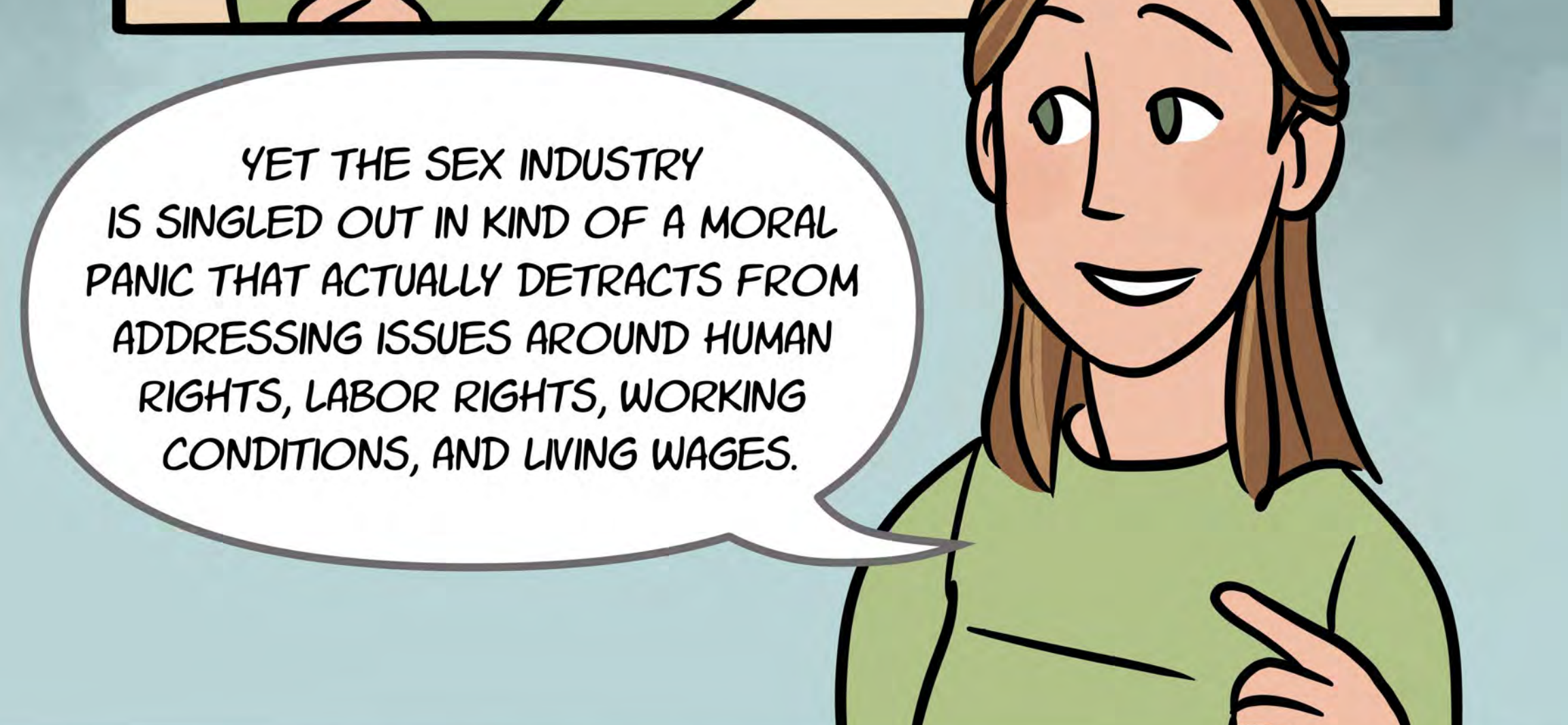
MANY OF THESE ANTI-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVES AREN'T EVEN EFFECTIVE AT DETECTING — LET ALONE SUPPORTING — THOSE WHO SELF-IDENTIFY AS VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING!



YEAH, IT'S PRETTY CLEAR THAT SEX WORK IS WORK, AND IT'S NOT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

IT ALSO OCCURS TO ME THAT EXPLOITATION HAPPENS IN A BUNCH OF INDUSTRIES

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, CONSTRUCTION, AND DOMESTIC WORK...



YET THE SEX INDUSTRY IS SINGLED OUT IN KIND OF A MORAL PANIC THAT ACTUALLY DETRACTS FROM ADDRESSING ISSUES AROUND HUMAN RIGHTS, LABOR RIGHTS, WORKING CONDITIONS, AND LIVING WAGES.



YEAH, NO KIDDING. AND MY STUDY PERMIT HAS NOTHING AGAINST THOSE INDUSTRIES.

YEAH...

HEY, YOU WANNA GET SOME PIZZA?

IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SEX WORK AND TRAFFICKING, HAVE A LOOK AT THESE RESOURCES!

A. CLANCEY AND A. WISEMAN, "HARMS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING: TRANSFORMING ANTI-TRAFFICKING SENTIMENT INTO EFFECTIVE ACTION" (SWAN VANCOUVER SOCIETY 2020).

E. LAM, "UNDERSTANDING MIGRANT SEX WORKERS: MIGRATION + SEX WORK ≠ TRAFFICKING" (BUTTERFLY: ASIAN AND MIGRANT SEX WORKERS SUPPORT NETWORK 2018).

N. SAYERS, "EXPLOITATION LAW REVIEW REQUIRES VOICES OF EXPERIENCE," THE LAWYERS DAILY (2020).

GLOBAL NETWORK OF SEX WORK PROJECTS, "BRIEFING PAPER #03: SEX WORK IS NOT TRAFFICKING" (N.D.).

H. MILLAR AND T. O'DOHERTY, "CANADIAN HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROSECUTIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF FUNDAMENTAL JUSTICE: A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS?" (2020).



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SPECIAL THANKS TO JENN CLAMEN, ALISON CLANCEY, AND ELENE LAM

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