

Welcome to Sex Work Digest – a quarterly round up of the news stories, events and other information relating to global sex work issues.



Consultation on Decriminalisation of Sex Work in Scotland

Sex worker rights charity <u>SCOT-PEP</u> welcomed the launch of a consultation, led by <u>Jean Urquhart</u> an independent Member of the Scottish Parliament, on a set of proposals for a Member's Bill on sex work law reform. and for larger premises to be licensed. Currently, even two sex workers who work together for safety are criminalised for brothel-keeping – forcing sex workers to work alone increases their vulnerability to violence Scrap laws against soliciting and

• Scrap laws against soliciting and kerb-crawling. Evidence shows both measures reduce the amount of time sex workers have to assess



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Jean's proposals were developed in close consultation with sex workers in Scotland, and are **supported by SCOT-PEP**, and have already been backed by HIV Scotland and NUS Scotland.

The key elements of the proposed legislation, entitled the **Prostitution Law Reform (Scotland) Bill**, are as follows:

• Permit small groups of sex workers (up to four) to work together from the same premises, their safety and agree services, which again increases their vulnerability to violence

- Extend protection against coercion, which only applies to female sex workers under current legislation, and make those provisions more robust – in line with what sex workers say they need
- Permit sex workers to have joint finances with their families or flatmates. Currently the partners and family of sex workers are criminalised, which is isolating and stigmatising, and assumes

coercion rather than tackling coercion directly.

NSWP encourages people to submit responses to the consultation, which can come from anywhere in the world. The deadline for responses is 1st December 2015. To download the consultation, <u>click here</u>.

Save Decriminalisation in NSW

The Government of New South Wales, Australia have announced an inquiry will consider replacing decriminalisation with licensing, and or giving councils stronger powers.

Scarlet Alliance, the Australian Sex Workers Association are running **this petition** addressed to the Minister for Justice and other decision makers, warning that this is the closest any government in Australia has managed to get to removing decriminalisation, and they are genuinely worried about the future of laws in New South Wales.

In the statement on the petition Scarlet Alliance state:

'The Decriminalisation of Sex Work in New South Wales was a bi-partisan decision in 1995 following the Wood Royal Commission into Police corruption. Political leaders looked at the evidence and found that criminalisation of sex work caused corruption, limited sex workers access to justice and industrial rights, denied the community transparent and accountable regulation of sex work, and had a negative impact on public health. Decriminalisation of Sex Work in New South Wales is now an international best practice model both emulated and celebrated. Justice, public health, transparent regulation and human rights outcomes are optimum, all due to Decriminalisation.

The Government of New South Wales wants to repeal Decriminalisation, despite the evidence that justice, health, policing and human rights outcomes are best met by Decriminalisation. Decriminalisation is the best option for sex workers.'

Scarlet Alliance has also produced <u>**this paper**</u> outlining why licensing will not work in NSW.

Please consider <u>signing on to this</u> <u>petition</u> – before 2nd November.

WHO early release guideline on ART and PrEP



WHO have just published an early-release guideline on when to start antiretroviral therapy (ART) and on preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV. The guideline makes two key recommendations:

- ART should be initiated in everyone living with HIV at any CD4 cell count
- The use of daily oral PrEP is recommended as a prevention choice for people at substantial risk of HIV infection as part of combination prevention approaches

The recommendations in this guideline will form part of the revised consolidated guidelines on the use of ARV drugs for treating and preventing HIV infection to be published by WHO in 2016. The full update of the guidelines will consist of comprehensive clinical recommendations together with revised operational and service delivery guidance to support implementation.

NSWP will continue to advocate for sex workers' access to ART globally and are clear that the ambitious 90-90-90 targets will **not** be reached if sex workers are left behind.

Furthermore, the voices and concerns of sex workers, as expressed in NSWP's global consultation on PrEP and early treatment as HIV prevention strategies, must be heard in any decisions taken by the international HIV community and programmers on PrEP. 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.

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!"

Amnesty International votes in favour of calling for the decriminalisation of sex work

NSWP thanks <u>Amnesty</u> <u>International</u> for standing firm with sex workers and <u>passing</u> <u>the resolution</u> calling for the full decriminalisation of sex work.

Sex workers and sex worker rights activists across the world joined the campaign to highlight the importance of a call for the full decriminalisation of sex work. Many sex worker groups and allies across the world wrote to Amnesty International's Secretary General in support of the proposed policy on sex work.

NSWP launched a petition which gained over **10,000 signatories** before it was closed in advance of Amnesty's International Council Meeting in Dublin in August. NSWP also released a **statement of support** in five languages. The proposed policy was supported before the vote by many sex worker-led organisations and networks, including **APNSW**, **Rose Alliance**, **Empower**, to name a few. The policy was also commended by **UNAIDS**, with Executive Director, Michel Sidibé saying:

'Amnesty's draft policy on sex work uses a careful, evidence and human rights-based approach to addressing this complex issue. The definition of sex work used in the draft policy, together with the principled approach to realizing the human rights of sex workers...make this document a much needed policy position. These aspects are in line with UNAIDS's policy and approach to sex work.'

Amnesty International joins other major international agencies such as UNAIDS, WHO, Human Rights Watch, the Lancet, GAATW in the call for the full decriminalisation of sex work. Sex workers and our allies' campaign for the full decriminalisation of sex work to: Promote safe working conditions and labour rights for sex workers; Increase access to health services and reduce sex workers' risk of HIV and STIs; Increase sex workers' access to justice; Reduce police abuse and violence; Help to tackle exploitation and coercion when it does occur.

NSWP released **this statement** thanking Amnesty International after the resolution was passed and the African Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA) also **welcomed the result**. In the aftermath of the vote, the **International HIV/AIDS Alliance** reminded readers of the perils of criminalising sex work.

NSWP and ASWA organise first Global Fund training workshops

its processes for community engagement and accountability. These are part of a series of five such workshops being organised globally.

The training, one already held in Nairobi, Kenya, in August and another scheduled for October in Dakar, Senegal, aims to increase sex worker-led organisations' understanding of and ability to engage in Global Fund processes at national, regional and global levels and to increase funding for sex worker-led programmes.

21 sex workers from Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe who attended the Nairobi training said that the training would assist them to better engage the Global Fund in their own countries. "It has been hard to understand how the Global Fund works and how sex work groups can access their funding," said one participant from Tanzania, "but with this training, I have understood how it operates and how to



Artwork and banners made by participants at the Africa Global Fund capacity workshop in Nairobi, Aug 1-7, 2015; photos courtesy of Denis Nzioka/ASWA

Approximately 42 sex workers from 14 African countries are engaging with the Global Fund in two training workshops.

NSWP, in close collaboration with the **African Sex Workers Alliance** (ASWA), has organised a series of workshops to train sex workers in understanding The Global Fund and engage with it in my country and especially through the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM)."

The workshops aim to ensure participants have the necessary skills to engage in Global Fund processes, including any country proposal to the Global Fund for financing. "Often we were not roped in when our country sent in their proposal to the Global Fund. In some cases, key populations were also not included in the proposal meaning we lost out," said a participant from Malawi. The workshops are a unique opportunity to reduce the barriers faced by community groups and representatives when they engage with the Global Fund.



The second training, scheduled for Francophone countries, will target sex workers from Togo, Senegal, Mali, Cameroon, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The workshops provide an understanding of the Global Fund and its processes within what is commonly referred to as The New Funding Model. It also provides an understanding of community empowerment, the importance of community system strengthening, engaging with the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), Global Fund Advocacy Network (GFAN), the Community, Rights and Gender Advisory Group and the NGO and Communities Delegations to the Global Fund Board.

In addition to Africa, NSWP is also working with regional networks in South East Asia; Caribbean and Latin America; as well as East Europe, Central Asia and South Asia on further workshops in those regions.

NSWP condemns raid and arrests at Rentboy.com

NSWP, the Global Network of Sex Work Projects, emphatically condemns the actions of the USA's Department of Homeland Security and federal prosecutors in New York for the raid on the offices of Rentboy.com and the arrests of seven of its staff members.

This action appears to be a blatant, morally-driven discriminatory attack on gay consensual sex. The New York Times Editorial Board <u>have stated</u> that the criminal complaint that resulted in this raid was 'so saturated with sexually explicit details, it's hard not to interpret it as an indictment of gay men as being sexually promiscuous.' Many USA activists, LGBT community members and commentators have <u>highlighted</u> the increasing climate of homophobia that they identify as having accompanied the tenures of Mayor De Blasio and the Commissioner of NYPD, William Bratton.

NSWP's opposes all forms of criminalisation and other legal oppression of sex work (including sex workers, clients, third parties, families, partners and friends). Sex workers need to be able to communicate openly with clients and managers without constantly fearing arrest, police harassment or worse. Sex workers often use advertising websites to screen clients for their own safety.

The timing of this raid could not be more acutely out-of-step with the overwhelming body of evidence and the findings of international bodies such as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, who recommend that governments should work towards the decriminalisation of sex work and The Lancet which recently published a special series on HIV and Sex Workers, which also recommends the decriminalisation of sex work. Amnesty International joined a growing list of other major international agencies such as the World Health Organization, Human Rights Watch and the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women in the call for decriminalisation of sex work.

You can download full statement by NSWP about Rentboy.com <u>here</u>. The <u>Global Forum on MSM and HIV</u> (MSMGF) and the <u>Global Network of</u> <u>People Living with HIV</u> (GNP+) also released statements condemning the attack on civil liberties and the targeting of sexual minorities, with both organisations confirming their support for the decriminalisation of sex work.

This raid also came in the wake of earlier hostile developments in the USA, where <u>thirty-five mayors from</u> across the United States, including Bill de Blasio in New York City, Rahm Emanuel in Chicago and Eric Garcetti in Los Angeles, lent their support to a growing campaign for an 'end demand' style of law enforcement to be used against the clients of sex workers.

<u>At the end of June</u>, MasterCard announced that its credit cards could

no longer be used to pay for adverts on the Backpage.com website, following a request from Chicago's Cook County Sheriff Thomas Dart, who claimed the site is used by 'sex traffickers'. The following day Visa announced that it, too, would no longer allow its credit cards to be used to make transactions through the website.

However, Backpage.com, an online classified web site long used by sex workers as a low-cost means of advertising their services and screening clients, <u>announced the</u> <u>following week that it would allow</u> <u>users to post ads for free</u> to the adult services section of its site.

ICW position statement on sex workers, sex work and HIV

HIV, particularly in relation to access to treatment;

- They recognise and support that sex worker leadership is an integral component of effective responses to HIV;
- Community empowerment must underpin health programming for sex workers in the overall effort to protect and promote sex workers' health, human and labour rights;
 - They support that the criminalisation of sex work, including the criminalisation of sex workers, third parties, sex workers' clients, families, partners and friends, has a detrimental effect on the lives and health of sex workers. This is particularly true for sex workers living with HIV in light of the intersection of these laws with laws that criminalise HIV non-disclosure, exposure, and transmission.

Recommendations in the position statement include:



This position statement by the International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW) was written in collaboration with NSWP earlier in 2015.

In the statement ICW confirms that it fully supports the recommendations put forward in the SWIT tool that was developed through meaningful consultation with sex workers.

In the statement ICW say that:

 Despite the greater burden of HIV amongst female sex workers, there is a lack of research on the experiences, needs and human rights of sex workers living with

- Sex work should be fully decriminalised in order to protect the health and human rights of sex workers and to more effectively address the HIV epidemic;
- Sex work should be recognised as work in law, policy, health programming and civil society;
- All efforts should be made to eliminate stigma and discrimination as this fuels and perpetuates violence and other human rights violations;
- Sex workers must be recognised as the experts in their own lives and sex worker-led organisations must be promoted as the optimum context for HIV prevention, treatment and care amongst sex workers.

Map of Sex Work Law

Launched in September, <u>this</u> <u>global interactive tool</u> is a map of national 'legal frameworks' around sex work.

It aims to 'provide an accurate overview, in plain English, of the laws, regulations, directives and enforcement practices that govern the sale of sexual services by adult women.' This project was produced by the Institute of Development Studies and funded by the UK Department for International Development. The creator Cheryl Overs, is one of the founding members of NSWP.

The **Map of Sex Work Law** is designed to be interactive, and includes a feedback function for users to provide updates, including on any information that has gone out of date.

South African coalition wants full decriminalisation of sex work

A coalition has been launched to push for the decriminalisation of sex work in South Africa.

The Asijiki Coalition for the Decriminalisation of Sex Work is a collective consisting of sex workers, activists and human rights defenders. It was **launched** in Cape Town on August 27.

"The coalition's main objective is to work together with the aim of obtaining law reform for the full decriminalisation of sex work in South Africa, through advocacy and litigation," said national coordinator Buthelezi.

Asijiki is an isiZulu word for "no turning/looking back" according to

Kholi Buthelezi, the Coordinator of Sisonke Sex Worker Movement (Sisonke). Activists also used the slogan during the anti-Apartheid struggle.

During the launch, a guide called **Sex Workers and Sex Work in South Africa** for reporting on sex work was launched as well. The Guide is for journalists and writers who report on issues related to sex work in South Africa. The guide sets out basic facts about sex work in South Africa and contains sections on appropriate terminology, use of images and respectful interviewing techniques.

The Guide is aimed at correcting negative or biased reporting of and about sex workers, said organisers.

"The stories that we should be focusing on are stories of sex workers as people. They are mothers, they are fathers, and they are breadwinners. And because sex work is not protected by the law, they are not protected and they are open to rape and abuse, often by policemen, the very people who are supposed to protect us as South Africans," said Demelza Bush, an associate at the human rights organisation Sonke Gender Justice.

The launch came at a time when several South African organisations have publicly called for the decriminalisation of sex work. The South African Law Reform Commission, the Commission for Gender Equality, among others, have urged South Africa to decriminalise sex work after highlighting the violence and abuse sex workers face. They also revealed how the fight against HIV is affected by laws targeting sex workers, and their clients.

To view the guide Sex Workers and Sex Work in South Africa on NSWP's website, **<u>click here</u>**.

Sex Worker Leaders & NSWP Members

Also on our website you can view the latest featured <u>leaders' profiles</u> and <u>featured</u> <u>members</u>.

Other headlines

African sex workers trained on human rights advocacy

<u>Male sex workers to</u> <u>launch first ever savings</u> <u>scheme in Kenya</u>

<u>Sex Worker Murdered in</u> <u>Georgetown, Guyana</u>

Melbourne's Annual Festival of Sex Work

TAMPEP statement on national and migrant sex workers in Europe

Much more news is available on our <u>website</u> and on our Twitter

Publications

NSWP Annual Report 2014



This <u>NSWP Annual Report</u> highlights the activities and achievements of NSWP during 2014.

These activities include capacity building, providing technical support to regional networks and the development of advocacy tools that bring the human rights of sex workers very strongly into focus.

Highlights include a report back on NSWP members' participation in IAC 2014; and the publication of:

- The Real Impact of the Swedish Model on Sex Workers - Advocacy Toolkit;
- The Global Consultation on PrEP and Early Treatment as HIV Prevention Strategies – Sex worker community experiences and perspectives; and
- Sex Work and the Law: Understanding Legal Frameworks and the Struggle for Sex Work Law Reforms

Smart Sex Worker's Guide to SWIT Published



NSWP has launched <u>'The</u> Smart Sex Worker's Guide to SWIT'.

In 2013, WHO together with UNFPA, UNAIDS, NSWP, the World Bank and UNDP published

'Implementing Comprehensive HIV/STI Programmes with Sex Workers: Practical Approaches from Collaborative Interventions' or the SWIT. The SWIT reaffirms that the health of sex workers doesn't happen in a vacuum, and that countries should work towards the decriminalisation of sex work, and the empowerment and selfdetermination of sex working communities, as a fundamental part of the fight against HIV. The SWIT is available in French, Spanish, Russian and English at present. Links to the foreign language versions of the full SWIT can be found *here*.

<u>This 'Smart Guide'</u> provides a short summary of the key points in the SWIT, in plain English. The guide can be used by sex workers and sex worker organisations who are designing or running programmes for sex workers. It may also be useful as an advocacy tool when advocating for rights-based services.

This guide is supported by Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund and Bridging the Gaps.

You can download this 24 page resource as a PDF **here**.

This guide is also already available in **Spanish** and versions in Chinese, French and Russian will follow soon.

Smart Sex Worker's Guide to The Global Fund Published



NSWP also launched <u>'The</u> <u>Smart Sex Worker's Guide to The</u> <u>Global Fund</u>' at the first Global Fund workshop which took place from the 1st to the 7th of August in Nairobi, Kenya.

This first regional workshop in a series of 5, aims to strengthen the capacity of female, male and transgender sex workers to engage meaningfully in Global Fund processes.

This guide is aimed at sex workers as a quick reference guide to help sex workers understand the Global Fund and its complex structures. The guide is helpful to sex worker organisations who are already receiving funding from the Global Fund as well as to those who hope to receive funding from the Fund in the future. It briefly describes the key structures at global and country levels and outlines their function. The guide also suggests how to interact with these various structures. In addition to this, the smart guide also looks at various Global Fund strategies and policies and their impact, risks and opportunities for key populations.

This guide is supported by The Global Fund through the Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund. You can download this 24 page resource as a PDF **here**.

This guide is also already available in **Spanish** and versions in Chinese, French and Russian will follow soon.

Research for Sex Work 14: 'Sex Work is Work' Published



NSWP have published the 14th issue of <u>Research for Sex</u> Work, 'Sex Work is Work'.

Research for Sex Work is a publication intended for sex workers, activists, health workers, researchers, NGO staff and policymakers. It is published by NSWP and is governed by an Editorial Board consisting of sex workers, staff from support organisations and researchers.

The theme for this issue is 'sex work as work'. This issue of the journal is published in English and Spanish.

Contents:

- Editorial (NSWP Secretariat)
- Sex Worker Politics and the Term 'Sex Work' (Elena Jeffreys)
- Beyond Sex Work as Work (Kata D'Adamo)
- The German Prostitution Law: An Example of the 'Legalisation of Sex Work' (Hydra e.V.)
- Support for Sex Workers as Occupational Support? (Ursula Probst)
- Criminal, Victim, or Worker (Audacia Ray and Emma Caterine)
- United States Organising (Cris Sardina (Desiree Alliance), Penelope Saunders (Best Practices Policy Project-BPPP) and others from local communities in the US)
- Sex Workers Talk About Occupational Health in New York

City (Sarah Elspeth Patterson, M.Ed. and Zil Garner Goldstein, FNP, Persist Health Project)

- The Influence of Time to Negotiate on Control in Sex Worker-Client Interactions (Chris Atchison, Cecilia Benoit, Patrick Burnett, Mikael Jansson, Mary Clare Kennedy, Nadia Ouellet, and Dalia Vukmirovich)
- Report on Experience: Decriminalised Sex Work and Occupational Health and Safety in New Zealand (NZPC)

A PDF of the 'Sex Work is Work' Research for Sex Work can be downloaded **here**. (44 page PDF document).

Previous issues of Research for Sex Work can be found on our website **<u>here</u>**.

Economic Empowerment in Africa



<u>This regional report</u> documents case studies of economic empowerment programmes in 6 African countries: Democratic Republic of Congo; Ethiopia; Kenya; Malawi; Nigeria; and Uganda.

There are relatively few economic empowerment programmes for sex workers, led by sex workers, in Africa. As such this regional report evaluates both successful and failed economic empowerment programmes by sex worker-led organisations and non-sex worker-led organisations. The aim of the report was to document the lessons learnt and good practice examples to help build and strengthen the capacity of sex worker organisations working to promote the human rights of sex workers and to document sex worker-led responses in Africa.

Each of the case studies includes a discussion on the factors that contributed to a programme's success or failure.

The report is divided into 4 sections:

- Section 1: three sex worker-led economic empowerment programmes - two of which are in-depth studies of sex worker-led economic empowerment programmes by NSWP members, Nikat (Ethiopia) and HOYMAS (Kenya).
- Section 2: case study of a successful non-sex worker-led economic empowerment programme in Nigeria.
- Section 3: three case studies on economic empowerment programmes that failed.
- Section 4: discusses the lessons learnt from these programmes and how rights-based approaches deliver quality economic empowerment programmes for sex workers.

The report concludes with a number of recommendations for practitioners and implementers of economic empowerment programmes for sex workers

This report has an accompanying briefing paper titled: <u>'Economic</u> <u>Empowerment: Does Rehabilitation</u> <u>Have a Role?</u> The briefing paper documents 4 case studies of economic empowerment programmes for sex workers in 4 African countries; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda.

NSWP received funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the <u>'Stepping Up, Stepping Out</u> **Project'** by AIDS Fonds, to support the development of advocacy tools around rights-based economic empowerment for sex workers. The first part of the project documented case studies of economic empowerment programmes in the Asia Pacific region. The output from this part of the SUSO project is documented in the Asia Pacific regional report <u>'Sex Workers</u> Demonstrate Economic and Social Empowerment' and the briefing paper entitled: <u>'Sex Workers Demonstrate</u> Economic and Social Empowerment: Overcoming Practices That Limit Sex Worker Agency in the Asia Pacific Region'.

REPORTING FROM THE SHADOWS: Using CEDAW to Advocate for Sex Workers' Rights in Central Eastern Europe and Central Asia

REPORTING FROM THE SHADOWS

Using CEDAW to Advocate for Sex Workers' Rights in Central Eastern Europe and Central Asia

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SWAN has published 'REPORTING FROM THE SHADOWS: Using CEDAW to Advocate for Sex Workers' Rights in Central Eastern Europe and Central Asia'.

The report is aimed particularly at sex workers, sex worker groups, organisations working with sex workers, and other allies who want to know more about advancing recognition for sex workers' rights through the United Nations human rights bodies, and in particular, through the Committee on the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

You can download this 90 page report directly in <u>English</u> or in <u>Russian</u>.

Guide for Sex Workers Human Rights Defenders



<u>SWAN</u> have also published <u>"A</u> <u>Guide For SEX WORKER</u> <u>HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS"</u>.

This publication contains practical information on how to start human rights documenting projects, how to organise human rights campaigns and how to use formal human rights mechanisms.

The guide contains tips on interviewing victims or witnesses of human rights violations, tips for writing Human Rights Submissions and Letters, guidance on how to report sex-workers' rights abuses through UN Special Procedures and helpful links and contact information.

You can find the 84 page <u>English</u> <u>version here</u> and the <u>Russian version</u> <u>here</u>.

Sex Workers at AIDS2014



Scarlet Alliance

Australian sex worker network and NSWP member Scarlet Alliance published their report <u>'Stepping up to the</u> evidence on HIV and Sex Work: Decriminalise Sex Work Now! Sex Workers at AIDS 2014' in July.

This much anticipated report demonstrates the strong sex worker presence at the 20th International AIDS Conference - AIDS 2014 in Melbourne, July 2014. APNSW, NSWP and Scarlet Alliance jointly hosted the Sex Worker Networking Zone. As local, regional and global representatives of sex workers and sex worker organisations, the three organisations worked together to raise awareness about the pressing issue of severely limited opportunities for sex worker inclusion, representation and participation to the conference.

This report pulls together the key themes and issues on sex work from the conference. Quotes, summaries and highlights of sex worker sessions, workshops, performances and actions have been included to showcase the sex worker perspectives and responses to key issues relating to HIV, human rights and sex work.

Sex workers' participation at international and regional HIV/AIDS conferences always falls short of the commitment to address HIV/AIDS (as expressed by international donors and agencies). Restrictions on travel for sex workers and a lack of scholarships for sex workers to attend conferences are two major barriers to sex workers entering spaces where their lives are being discussed.

Janelle Fawkes writes:

'Evaluation has demonstrated significant shortfalls in the percentage of abstracts accepted for sex worker speakers at previous conferences and this was no different. What needs to change to tip the framework upside down? To ensure that we don't rely on ad hoc processes with a couple of individuals being selected by a funder to liven up their panel. Instead abstracts by sex workers should make it through the review process because the system gives merit to sex worker voices and analysis being heard on every panel and that when the list of essential delegates is developed sex worker names are on the list.

This report is an important contribution as we as sex workers document our achievements alongside the problems and create a platform for our voices and our community's voices to be heard clearly above the hype. As you review the report I hope you will consider the initiative and major effort by each sex worker that made it to the conference with many self-funding to attend, camping out at immigration offices to push along visa applications, pooling and sharing resources and against the odds coming out with such essential contributions.'

Download this 82 page report directly <u>here</u>.

NSWP publications in various languages

Don't forget that NSWP translate many of our publications into our other global languages.

Be sure to check the website for other translations of briefing papers as they become available in <u>Chinese</u>, French, Spanish and Russian.



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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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