

“Sex workers at the IAC 2014 - Not the Problem, Part of the Solution!”



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Introduction

Sex workers gathered at this year’s International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, Australia alongside others committed to working towards the elimination of HIV and AIDS globally.

Almost 14,000 people attended the conference to share new scientific developments in the field of HIV, explore lessons learnt and jointly strategise towards the elimination of the Global HIV epidemic. Sex workers and other communities most affected by HIV together created a strong presence at the conference, both in the main sessions and most visibly in the Global Village.

Whilst the full conference would be beyond this digest to cover, some highlights in relation to sex work are shared here.

A sense of solidarity amongst sex workers, drug users and men who have sex with men alongside other key populations visibilised and promoted a common message throughout the week:

‘We must not be seen and targeted as the problem, but part of the solution!’

Melbourne Declaration

We gather in Melbourne, the traditional meeting place of the Wurundjeri, Boonerwung, Taungurong, Djajawurrung and the Wathaurung people, the original and enduring custodians of the lands that make up the Kulin Nation, to assess progress on the global HIV response and its future direction, at the 20th International AIDS Conference, AIDS 2014.

We, the signatories and endorsers of this Declaration, affirm that non-discrimination is fundamental to an evidence-based, rights-based and gender transformative response to HIV and effective public health programmes.

To defeat HIV and achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support – nobody should be criminalized or discriminated against because of their gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religious or spiritual beliefs, country of origin, national status, sexual orientation, gender identity, status as a sex worker, prisoner or detainee, because they use or have used illicit drugs or because they are living with HIV.

We affirm that all women, men, transgender and intersex adults and children are entitled to equal rights and to equal access to HIV prevention, care and treatment information and services. The promotion of gender equity is essential to HIV responses that truly meet the needs of those most affected. Additionally, people who sell or who have sold sex, and people who use, or who have used illicit drugs are entitled to the same rights as everyone else, including non-discrimination and confidentiality in access to HIV care and treatment services.

We express our shared and profound concern at the continued enforcement of discriminatory, stigmatizing, criminalizing and harmful laws which lead to policies



and practices that increase vulnerability to HIV. These laws, policies, and practices incite extreme violence towards marginalized populations, reinforce stigma and undermine HIV programmes, and as such are significant steps backward for social justice, equality, human rights and access to health care for both people living with HIV and those people most at risk of acquiring the virus.

In over 80 countries, there are unacceptable laws that criminalize people on the basis of sexual orientation. All people, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people are entitled to the same rights as everyone else. All people are born free and equal and are equal members of the human family.

Health providers who discriminate against people living with HIV or groups at risk of HIV infection or other health threats, violate their ethical obligations to care for and treat people impartially.

We therefore call for the immediate and unified opposition to these discriminatory and stigmatizing practices and urge all parties to take a more equitable and effective approach through the following actions:

- Governments must repeal repressive laws and end policies that reinforce discriminatory and stigmatizing practices that increase the vulnerability to HIV, while also passing laws that actively promote equality.
- Decision makers must not use international health meetings or

conferences as a platform to promote discriminatory laws and policies that undermine health and wellbeing.

- The exclusion of organisations that promote intolerance and discrimination including sexism, homophobia, and transphobia against individuals or groups, from donor funding for HIV programmes.
- All healthcare providers must demonstrate the implementation of non-discriminatory policies as a prerequisite for future HIV programme funding.
- Restrictions on funding, such as the anti-prostitution pledge and the ban on purchasing needles and syringes, must be removed as they actively impede the struggle to combat HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and hepatitis C among sex workers and people who inject drugs.
- Advocacy by all signatories to this Declaration for the principles of inclusion, non-criminalization, non-discrimination, and tolerance.

In conclusion we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to fairness, to universal access to health care and treatment services, and to support the inherent dignity and rights of all human beings. All people are entitled to the rights and protections afforded by international human rights frameworks. **An end to AIDS is only possible if we overcome the barriers of criminalization, stigma and discrimination that remain key drivers of the epidemic.**

Source: [AIDS2014 website](#)

Sex Worker Pre-Conference

priorities for the main conference, network and discuss sessions that impact sex workers.

- A satellite session was held that discussed outcomes from the pre-

Sex Workers at the IAC 2014

Sex Worker Networking Zone

A wave of hanging red umbrellas made the sex worker networking zone within the Global Village visible and vibrant. Over the course of the conference, the sex worker networking zone became a hub for the sharing of ideas, experiences and strategising amongst sex workers and allies.



Image: Sex Worker Pre-conference © Scarlet Alliance

In the lead up to the official opening of the 20th International AIDS Conference, a sex worker pre-conference was organised by the local national sex worker network, Scarlet Alliance.

This two day meeting brought together sex workers from 30 countries to discuss sex workers' issues globally and strategise around main themes for advocacy to put forth in the main conference. Sessions at the pre-conference included orientation to the programs, themes and goals of the conference in order to facilitate meaningful engagement and greater sex worker input to the conference.

An idea of some of the events facilitated at the pre-conference:

- Interactive skills building sessions, small group workshops exploring key themes and priorities for sex workers as well as local, regional and international presentations on critical components of the HIV and sex work response, new evidence and emerging themes.
- A session that brought together sex workers and allies to share sex worker advocacy goals and

conference with invited guests and conference delegates.

The key document that emerged from the sex worker pre-conference was the Melbourne Statement by Sex Workers that highlighted primary issues for targeted advocacy over the week to follow:

- 1 Biomedical Developments including PrEP and early treatment as prevention strategies
- 2 Stigma and Discrimination
- 3 Human rights issues, including the criminalisation of sex work and HIV
- 4 Migration and mobility
- 5 Funding issues and constraints

Download the Melbourne Pre-conference Sex Worker statement [here](#).

The Sex Worker Pre-conference statement is a clear community analysis on core issues for sex workers who attended the conference and this was the beginnings of an analysis that was progressed through sex worker advocacy in the conference area, the networking zone, media and meetings surrounding the event.

Scarlet Alliance, APNSWP & NSWSP
Sex Worker Networking Zone Calendar of Events

Time	Monday 21 st July	Tuesday 22 nd July	Wednesday 23 rd July	Thursday 24 th July	Friday 25 th July
10:00	Opening speech by Scarlet Alliance Executive Director (10:00-10:30am)	Legal & wellbeing environments impact on sex workers (10:30-11:00am)	MVAIDS Issues for Transgender people and sex workers in Japan: Eiji Torige (10:30-11:00am)	Violence against Sex Workers: APNSW (10:30-11:00am)	Film: "Kiss for Gabriela"
10:30	Sex Workers are Human Rights Defenders: Ya Hayam (10:30-11:00am)	Scarlet Alliance (10:30-11:00am)	Don't let my hair: Anissa Anissa (10:30-11:00am)	Screening & Discussion 10-11am	
11:00	Sex Worker Asean Empower (11:00-11:30am)	The Life and Experiences of a Timorese Sex Worker: Anglie (11:00-11:30am)	Whore Logic: Alyson (11:00-11:30am)	New Zealand: A Working Model of Decriminalisation	
11:30	Lives of sex workers in Papua New Guinea: Anne James (11:30-12:00pm)	Global History of Gender Programming (11:30-12:00pm)	Strengthening capacity to build, lead and maintain sustainable, independent sex worker organisations: Scarlet Alliance International Project, Emma's Empower & Scarlet Timor (11:30-12:00pm)	where Sex Workers Organise: Safety and Health Matters: NZPC (11:30-12:00pm)	
12:00	Experiences from Sweden: a community perspective: Pys & Carine (12:00-12:30pm)	Direct action as a component of sex worker work: library and community building: Scarlet Alliance (12:00-12:30pm)		Sex Worker Asean Empower (12:00-12:30pm)	
12:30	Trans Sex Workers in New Zealand: International MVAIDS Response (12:30-1:00pm)		Andrew Hunter Memorial Film & Tribute (1:00-1:30pm)		Migration and mobility: Safety work and Migration Project (1:00-1:30pm)
1:30	Launch of Global Consultation on PrEP: NSWSP (1:30-2:00pm)				

* Sunday 20th July, 2pm - 6pm: Sex Worker Only Session

Activities & Presentations in the Sex Worker Networking Zone included:

- NZPC panel and film screening on decriminalisation
- Discussion and Screening of a Kiss for Gabriela
- Presentation by Scarlet Timor
- Incredible Edible performance
- Rose Alliance presentation on the experience of Sweden's laws
- Migration and mobility panel by Scarlet Alliance migration project
- NSWSP launch of the Global Consultation on PrEP Report
- Empower on Sex Worker Asean Project



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Sex Worker Networking Zone

- Trans sex worker panel discussion
- APNSW - Artwork display
- Panel on the impact of different legal frameworks on sex workers
- Direct action as a sex worker organisation tool workshop
- African dance performance
- Andrew Hunter memorial and film
- APNSW on Violence against sex workers
- Japan - presentation on HIV/AIDS Issues for Transgender people and sex workers

Plus sex worker artworks on display and a wonderfully ironic and clever performance by the Empower mobile testing unit.

Other Events in the Global Village

In addition to the Sex Worker Networking Zone there was some sex work content in other parts of the Global Village.

- For example:
- Not Your Rescue Project mini-film festival
 - Debby Doesn't Do It For Free booth
 - US Sex Workers United booth
 - Sex Worker Rights Scavenger Hunt
 - History of sex worker rights performance on the main stage Australia

Sex workers at the Main Conference

Whilst sex workers have long been recognised as a key population in the global HIV epidemic, the lack of participation of sex workers in main sessions and plenaries at past International AIDS Conferences has been disappointing.

However, at this year's IAC, **Namakula Nakoto Daisy**, the Executive Director of WONETHA, gave a plenary speech on Sex Work, Human Rights and Access to HIV Testing and Treatment. Daisy's speech was powerful and poetic, drawing on her personal experiences as a former sex worker living with HIV in Uganda - a country context where recent criminalisation of sex work, LGBT, and HIV has been the subject of international media attention due to the overt violations to human rights that these laws create.

'I did not want to see another sex worker queuing up, waiting for someone to die so that they could access medicine' - Daisy

'Giving sex workers sewing machines to "get off streets & reduce HIV" is NOT a solution' - Daisy

positive. Daisy recently earned a college degree in social work, and I was surprised that she uses her education not as a path out of sex work but to enhance her activism in the Women's Organisation Network for Human Rights Advocacy (WONETHA), a sex worker group she co-founded. Among other services, the group promotes safer sex practices. Like other advocates, Namakula says that criminalizing sex work exacerbates HIV. Experts believe that punitive laws associated



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'I am a sex worker, and I am proud to be a sex worker' - Namakula Nakato Daisy

This article appeared in Florida's Westside Gazette:

"Daisy is a Ugandan sex worker and sex-work activist and Executive Director of WONETHA. She addressed a room of hundreds of AIDS conference delegates, stressing, "I am very happy to be a sex worker and happy to speak for myself." Daisy contracted HIV in 2000 at age 18 and had to wait for ARVs until someone else had died. In Africa about 40 percent of sex workers are HIV

with sex work prevent sex workers from reporting violence and abuse and keep them from accessing health services, including HIV treatment and prevention. Namakula adds that stigma and discrimination harm sex workers. For example, even low-level assumptions that all women and men in the profession are victims disempower sex workers and can lead to "forced rehabilitation." WONETHA's slogan: "Sex workers need rights, not rescue."

"These programs that think buying a sewing machine for a sex worker will get her off the street and fight HIV get a lot of money," she said. "I can afford a thousand sewing machines, but why would you think that buying a sewing machine will help this world to fight HIV?"

You can read another great article on Daisy's speech in [this Reuters report](#).

Speaking to NSWP after the conference Daisy reflected on her plenary speech:

'I felt so excited, and happy standing before thousands of people speaking as a sex worker living with HIV. Sex workers are critical partners in the HIV response. We look forward to more such opportunities where we speak for ourselves instead of other people speaking for us.'

Sex Workers Express Exclusion from the conference through social media

Although there was a clear loud, proud and unrepentant community of sex workers at IAC, sex workers, in addition to members of other highly marginalised communities, reported mainly through social media forums that they feel systemically excluded from the conference.

Delegates from many countries stated that the conference organisers have been tokenistic, at best, in their commitment to the **GIPA principles** and the meaningful inclusion and representation of community activists. Sex workers from across the globe reported having their abstracts rejected, being allotted only poster rather than oral presentations and being allocated partial, if any, scholarship support to attend.



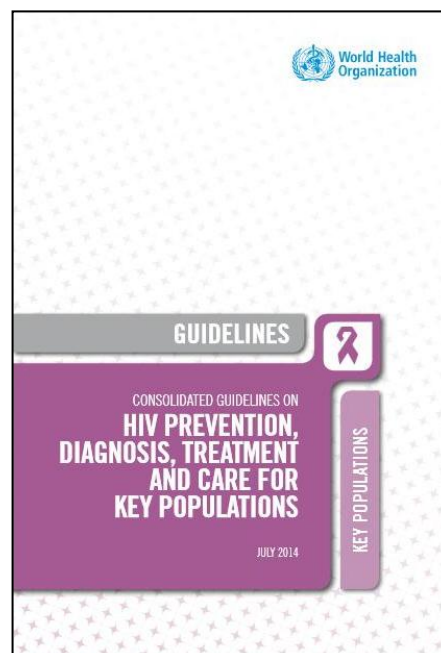
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Sex worker activists are also concerned that the **International AIDS Society**, who are ultimately responsible for organising the IAC, nor the Victorian Government, who expect the conference to provide a **significant boost to the local economy**, were not more proactive in supporting prominent Chinese sex worker activist **Ye Haiyan**, who was **refused permission to leave China to attend the conference**.

A number of sex workers who attended the conference vented their frustrations at the IAC in Internet based sex worker forums. Clarissa, a Melbourne based sex worker said, "They give us little booths and a public area we are expected to be grateful for, but it feels like a space where anyone can come and ogle at us- sex workers, drug users and other stigmatised groups, then talk about us in their big-wig plenary sessions as though they are experts on who we are and what our needs are. Sometimes, it feels like we put in so much time and effort for so little outcome. Some of the activists here have been saying the same things for years. We all know what the solutions to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic is, so why aren't laws being changed, why don't people have access to safer sex and harm reduction prophylactics, and why aren't the community directing the response?" Another sex worker, who offered the pseudonym Betty, asked, "How much did this conference cost to put on? How many millions of

dollars? And how many people could have been provided with treatment using generic ARV drugs for the rest of their lives, rather than spending so much money on a meeting that only lasts a few days? If international governments were really serious about ending HIV/AIDS, they need to stop pretending to listen to us, implement our recommendations immediately and properly resource us to do the work."

Launch of the Consolidated Guidelines on Key Populations



New guidelines aimed at improving HIV programming for key populations were launched at the IAC.

The **consolidated guidelines on HIV prevention, diagnosis, care and treatment for key populations** (men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, people in prisons and other closed settings, sex workers and transgender people) published by WHO is intended to be used to promote an equitable and effective response to HIV epidemics. These guidelines bring together all existing guidance relevant to five key populations –MSM, sex workers, PWID, people in prisons and transgender people– and updates selected guidance and recommendations.

Notably a number of 'Critical Enablers' have been identified as necessary preconditions for the successful implementation of HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care programmes in key populations. Governments should do more to ensure that the critical enablers identified in these guidelines are part and parcel of their countries' response to HIV.

Critical enablers noted are:

- **laws, policies and practices reviewed** and, where necessary, revised by policymakers and government leaders, with meaningful engagement of sex workers, MSM, PWID and Transgender people to allow and support the implementation and scale-up of health-care services for key populations;
- countries working towards implementing and enforcing **antidiscrimination and protective laws**, derived from human rights standards, to eliminate stigma, discrimination and violence against people from key populations;
- **health services** that are made **available, accessible and acceptable** to key populations, based on the principles of medical ethics, avoidance of stigma, non-discrimination and the right to health;
- programmes that work toward implementing a package of interventions to **enhance community empowerment** among key populations; and

- **preventing violence** against people from key populations and addressing it in partnership with key population-led organisations.

The guidelines are also accompanied by a number of web annexes that include the systematic reviews, literature review, values and preferences, supplementary case studies and technical briefs on HIV and young key populations that informed the development of guidance and recommendations for the Consolidated guidelines on HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations. The guidelines refer to four technical briefs also available as web annex 6 however, these have not been added to the WHO website yet as they are still drafts but you can download them below for reference. The briefs focus on young people who sell sex, inject drugs, young men who have sex with men, and young transgender people.

Download the guidelines, policy brief and draft technical briefs on [NSWP website here](#).

Protest to Release Draft Briefs on Young Key Populations

Four technical briefs on HIV and young key populations co-published by the UN family that were supposed to be released at the AIDS2014 Conference have been issued as “draft” only due to politics. Young people and key population networks joined together in solidarity to urge WHO to release the briefs in their current form.

[This petition](#) began on [change.org](#) and is ongoing.

The draft briefs make a number of recommendations with regards to sex work including:

- **Working towards the decriminalisation of sex work** and for the implementation and enforcement of anti-discrimination and protective laws, derived from human-rights standards, to eliminate stigma, discrimination and violence against young people who sell sex, young transgender people, based

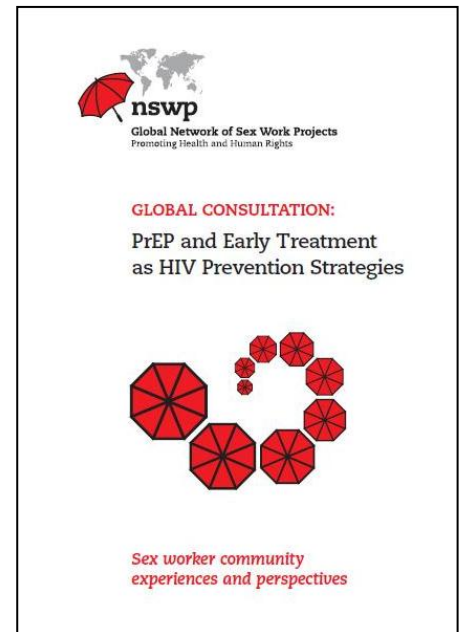
on actual or presumed behaviours and HIV status.

- Work for the legal recognition of an individual’s chosen gender identity.
- Work toward developing non-custodial alternatives to the incarceration of young people who sell sex. Work for the immediate closure of compulsory detention and “rehabilitation” centres.
- Advocate for removal of censorship or public-order laws that interfere with health promotion efforts.
- Prevent and address violence against young MSM, in partnership with MSM-led organizations. All violence – including harassment, discriminatory application of public-order laws and extortion – by representatives of law enforcement, should be monitored and reported, and redress mechanisms established.
- Examine current consent policies to consider removing age-related barriers and parent/guardian consent requirements that impede access to HIV and STI testing, treatment and care.
- Address social norms and stigma around sexuality, gender identities and sexual orientation through comprehensive sexual health education in schools, supportive information for families, training of educators and health-care providers and non-discrimination policies in employment.

To see the draft brief on young people selling sex visit the NSWP website here.

Launch of the Global Consultation Report on PreP and Early Treatment as Prevention

NSWP launched the Global Consultation on PrEP and Early Treatment as Prevention Strategies at the IAC in the Sex Worker Networking Zone.



New HIV prevention, testing, and treatment approaches such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and early initiation of treatment as prevention have the potential to significantly reduce HIV-related vulnerability and improve the health outcomes of those living with HIV. However, a great gap exists in the application, including the efficacy and effectiveness of these strategies amongst sex workers despite their demonstrated clinical benefits. There are still many unanswered questions in relation to the use of early treatment initiatives and PrEP for sex workers.

In this context, the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) conducted a global consultation of sex workers with the aim to gather the diverse perspectives on the implementation of PrEP and early treatment as prevention strategies and identify concerns that the sex worker community have around the promotion of PrEP and to identify pre-conditions for the implementation of programmes based on the sex worker community’s perspectives and concerns. 440 participants from 40 countries through 20 focus group discussions, 146 key informant interviews, and 33 online surveys, helped inform the findings of this consultation.

Whilst these new prevention technologies may have the potential to significantly reduce HIV prevalence amongst wider society by targeting key populations, the risks to the individual and to sex worker communities’ long-term efforts to

reduce prevalence through community empowerment must be recognised.

This global consultation is an initial step in highlighting the experiences and concerns of sex workers around the world in the hope that dialogue and meaningful engagement with key populations will continue. Increased vulnerability amongst key populations is fuelled within structural contexts of criminalisation, stigma and discrimination, particularly in relation to healthcare access. NSWP recognises, in line with the diverse opinions of sex workers across the world, that there is a place for biomedical interventions in the global fight to end HIV. However, these will fail if implemented at the expense of supporting and empowering sex workers and other key populations to take ownership of their health needs, related policies and programmes, and they are not implemented within a rights-based framework. Sex workers must be fully engaged in this growing debate, as noted by NSWP members: "Sex workers are not the problem; we are part of the solution!"

- Sex workers expressed concerns with regard to the impact of these strategies on their personal health and human rights, the impact on existing prevention programmes, the accessibility and sustainability of these strategies, and the effect on stigma and discrimination against sex workers
- Sex workers worried about the long-term impact of ARVs on their health as a result of PrEP and early treatment. They also highlighted a key limitation of these strategies in addressing the other aspects of their sexual and reproductive health needs
- Sex workers questioned the ethics and application of these strategies within legal environments in which the rights of sex workers are often undermined
- Sex workers expressed concerns regarding the appropriateness of these strategies for sex workers and the impact of these strategies on the use of condoms amongst sex workers and clients
- Accessibility and sustainability of these strategies with regard to the cost, sex workers' ability to adhere

Key recommendations for the development of PrEP and early treatment programmes amongst sex workers included:

- Ensure that sex workers have **access to accurate knowledge and information** about PrEP and early treatment by strengthening the capacity of the sex worker organisations in educating and training their communities on issues pertaining to their use
- Prioritise **research and data collection** on the use of PrEP and early treatment amongst sex workers and ensure all trials and data collection methods used are ethical
- Promote and **expand community-based services, in particular sex worker-led HIV testing and treatment services** based on their demonstrated success in increasing testing uptake and promotion of sex workers' health in various settings
- Recognise the critical role that sex worker communities have played in addressing the HIV epidemic at both local and global levels and sustain their response through **adequate funding and support of sex worker-led organisations**
- Increase political commitment to promoting sex workers' rights through **full decriminalisation of sex work**
- Address the critical **impact of stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings** on confidentiality and access to healthcare services for sex workers; and
- **Engage sex workers in all levels of policy and programmatic discussions** relating to PrEP and early treatment as prevention strategies, including sex worker involvement in the design, implementation and monitoring of these programmes.

GLOBAL CONSULTATION:
PrEP and Early Treatment as HIV Prevention Strategies

Key populations – including sex workers – are increasingly being seen as targets for trials and initiation of biomedical HIV prevention technologies such as PrEP and early treatment. As support for these new biomedical prevention technologies continues to grow the views, experiences and concerns of sex workers must be taken on board.

This report urges that consultation with key populations continue to ensure the context within which HIV programming for sex workers takes place is recognised, and that sex workers do not become targeted for interventions that are non-rights based and have the potential to seriously hamper community efforts already in place for HIV prevention.

'Sex workers are not the problem; we are part of the solution!'

Download it from www.nswp.org

Key findings of the consultation include:

- Sex workers' awareness and knowledge of PrEP and early treatment was low or limited, especially with regard to PrEP
- Sex workers expressed great uncertainty toward PrEP and early treatment
- to the use of ARVs, and access to the required medications, was also of concern for sex workers
- PrEP and early treatment could potentially exacerbate stigma and discrimination against sex workers by targeting and prioritising sex workers for these interventions.

YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE FULL CONSULTATION FROM THE NSWP WEBSITE HERE.

Andrew Hunter Memorial Sessions

'When Andrew left this world, he left a following of young activists behind him, that will forever miss his supportive shadow as we carry out his mission. We are Andrew's footprint and his legacy and we will never stray from our mission to end the violations to our human rights because this would be to stray from our leader, our mentor and our friend.'

[Tribute to Andrew Hunter presented by a sex worker activist who felt personally mentored by him]

Lifelong activist Andrew Hunter was memorialised by a series of events at the IAC.



© Dale Kongmont

Andrew, who passed away unexpectedly on 26 December, 2013, in Bangkok, Thailand, openly identified as a HIV+ male sex worker and drug user and was involved in advocating for the rights of marginalised communities since becoming involved in the Prostitute's Collective of Victoria (PCV) as a 19 year old street based sex worker. Prior to his untimely passing, Andrew

was the President of the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) and the Programme Coordinator of the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW), in addition to participating in several influential forums including the Community Delegation to the Global Fund and the Global Fund Advocates Network.

In testimony to the great affection, respect and love Andrew inspired amongst his friends and colleagues, many people from across the globe celebrated his life and paid respect to his tremendous achievements as an activist through a series of events at, and surrounding, the IAC. Sex workers from a number of countries created murals and posters with messages of love and loss which were displayed within the Sex Worker Networking Zone. The Sex Worker Networking Zone was also home to the Andrew Hunter Message Tree, a space where Andrew's friends and colleagues from within the sex worker movement could write personal message cards to Andrew and hang these messages

from a wooden tree, constructed by Andrew's life partner, Dale Kongmont. The Tree debuted at Andrew's funeral in Bangkok, on January 18, 2014, and was hung with over 100 messages from friends and family. Initially, there was a plan to transport these messages to the IAC Sex Worker Networking Zone to display and have conference delegates add to throughout the event; however, due to the volume

and delicacy of the cards, a new tree was seeded in Melbourne. Over the course of the IAC, the Andrew Hunter Memorial Tree was hung with messages expressing love, respect, loss, solidarity and grief at the passing of a beloved friend and activist who was central to the international sex worker community. All the messages hung from the Tree have been stored safely by Dale, who will use them all in a future instillation to honour Andrew.



© Dale Kongmont

A short film, produced by Dale Kongmont, highlighting significant moments in Andrew's life was also shown in the Sex Worker Networking Zone. The film, **'In Memoriam of Andrew Paul Hunter'**, was debuted at a UNAIDS meeting in Geneva, on 25 February, 2014, and shows Andrew fiercely advocating for sex workers' access to ARV medication and debunking misinformation around human trafficking. To accompany the film, several of Andrew's peers from PCV spoke to the audience about his involvement in the PCV Men's Project and Australia's first peer-run clean needle programme.

In recognition of Andrew's commitment to improving the lives of sex workers, a session exploring sex worker rights was included in the IAC programme proper. Titled the Andrew Hunter Memorial Session, the event included a panel session which explored the theme "A Rights Based Approach to Sex Work". Featured on the panel were several of Andrew's close friends and peers in the sex worker rights movement, including, Ruth Morgan Thomas (NSWP), Aldo (OPSI), Kay Thi Win

(APNSW), Pye Jakobsson (NSWP President) and Jules Kim (Scarlet Alliance, Migration Project, Australia). Sex worker activists will advocate for future IACs to include an Andrew Hunter Memorial Session, with the aim that this will be a permanent space within the IAC programme for exploring human rights issues specific to the sex industry and will include sex workers speaking to these issues.

On 26 July, 2014, the Independent Collective of Sex Workers and Allies (ICOSWA), an Australian-led network of sex workers, organised a memorial for Andrew at the Grove in St.Kilda. The Melbourne suburb of St. Kilda has a long standing association with street based sex work and the Grove was formerly an area in which male sex workers operated. The Grove was also an area which was included in the outreach efforts of the Prostitute's Collective of Victoria's (PCV) outreach programme. Andrew Hunter was responsible for coordinating the Men's Project at PCV and he was well known, liked and respected by the male sex workers he had contact with whilst undertaking outreach at the Grove. The community's respect and love for Andrew was evidenced by a mural memorialising Andrew which was painted in January, 2014, by male sex workers from the Grove, former PCV staff and others from Andrew's social circle. The Grove memorial service was attended by approximately 50 people, including members of Andrew's immediate family; sex workers from Timor Leste, Australia, UK, PNG, Thailand, India and Fiji; and representatives from a number of peak community based organisations, including the International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) and Asia Pacific Network of Positive People (APN+). The event, which included speakers from Andrew's family, NSWP, APNSW and ICOSWA, also involved planting a memorial tree for Andrew.

In addition to the aforementioned activities, many international community members used the IAC Sex Worker Networking Zone as an opportunity to share their memories of Andrew, and to support each other through the grief, loss and shock our community still feels at losing such an incredibly kind, talented, dedicated and effective sex worker leader.

Launch of the Lancet Special Edition on HIV and Sex Work

In low-and middle income countries, male and female sex workers have a disproportionately higher risk and burden of HIV. Female sex workers are 13.5 times



One of the main sex worker highlights from the IAC was the session in which the Medical journal, The Lancet joined an ever growing number of international health and human rights organisations calling for the full decriminalisation of sex work in order to address the HIV epidemic more effectively in a new series of papers on sex workers and HIV.

Sex workers the world over are subjected to repressive and discriminatory laws and practices which in turn fuel stigma, discrimination, and in a large number of instances violence being perpetrated against sex workers. These factors all compound and severely impact on the health and wellbeing of sex workers and sex workers living with HIV. These factors make it very difficult for sex workers from accessing HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, and support services which sex workers need in order to protect their own health by preventing and treating HIV infection.

more likely than females in the general population to be infected with HIV. For male and transgender sex workers, the risk of HIV is even higher.

With heightened risks of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, sex workers face substantial barriers in accessing prevention, treatment, and care services, largely because of stigma, discrimination, and criminalisation in the societies in which they live. These social, legal, and economic injustices contribute to their high risk of acquiring HIV. Often driven underground by fear, sex workers encounter or face the direct risk of violence and abuse daily. Sex workers remain underserved by the global HIV response.

The Lancet has published a series of seven papers that aim to investigate the complex issues faced by sex workers worldwide. These papers are a very welcome addition to the growing body of evidence that shows the negative effects and harmful impacts of the criminalisation of sex work.

The central importance of decriminalising sex work is reinforced by the Series' examination of sex workers' human rights [Paper 4], which suggests that global commitments to achieving an AIDS-free generation will not be possible

unless the human rights of sex workers receive global recognition. Importantly, these papers also criticise so-called partial criminalisation of sex work which criminalises the buyer but not the sex worker. This model is commonly referred to in Europe as 'the Swedish Model', or 'the Nordic Model of Prostitution' in North America. By reviewing over 800 recent studies addressing human rights violations against sex workers, HIV, law and policy, concluding that criminalisation of sex work fuels and fosters human rights violations and increases sex workers' susceptibility to HIV, including by reducing sex workers' access to HIV prevention, treatment and care. The study also finds that **partial criminalisation, and other criminalisation of clients and third parties (often referred to as the 'Swedish approach') reproduces many of the same harms as full criminalisation.**

The Series provides the most comprehensive analysis to date of HIV and sex workers, contains contributions from sex workers, academics, and legal and public health experts. It is accompanied by Comments introducing the Series, dispelling myths about sex workers and HIV, and addressing trafficking, children and adolescents who sell sex, and sex workers who use substances.

These papers are available here and all of the Series content is free to access (and will be permanently), users just need to register for the website, which takes no more than 60 seconds.

'It's Not What We Do, It's How We Do It: Occupational Health and Safety Standards for Sex Workers.'

An exciting panel that shifted the discourse on sex work into a clear framework on labour rights was the panel titled: "It's Not what we do, It's how we do it" was jointly facilitated by NSWP and UNFPA and brought together panellists with a range of experience in the promotion of labour rights for sex workers, including Catherine Healy (New Zealand

Prostitutes' Collective, NZPC); Elena Jeffreys (Scarlet Alliance) and Richard Howard, (International Labour Organization, ILO Asia Pacific Office).

Panellists brought into focus sex workers' labour rights by drawing on good practice examples from New Zealand and New South Wales, Australia, including for example, sex workers rights to: a safe and healthy workplace, prevention and elimination of sexual harassment and gender-based violence, unionise, and access to social protection schemes. Implementation of occupational health and safety standards (OH&S) were highlighted as crucial in the improvement of working conditions for sex workers regardless of legal frameworks. Effective measures recommended included: improved access to personal safety equipment, improved workplace amenities, accident reporting processes, safety and security procedures, storage, handling and disposal of personal protective equipment, and complaints processes. This workshop showcased approaches to occupational health and safety standards for sex workers in a range of legal and public health policy environments, reducing HIV risk and vulnerability.

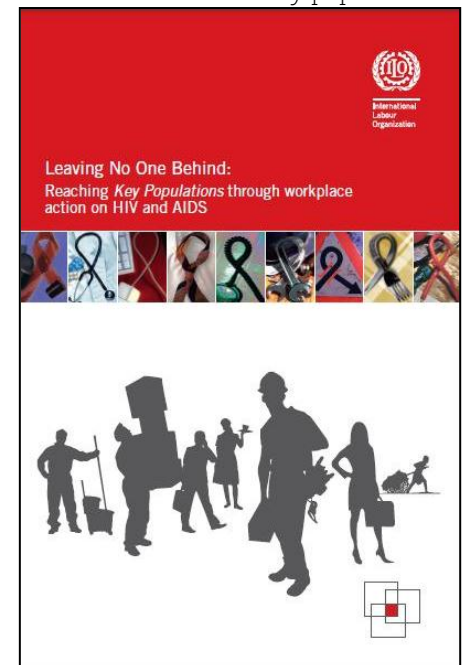
Catherine Healy, National Coordinator of NZPC spoke to the Prostitution Reform Act (PRA) which decriminalised sex work in New Zealand in 2003. The positive results of the implementation of the PRA were highlighted during the session and include the promotion of sex workers' rights, safety, and health, in a context where occupational health and safety guidelines are applied to the New Zealand sex industry. Sex workers have the clear right to refuse work within these guidelines, which was a key addition to the guidelines which were based on guidelines originally developed by the Scarlet Alliance. No mandatory testing of sex workers required is also a key cornerstone of the New Zealand model, supporting the view of sex work as decent labour that does not require special provisions.

Richard Howard discussed how sex work and sex workers fit into the ILO's "World of Work". This presentation focused on the need to ensure sex work is continually promoted by the ILO as decent work and visibilised in documents and

labour standards. Decent work according to the ILO insists that workers have fair conditions including wages, leave and safety, social security, fundamental rights. Fundamental rights of workers, including sex workers includes the right to organise and not be discriminated against.

Panellists, following audience discussions, raised awareness of sex workers labour rights, shared good practice and established a clear community of practice towards the promotion of labour rights for sex workers.

Since IAC, ILO has released **this global literature review** which provides a broad overview of how the workplace or the workforce has and can be used to reach key populations.



Presented in six chapters, the report 'Leaving No One Behind' highlights 42 innovative examples from 28 countries and regions in which the workplace and/or workforce was used as an entry point to reach sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender populations, people who inject drugs, migrant workers, truckers, ship and dockworkers and the prisons populations with HIV services.

As we close this section, NSWP remembers our friends and fellow activists who were on board Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 and our thoughts remain with the families and friends of those killed in the tragedy.

Other headlines

Sex worker evictions in Bangladesh

By Monday 14 July, 2014, almost 1000 Bangladeshi sex workers from the Tangail Kandapara brothel district had been evicted from their homes and work spaces.

The demolition of the brothel complex, which spanned over 3 acres of land, was undertaken at the behest of an “anti-social activities committee” who threatened to set the complex on fire. On July 6, 2014, the AKPC, led by the Imam of the district central mosque, marched through the streets of Tangail, demanding the closure of the brothels.

With only 24 hours’ notice, many of the 1000 evicted sex workers began leaving the complex over the weekend as the brothel complex and houses within it were dismantled by the brothel owners. According to witnesses, the process was overseen by local police, who did nothing to stop the dismantling of the Tangail Kandapara complex.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Click on the links below for these other big stories from the last quarter:

[**California passes non-comprehensive Condoms as Evidence Bill**](#)

[**China systematically deports North Korean migrant sex workers**](#)

[**Victory for French sex workers at Senate Select Committee**](#)

[**Moralising Law: Reform proposals for the German ‘Prostitution Act’**](#)

[**Vigil held for murdered Guyanese sex workers**](#)

[**DRC-based sex worker rights group win 2014 Red Ribbon Award**](#)

[**PNG health minister vows to introduce decriminalisation**](#)

[**Obituary: Li Jun – Taiwanese Sex Workers’ Movement**](#)

[**NSWP brief to Canadian Government on Bill C-36**](#)

Much more news is available on our website and on our Twitter

Sex Worker Leaders

NSWP has launched a new series of Sex Worker Leader Profiles on our website.

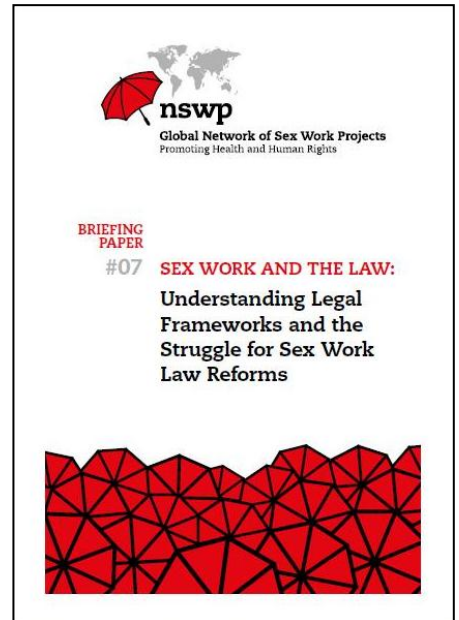
The sex worker rights’ movement is an extremely dynamic and diverse movement with an incredible mix of individuals who together advocate for the human rights of sex workers the world over. Sex workers leading grassroots activism and community building are an immense inspiration for other activists and advocates who are dedicating so much of themselves in the struggle to have the human rights of sex workers recognised and upheld the world over.

We will be profiling sex worker leaders regularly and **if you would like to nominate someone to be profiled and recognised as a sex worker leader, please email communications@nswp.org and let us know!**

You can view the first featured leaders’ profiles [here](#).

Publications & Resources

NSWP Briefing Paper: Sex Work and the Law



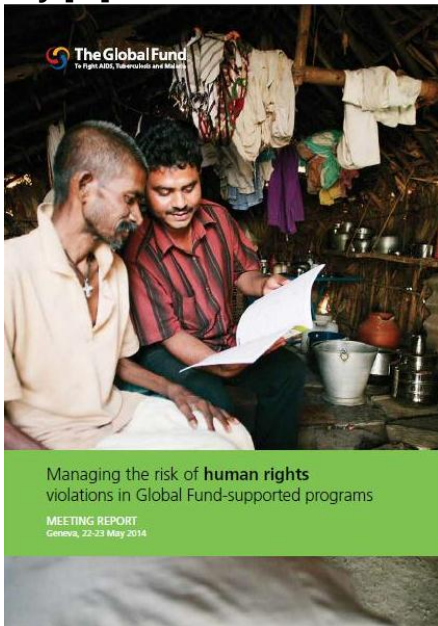
NSWP has published a new briefing paper titled ‘Sex Work and the Law: Understanding Legal Frameworks and the Struggle for Sex Work Law Reforms’

The global sex workers’ rights movement has a long history of campaigning against laws that violate the rights of sex workers. One of NSWP’s core values is opposition to all forms of criminalisation and other legal oppression of sex work that affects sex workers, clients, third parties, families, partners and friends. Advocacy efforts also extend to reforming police practice and law enforcement, which is inseparable from the law itself, and often includes extortion, corruption and the discriminatory targeting of sex workers.

The briefing paper describes the different legislative frameworks used to criminalise and oppress sex work and sex workers, including oppressive regulatory frameworks. It also provides insight into the language and shared principles that NSWP members use when advocating for law reforms that respect and protect sex workers’ human and labour rights.

Managing the risk of human rights violations in Global Fund-supported programmes

Recommendations contained in this workshop report centre around the need for better management of the risks of human rights violations in Global Fund programmes, including the urgent need to stop any funding going to health programmes in rehabilitation and detention centres for any key population.



Managing the risk of human rights violations in Global Fund-supported programs

MEETING REPORT
Geneva, 22-23 May 2014

Some of the key recommendations related to key populations in the report:

- Create a Global Fund policy on not funding programmes in drug detention centres, as well as sex worker and LGBT "rehabilitation" programmes
- Consider speaking out publically on issues of human rights violations and the need to protect key populations from these
- Issue policy statements in line with recommendations of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, including on the areas of treatment access and intellectual property

- Increase the human rights capacity and expertise on the Technical Review Panel
- Review concept notes to check they are in line with international standards for rights-based HIV programming
- Develop operational guidance to address human rights and include clear guidance on what types of programmes constitute human rights violations and the process for redress should rights violation take place by grantees
- Increase funding for data collection and support community-based organisations to gather data (we need data to make the investment case for key populations and this must be collected in partnership with the community to avoid rights-violating data gathering practices)
- Work with key population networks and other civil society groups to coordinate investigations and complaints into human rights violations.

NSWP response to Norwegian evaluation

NSWP has published a statement in response to the recent release of a report by the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security following an evaluation of the ban of the purchase of sex which came into force in 2009 in Norway.

The report has been **heavily criticised by various sex worker rights groups** for its poor quality and contradictory claims and findings presented throughout the report's 168 pages.

The report claims that a number of outcomes identified by researchers are positive (in terms of the stated objective of eliminating sex work) when in fact these outcomes affect the working conditions and incomes of sex workers negatively to an unacceptable degree.

Pye Jakobsson, President of NSWP said:

'This report shows the responsibility the police has in terms of the impact of their tactics and policing

of the ban. Sex workers face tougher conditions in that outdoor sex work environments have become less favourable; sex workers are more reluctant to report crimes of violence to the police, sex workers' income is reduced due to sex workers now having weaker negotiating power as clients are nervous, want to leave faster, and there are fewer clients. Indoor sex work has also become more difficult as working together for safety is not an option due to third party laws; also distressing is the fact that sex workers working indoors are constantly in danger of being evicted from the premises they are working in due to police 'educating' landlords and hotel managers on how to recognise sex workers and to evict them.'

NSWP's statement strongly condemns this report published by the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security as it fails to recognise the grave violations to Norwegian sex workers' human rights that are taking place with state impunity under the current model that bans the purchase of sex. The statement further urges the Norwegian Government to listen to the experiences of sex workers and acknowledge that the criminalisation of the purchase of sex in Norway is resulting in health and human rights violations of sex workers.

Community Mobilisation and Empowerment of FSWs in Karnataka

A series of behavioural-biological surveys in 2008 and 2011 in four districts of Karnataka found that mobilising female sex

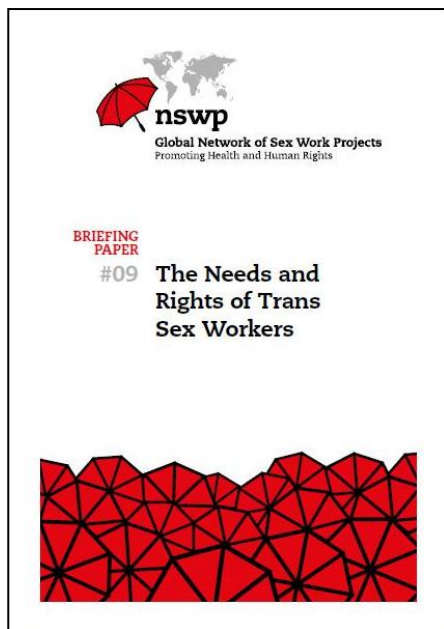
workers is central to effective HIV prevention programming.

Defining community mobilisation exposure as low, medium or high, the study revealed female sex workers with high exposure to community mobilisation are:

- more likely to have been tested for HIV
- more likely to have used a condom at last sex with occasional clients, repeat clients and regular partners
- less likely to be infected with gonorrhoea or chlamydia

These findings suggest that even in times of constrained budgets and limited resources, community mobilisation should not be seen as a luxury “add-on” to the traditional biomedical HIV prevention model. Rather, the findings suggest that community mobilisation has formed an important and integral part of the success of the Avahan HIV prevention programme.

NSWP Briefing Paper: The Needs and Rights of Trans Sex Workers

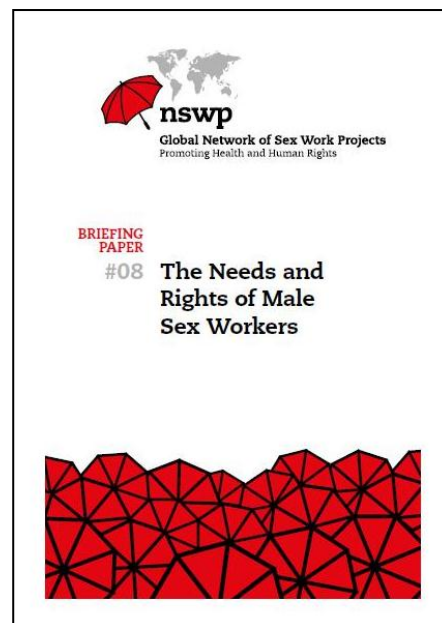


This briefing paper focuses on the issues and needs identified by trans sex workers (TSW) as disclosed in NSWP forums including an online questionnaire and face-to-face focus groups. Attention is first given to the issue of intersectionality, aiming to give context to the community of TSW before examining the needs and rights of this group. Legal situations are then discussed, noting how

legislative systems can have an impact on the lives and work of TSW worldwide. Discussion then moves to look at the issues and needs of TSW, beginning with a discussion on violence before looking at how discrimination impacts access to education and employment, housing, justice, and appropriate health care services. The paper concludes by drawing attention to the need to support the advocacy and activism of TSW groups around the world in challenging the needs identified and offering recommendations for those who design and implement policy and programmes, and those who represent and work directly with TSW. The paper includes examples of NSWP member groups' efforts to mobilise communities of TSW to advocate for their rights, showing activism that is being carried out by the community.

You can also see the [summary version of this briefing paper here](#).

NSWP Briefing Paper: The Needs and Rights of Male Sex Workers



This briefing paper has been developed in line with the NSWP priority to focus on and highlight the needs and rights of male sex workers. This paper presents an overview of some of the main issues faced by male sex workers (MSW) globally and highlights some of the advocacy and activism efforts by male sex worker communities that have challenged

these issues. This paper is intended for those who make policy, design and implement programmes, and work directly with MSW in the hope of increasing awareness and understanding of the multiple realities and needs of this community. This paper is also intended as an advocacy tool for NSWP member groups to utilise in their attempts to raise awareness across the world of the needs of MSW and advocate for their rights from the grassroots community level to global forums for change.

The paper begins with an exploration of the diverse realities of MSW communities and the contexts in which MSW operate. Discussion is then focused on the specific issues faced by MSW as disclosed in NSWP forums, networks and an online survey carried out in 2013. The paper includes examples of NSWP member groups' efforts to mobilise communities of MSW to advocate for their rights, showing activism that is being carried out by the community.

You can also see the [summary version of this briefing paper here](#).



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The Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) advocates for the health and human rights of sex workers. We work to uphold the voices of sex workers globally and to connect regional networks advocating for the rights of female, male and transgender sex workers.

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