

Global Joint Statement: International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers

DECEMBER

17

International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers

This is a joint statement from the [African Sex Workers Alliance \(ASWA\)](#), [Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers \(APNSW\)](#), [Sex Workers' Advocacy Network for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia \(SWAN\)](#), [International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe \(ICRSE\)](#), and [La Plataforma Latinoamericana de Personas que](#)

[Ejercen el Trabajo Sexual \(PLAPERTS\)](#).

Where no regional network exists, the statement has received the support of sub-regional and national networks.

Today marks the 12th annual International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers. For twelve years, sex workers have used this day to highlight the need for action to end violence against sex workers. The issues faced by sex workers vary from region to region. These differences

are due to different laws, social and cultural contexts, but one common issue faced by all sex workers is their vulnerability to and experience of violence.

This global statement draws attention to the fact that all sex workers are vulnerable to violence because of the legal oppression of sex work, stigma, and discrimination. This vulnerability to violence is worse for sex workers living with HIV, sex workers who use drugs, transgender sex workers, migrant sex workers, and sex workers that are part of other marginalised groups.

Sex workers are not accepted by society, which makes them vulnerable to various threats of violence. Female, male and transgender sex workers are exposed to different types of violence every day and their human rights are violated. Police and law enforcement officials, detention centres health care professionals, and programme implementers violate their human rights every day. Sex workers also experience violence from members of their communities and their families.

The police rarely take violence against sex workers seriously. The legal oppression of sex work makes it very difficult for sex workers to report abuse to the police when it occurs, and to have that abuse taken seriously when they do. ***“Police violence is a major issue for sex workers in the Asia Pacific region, who face arbitrary arrest, condoms as evidence, assault and sexual violence. Relations with police are dramatically different where sex work is decriminalised. At the national, regional and global level states need to***

step up action to stop violence against sex workers,” stated Kay Thi Win from the APNSW.

It is not only the police who do not take violence against sex workers seriously. Politicians, legislators, authorities, academics, and programme implementers also disregard the needs of sex workers. The recent International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe on key populations is a recent example of this. Daughtie Ogutu from ASAW stated: *“at ICASA, it was evident that sex workers are discriminated against even in spaces where it is of paramount interest to include us. If we are to achieve the 2030 goal of ending AIDS, sex workers must be involved. What happened in Zimbabwe is a form of institutionalised violence towards sex workers and therefore this day (Dec 17) is a platform we cannot afford to pass by without addressing the violence against sex workers. We call for an end to violence against sex workers”*.

Sex workers are vulnerable to both physical and psychological violence. Violence increases the risk of HIV transmission and severely decreases self-esteem. When sex workers experience violence, it is more difficult for sex workers to feel empowered to fight for their rights.

Sex workers also experience economic violence. According to Karina Bravo from La Plataforma Latinoamericana de Personas que Ejercen el Trabajo Sexual (PLAPERTS) *“violence perpetrated against sex workers is common when individuals appropriate the earnings and property of some sex workers who are empowered to fight for their rights.”*

“For this December 17, the International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe (ICRSE) published a report on our website on 10 years of sex workers' rights in Europe. The report analyses the different trends affecting sex workers in our region such as the criminalisation of sex work and the conflation of migration, sex work and 'trafficking' which makes sex workers more vulnerable to violence,” said Luca Stevenson, Coordinator of ICRSE. In addition to this 10 year report, Sex Workers' Advocacy Network for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SWAN) published **Failures of Justice: State and Non-**

State Violence Against Sex Workers and the Search for Safety and Redress

to highlight the violence faced by sex workers in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. SWAN interviewed 320 female, male, and transgender sex workers in 16 different countries for this report. The numbers speak for themselves. Police had arrested forty percent of respondents in the survey in the last 12 months, one in five experienced physical violence and one in seven experience sexual violence by the police.

“The violence, stigma and discrimination that sex workers in the Caribbean continue to encounter on a daily basis is alarming. As we work together, let us not forget that sex workers are human beings, mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers to name a few. Our lives matter too,” said Miriam Edwards from the Caribbean Sex Work Coalition. *“We must strengthen the activism of organisations of sex workers, through partnerships with women's organisations, communities of sexuality diversity and state institutions,”* added Karina Bravo from PLAPERTS.

NSWP demands the following actions be taken to ensure the rights of sex workers are respected:

- An end to the criminalisation and legal oppression of sex workers, clients, and third parties.
- Equal access to rights-based health and social services for sex workers, including sexual and reproductive health.
- Sensitisation training for police authorities, and the criminal justice system on issues related to sex work.
- An end to condoms being used as evidence of sex work.
- And finally, access to rights-based programming for the testing and treatment of HIV and other STIs.

For a global list of December 17 events, please click [here](#).

Many organisations released statements marking the day and APNSW produced **this excellent set of videos featuring** APNSW members speaking out about the various forms of violence sex workers experience in their countries.

NSWP Statement Condemning Arrests and Mandatory Testing of Sex Workers in Kisii County, Kenya

Sixty-five sex workers were arrested on Thursday 19th November in Kisii County, Kenya.

The following day, the sex workers were taken to Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital and tested for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The leading officer from the Kisii Governor's Office, Mr. Patrick Lumumba, stated there were too many sex workers loitering the streets of Kisii, “spreading HIV and STIs to married men”. He said this initiative was an attempt to eliminate sex workers from their town, according to the Kenya Sex Worker Alliance (KESWA) and the Bar Hostess Empowerment & Support Programme (BHESP).

Twenty-six of the sex workers tested positive for STIs. Those who tested negative were released. The twenty-six sex workers who tested positive were taken back to the cells without being offered any medical treatment or counselling. Seven of the sex workers told KESWA and BHESP that they were HIV positive and had missed their medication as a result of the arrests.

According to the arrest records, all of the sex workers were arrested for loitering. However, the Officer in Charge of the Station (OCS) stated the sex workers would be charged under the Public Health Act, which criminalises the wilful transmission of STIs/HIV. If a sex worker is found guilty under the Public Health Act, they could face a fine of up to 30,000 KES and/or 3 years in prison.

The sex workers were released on bail and fined 2,000 KES on Monday 23rd November. They were required to report back to the police station after three days for a medical examination, according to the **KESWA** Twitter account.

KESWA and BHESP are using this

incident as an opportunity to challenge the Public Health Act. It is discriminatory, and goes against the 2010 Kenya Constitution that calls for the respect of human rights. It also increases the barriers to accessing STI services for sex workers. They also wish to file a petition to stop the Kisii Hospital from subjecting sex workers to STI screening without their consent. NSWP supports KESWA and BHESP in this effort and would like to highlight the efforts of our members in their struggle to have the human rights of sex workers respected.

The arbitrary arrest, detention, and mandatory testing of sex workers are gross violations of human rights. The legal oppression of sex work, and mandatory testing and treatment practices, are against internationally recognised guidance as defined in the **SWIT** supported by WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNDP, the World Bank, and NSWP. In addition, **Amnesty International** and **The Lancet** both recognise that the decriminalisation of sex work is instrumental to the global effort to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic and to uphold the human rights of sex workers.

NSWP demands that Kisii County uphold the human rights of sex workers, stop the arrests and criminalisation of sex workers under the Public Health Act, and put an immediate end to the mandatory testing of sex workers.

Sex Workers Protest Murders in Kenya



© Suleiman Mbatiah (Nation Media Group)

In October, sex workers were joined by human rights activists in Nakuru County, Kenya in protest of the murder of four female sex workers.

According to the Kenya Sex Workers Alliance (KESWA), seven sex workers had been killed over the previous month. Members of KESWA suspect these are serial killings.

The last three murders were reported in Nanyuki, Kisii and Nyahururu town. Activists have called on the police to undertake investigations into the murders saying they are reminiscent of murders that took place in 2010 when a serial killer confessed to targeting sex workers.

Grace Kamau from KESWA said that the murders have caused panic among sex workers in the area. She has urged the sex work community to be watchful of each other and to report anyone suspicious. She also criticised the police who she said were not keen on investigating the cases.

“A number of commercial sex workers have been violated and the cases have been reported to the police but nothing has been done. All we have are the OB (Occurrence Book) numbers,” she told the Daily Nation.

KESWA has also petitioned President Uhuru Kenyatta to act on the murders by ensuring sex workers are protected. The President has received over 40 reports of sex workers being murdered. *“Protect us, fight for us, help us; we need you now more than ever to save lives before it is too late,”* KESWA said in their letter.

Tajikistan Toughens Penalties for Sex Work

The Tajik Parliament wants to ‘abolish’ sex work. They are introducing harsher measures under the Administrative Liability Code, hoping this will deter sex workers from working in the industry.

According to the Tajik news source **Ozodi**, under new and harsher rules set out in the Administrative Liability Code, sex workers caught breaking the law for the first time will be required to pay double what they paid in the past. If the same sex worker breaks the law a second time, they will face up to 15 days in jail.

Under Tajik law, sex work is not a criminal offence. However, sex workers in Tajikistan are penalised under the Code of Administrative Offences. Article 130 stipulates penalties for sex work in the form of fines. In practice, as stated in **Reporting From The Shadows**, this article is used by police to target sex workers for extortion under threat of fines, arrest, and detention. Police routinely disclose sex workers’ work in their communities through these interactions.

In most cases when sex workers are arrested, they are brought to a police department where there is an “investigation”. Sometimes sex workers are subjected to gynaecological exams for sexually transmitted infections, which is a humiliating procedure that violates their human rights. After paying a fine they are usually released. Often the test results are disclosed in front of other detainees and members of the police. These practices counter the **International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights** and further expose sex workers to violence and discrimination.

The state's crackdown on sex workers dates back at least one year. In the spring and summer of 2014 authorities **raided** nightclubs, restaurants, bars, hotels, and red light districts in search of sex workers, shaming those they detained. In the autumn of 2014 the

radio station "**Radio Ozodi**" said the Tajik Interior Ministry was considering prosecuting not only sex workers but their clients. They did not specify the kind of punishment they were planning to introduce. Currently, the clients of sex workers are not punishable under Tajik law, although in practice many usually pay bribes in order to avoid public shaming on TV bulletins or on the interior ministry's website.

Workshop for sex workers on The Global Fund



Seventeen representatives of sex worker organisations in South Asia, Central Asia and Eastern Europe took part in a training workshop organised by the *Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers* (APNSW) in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 5-10 December, 2015.

The workshop was part of series designed specifically for sex workers, to build the knowledge and ability of NSWP members to engage and work with The Global Fund mechanisms in their countries.

Participants found the training very helpful. "**I was not aware that key populations can have meaningful involvement in The Global Fund system,**" said Niger Sultana Lucky from **HARC** (Bangladesh). "**I also learned that a sex worker can directly complain to the Office of the Inspector General if we witness any corruption or**

human rights violations," she added. Lubna, from Pakistan, said "**I never knew that sex workers can be Country Coordinating Mechanism members.**"

The inclusion of key populations is important to effective Global Fund programmes. As members of key populations, and as community-based organisations working with key populations, sex worker groups and networks should be closely involved in contributing to their country's Global Fund National Strategic Plan, Country Dialogue and Concept Note. Also, sex worker groups and networks may be eligible to submit project proposals under a number of

Global Fund categories ranging from direct HIV outreach work, to community system strengthening and human rights monitoring.

APNSW first conducted training on The Global Fund with their member organisations in 2010. Since then a number of sex worker groups in the region have been closely involved with The Global Fund's work in their countries, including receiving funding for various projects.

However, in recent years APNSW became aware that other sex worker groups across the Asia Pacific region were not accessing funding opportunities that are available through The Global Fund. There were a number of reasons for this. Some were technical, such as self-organising groups who do not have a legal identity not being eligible. However in other cases there was a lack of awareness of the details about how The Global Fund worked.

So with technical support from NSWP, The Global Fund and additional support from Robert Carr Network Fund, APNSW developed a new five-day training workshop, to introduce The Global Fund's New Funding Model, with its emphasis on community empowerment (or Community Systems Strengthening) and the need for community monitoring and accountability in terms of human rights.

The workshop curriculum was developed in partnership between APNSW and NSWP in 2014, and the first global training of trainers took place in July 2015. Since then training has been **delivered in Nairobi** in partnership with Africa Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA), and **twice in Cambodia** with APNSW and sex worker organisations from Asia and the Pacific.

APNSW and Global NSWP members taking part in December 2015 included: **Women for Freedom** (Georgia); **Tais Plus** (Kyrgyzstan); Amelia (Kazakhstan); **Legalife** (Ukraine); **SWAN** (Hungary); HARC (Bangladesh); AINSW (India); Sheed Society (Pakistan).

SWIT Training in Budapest

In November, *Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network* (SWAN) and NSWP hosted a training event on sex worker advocacy and the implementation of rights-based HIV/STI programmes in Budapest, Hungary.

The participants - from Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Georgia - discussed the barriers sex workers face when advocating for their rights and the possible solutions to these barriers based on the **SWIT** tool.

NSWP members **Silver Rose** (Russia) and **Legalife** (Ukraine) reported that their governments ignore all international treaties and guidelines. In addition, migrants' rights in Russia are violated and censorship makes advocacy difficult.

Participants from the Kazakh

organisation **Amelia** were concerned about the police persecution of sex workers living with HIV under laws that prohibit the transmission of HIV. Kazakh sex workers are registered by police using their names and photos, which is a human rights violation.



Women for Freedom (Georgia) discussed the risks sex workers face when reporting abuses to the police like revenge, violence, and the disclosure of their occupation to their families. In addition, sex workers can only receive HIV testing if they show health administrators their passport.

Tajik police are threatening sex workers to disclose their occupation to their families, and sex workers are often subjected to **forced HIV testing**.

The training curriculum was based on the **Implementing Comprehensive HIV/STI Programmes with Sex Workers** resource, also known as the SWIT. The SWIT was published in 2013 by the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), NSWP, The World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

“I am happy with the training, I enjoyed the process of exchanging experiences with other regions, discussing existing problems and looking for solutions” said one participant.

“Since the SWIT is endorsed by UNAIDS and WHO, I can use it in dialogue with decision-makers and other stakeholders.”

In the closing speech Ruth Morgan Thomas, Global Coordinator of

NSWP, pointed out that despite the repression sex workers face, the sex workers’ rights movement is growing. Sex worker-led organisations are the experts in meeting sex workers’ needs, can do things much more cost effectively than service providers and

its networks and organisations in Latin America, creating a space to share resources across the region.

The website was developed by PLAPERTS – ECUADOR with the support of NSWP.

Sociologist Karina Bravo, PLAPERTS - ECUADOR leader, commented that the virtual space will serve to strengthen the capacities of national networks, including women’s, men’s and transgender groups of sex workers in Latin America.

The website will be used to share information, document needs and experiences and publish demands, priorities and proposals through briefings, statements and projects.

The website will also allow the sharing of relevant information, especially for new organisations, partner organisations, authorities and society in general.

“This way we will contribute to and influence public debate and policy making around sex work within the framework of human rights” says Karina Bravo.

This article is a translation of the **Spanish PLAPERTS Press Release**.

should use that knowledge to our advantage. Stasa Plecas, the Executive Director of SWAN, added that *‘we started in 2006 with only 1 sex-worker-led organisation as a SWAN member, and now we have ten.’*

In December, NSWP also published a case study on the development, implementation, and rollout of the SWIT, which you can find [here](#).

PLAPERTS launches Latin America Website



NSWP hosts the **new website of PLAPERTS**, the Latin American platform of sex workers people, and

Sex Workers Use ACPHR to Advance Their Rights



African sex workers' rights activists were recently trained on how to work with regional and international human rights processes, in Port Louis, Mauritius.

The goal of the training event was to help sex worker right activists work with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACPHR) as well as other human rights mechanisms including treaty bodies and conventions, to hold their countries accountable when their rights are violated.

The **African Sex Workers Alliance** (ASWA), in collaboration with the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice at Fordham Law School, and Mauritius's premier sex work organisation, Parapli Rouz, conducted the three-day training. Twenty-five delegates from 7 African countries were trained in November. The delegates will work with local and regional human rights mechanisms from 2016 onwards.

Rachel Gawases, a trans sex worker from Namibia, said the training allowed her to *"align domestic and international human rights mechanisms in my advocacy work as an activist. It also allowed me to understand each treaty and which specific rights they protect and monitor when my country reports are submitted to various committees so that we ensure sex workers voices are included."*

Those who graduated from the training said they are now in a position to submit reports on sex workers to the various organisations that are there to protect their rights.

"The training was helpful and useful. I am now familiar with regional and international rights which I did not know mostly, and I am even planning a training for the whole staff so that they have the same knowledge," said Tosh Legoreng from Botswana.

Netherlands May Criminalise Sex Workers for the First Time

Dutch sex workers working without a brothel license may risk a prison sentence of up to six months.

The Act Regulating Prostitution (WRP) proposes to criminalise all sex workers without licensure, including sex workers who work alone and camgirls/camboys. According to the Research and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Justice and Safety, this will affect one third of all sex workers. Parliament will vote on the law proposal before the end of the year. Most political parties have expressed their support of the law.

"Holland is moving more into criminalizing sex workers, violating their privacy rights and is moving away from Amnesty's proposal to decriminalize it and protect sex workers' rights. This country is really going crazy," says Felicia Anna, who is a member of **PROUD** and a

Romanian migrant sex worker, on her **blog** about the Amsterdam Red Light District.

An increasing number of sex workers choose to work unlicensed. *"It is often the only option for sex workers to work independently in a situation where cities consistently refuse to give out licenses due to stigma,"* says Hella Dee from PROUD. *"By working unlicensed, sex workers avoid the oppressive regulations and financially exploitative reality of the legal framework."*

"The main problem with 'prostitution' in Holland, is the shortage of workplaces due to the constant closures of legal workplaces (40% have been closed down already), while it's impossible to get a permit for a new workplace. But now they actually want to throw sex workers in jail for not being able to get this impossible to get permit," writes Felicia Anna.

According to Hella Dee, unlicensed sex workers face all the issues of working within a criminalised environment, especially regarding police harassment. Sex workers report an increase in police violence and intimidation. Police officers out sex workers to landlords and non-sex work employers, leading to eviction and loss of non-sex work income. Parents are reported to social services based solely on their profession. Police officers enter sex worker homes without their permission - the proposed Act Regulation Prostitution (WRP) aims to legalise this practice - and ask personal questions about their private (sex) lives. The Tax Office will demand high fines based on unrealistic assumptions about the number of clients sex workers see.

PROUD considers the whole WRP as a dangerous and harmful law. The law forces sex workers to work for an operator without employee rights and legalises police raids on the homes of sex workers. *"The biggest pain point is the criminalisation of sex workers without a permit. Do we really want to send prostitutes to prison?"* said Mariska Majoor, PROUD President.

PROUD calls on all Members of Parliament to speak out against the WRP. PROUD also calls on sex workers and allies to take action against this law by sending letters to Members of Parliament.

NSWP Statement on PEPFAR Releasing COP Guidance 2016 on World AIDS Day with Anti-Prostitution Loyalty Oath

PEPFAR released their Country Operational Plan (COP) Guidance for 2016 today in commemoration of World AIDS Day.

NSWP is disappointed the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) will continue forcing donor recipients to sign the 'anti-prostitution loyalty oath'.

NSWP will continue to oppose PEPFAR's 'anti-prostitution loyalty oath' as it is detrimental to the health and wellbeing of sex workers globally. It also undermines the minimum standards of programming implementation and development outlined in the **SWIT** for low, middle, and high-income countries.

From 16 to 19 November 2015, PEPFAR conducted an online consultation with civil society about their draft guidance. NSWP submitted the following:

The Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) exists to uphold the voice of sex workers globally and connect regional networks advocating for the rights of female, male, and transgender sex workers. As a global network of 243 sex worker-led organisations from 72 countries NSWP advocates for rights based health and social services, freedom from abuse and discrimination, and self-determination for sex workers.

The COP Guidance 2016 includes the "anti-prostitution loyalty oath" (APLO) which undermines a rights based approach to HIV and sex work. The United States Supreme Court found PEPFAR's anti-prostitution policy unconstitutional in 2013. As an organisation that promotes human rights, USAID should not seek to impose the APLO on non-US organisations. It is an injustice to sex workers worldwide that inhibits their meaningful engagement in sex worker programmes.

PEPFAR's APLO undermines its mission to reduce HIV. It has been shown that HIV transmission globally could be reduced by 36-43% if sex work is decriminalised. PEPFAR acknowledges that stigma and discrimination are two of the biggest barriers to preventing HIV and accessing HIV treatment; however, the APLO perpetuates this stigma and discrimination against sex workers by prohibiting grant recipients from organising as workers and advocating for the decriminalisation of sex work, therefore creating significant barriers for sex worker led organisations becoming grant recipients.

UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNDP, WHO, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Global Network of People Living with HIV, Global Forum on MSM and HIV, International Women's Health Coalition, Association for Women in Development, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, Global Fund for Women, Elton John Foundation, International Community of Women Living with HIV all support the decriminalisation of sex work. WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, World Bank, UNDP and NSWP published guidance in 2013 on practical approaches for implementing comprehensive HIV/STI programmes with sex workers, otherwise known as the SWIT. This document focuses on community empowerment, rights based non-discriminatory HIV programmes; and also calls for the decriminalisation of sex work as fundamental to achieving the health of sex workers. NSWP urges PEPFAR to follow in the footsteps of these other internationally renowned organisations that support a rights based approach to sex work and see the decriminalisation of sex work as fundamental to HIV prevention and treatment."

NSWP will continue to monitor the effects of this harmful policy.

SWOP USA and other sex work activists joined in a campaign to end the oath – full story [here](#). Sex work filmmaker Carol Leigh has also created a 13 minute short film on PEPFAR's "anti-prostitution loyalty oath" called **Just Sign on the Dotted Line – The Anti-Prostitution Loyalty Oath**.

Sex Worker Leaders & NSWP Members

Also on our website you can view the latest featured [leaders' profiles](#) and [featured members](#).

Read the latest featured member article on Canadian organisation 'Butterfly - Asian and Migrant Sex Workers Support Network' [here](#).

Other headlines

[Stigmatising Health Services Harm Sex Workers in Zimbabwe](#)

[Criminalisation of Clients Rejected by French Senate](#)

[African Trans Sex Workers Speak on Life, Work and Activism](#)

[Attack on Uganda Trans Sex Work Activist Condemned](#)

[ASWA Mourns the Passing of Joel Nana](#)

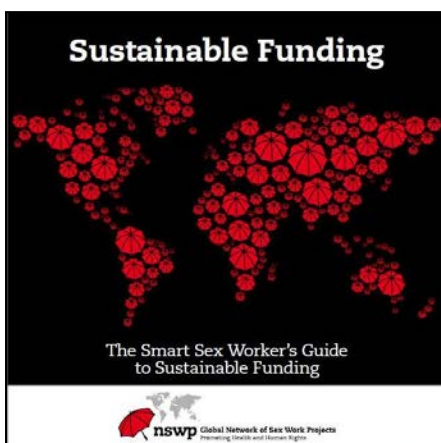
[Canada's New Justice Minister Moves to Review Anti-Sex Work Law](#)

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

Publications

NSWP has produced and published a large number of advocacy tools and other documents in the last quarter of 2015. Here is a summary of our most recent publications.

The Smart Sex Worker's Guide to Sustainable Funding



Around the world, sex workers are organising to improve protection of their rights, end exploitation and violence, access appropriate and respectful health care and build movements for lasting change.

The **Smart Sex Worker's Guide to Sustainable Funding** contains practical information on funding strategies for sex worker organisations. It discusses developing a funding strategy, applying for grants, financial management and

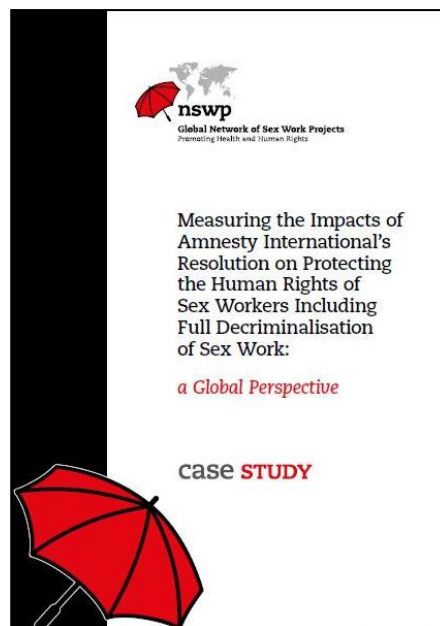
community-based fundraising.

Contents include:

- Developing a Funding Strategy
- Grants
- Core Funding and Project Funding
- Identifying Donors and Opportunities
- Educate Donors about the Intersections of Sex Work
- Applying for Funding
- Emergency Grants
- Community-Based Fundraising

You can download this 32-page PDF [here](#).

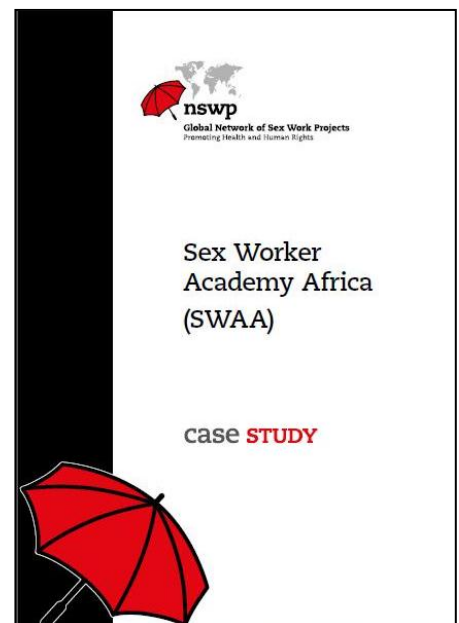
Measuring the Impacts of Amnesty International's Resolution on Protecting the Human Rights of Sex Workers



In August 2015, the International Council of **Amnesty International** **voted in favour** of a resolution to develop and adopt a policy that protects the human rights of sex workers, including full decriminalisation of all aspects of consensual sex work between adults. Amnesty International undertook a two-year internal consultation process to consider these issues and conducted four in-depth case studies before reaching this decision.

This case study reflects on the process towards Amnesty International's resolution, its impact so far and on the roles of NSWP and NSWP member organisations in this process. It also reflects briefly on the anti-sex work campaigns targeting sex worker organisations and Amnesty International.

Sex Worker Academy Africa Case Study

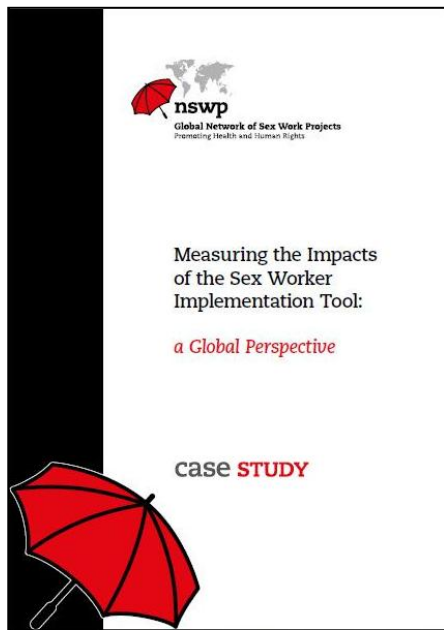


This case study reflects on the development and impact of the Sex Worker Academy Africa (SWAA).

The SWAA is a ground-breaking learning programme for community empowerment and capacity building, led by and for sex workers. The Academy brings together national teams of sex workers from across Africa to develop organising skills, learn best practices, stimulate national sex worker movements, and strengthen the regional network.

The Academy is an **African Sex Workers Alliance** (ASWA) initiative, implemented by **Kenya Sex Workers Alliance** (KESWA). NSWP supported the concept of South-South learning and capacity building.

SWIT Case Study



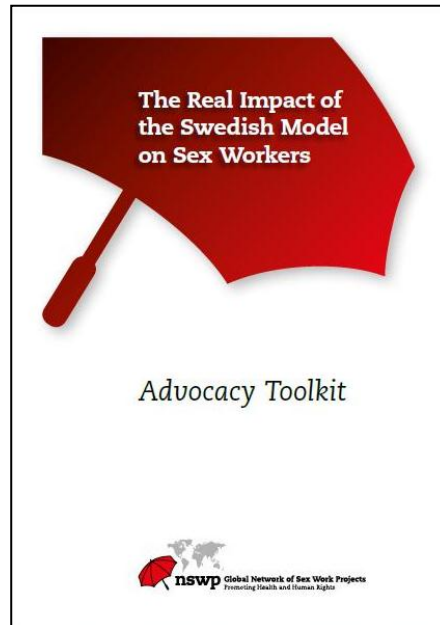
This case study reflects on the development and impact of the Sex Worker Implementation Tool (SWIT), and NSWP's role in this process.

The SWIT resource provides practical guidance for implementing effective HIV and STI programmes for sex workers. It emphasises the importance of the decriminalisation of sex work, the involvement of sex workers in developing policy, and the empowerment and self-determination of sex working communities as a fundamental part of the fight against HIV.

The SWIT was produced in 2013 by the World Health Organization in collaboration with UNFPA, UNAIDS, NSWP, The World Bank and UNDP.

An accessible 24-page **Smart Sex Worker's Guide to SWIT** is also available, as featured in **Issue 13 of this Digest**.

Advocacy Toolkit: The Real Impact of the Swedish Model on Sex Workers



This updated Advocacy Toolkit is a collection of eight evidence-based fact sheets and advocacy tools on the harmful Swedish model. It can be used to challenge the widespread promotion of this detrimental legal and political approach to the regulation of sex work.

The first four papers document the impact of the Swedish model on the lives of sex workers in Sweden. The final four papers highlight how criminalisation violates sex workers' human rights.

SWEDEN'S ABOLITIONIST UNDERSTANDING, AND MODES OF SILENCING OPPOSITION

The first paper discusses the generalising views about sex workers and sex work that are used to justify the Swedish model. The paper also explores how the voices of sex workers are excluded from the debate in Sweden and internationally: tools that are referred to as 'modes of silencing'.

IMPACTS OF THE SEX PURCHASE LAW: STREET-BASED SEX WORK AND LEVELS OF SEX WORK

The second paper discusses the direct outcomes of the law. It

explains that the law does not decrease levels of sex work, and has had negative impacts on the safety, health and wellbeing of sex workers.

IMPACTS OF THE SWEDISH MODEL'S JUSTIFYING DISCOURSES ON SERVICE PROVISION

The third paper focuses on the indirect outcomes of the law. The views that justify the law have affected the perspectives of service providers (particularly social workers). These perspectives have impacted service provision and harm reduction for sex workers.

IMPACTS OF OTHER LEGISLATION AND POLICY – THE DANGER OF SEEING THE SWEDISH MODEL IN A VACUUM

The fourth paper concentrates on laws and policies other than the Swedish model itself. It describes how these are used by the Swedish state and the police to directly destabilise the lives of sex workers in Sweden.

RIGHT TO WORK AND OTHER WORK-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS

The fifth paper focuses on the work-related human rights protections that all people have. It discusses how criminalisation and other factors undermine sex workers' ability to benefit from these protections. Some recommendations towards better practice are also included.

SEX WORK AND THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

The sixth paper describes the human right to health that all people have. It analyses the challenges sex workers face in realising their right to health, and makes recommendations for enhancing sex workers' right to health.

SEX WORK AND ARBITRARY INTERFERENCE WITH FAMILIES

The seventh paper describes human rights law related to parental rights. It highlights standards relevant to the rights of sex workers as parents. Secondly, it explains ways in which these rights are violated. Some remedies for these violations are also suggested.

SEX WORK AND VIOLENCE: OBLIGATIONS OF THE STATE

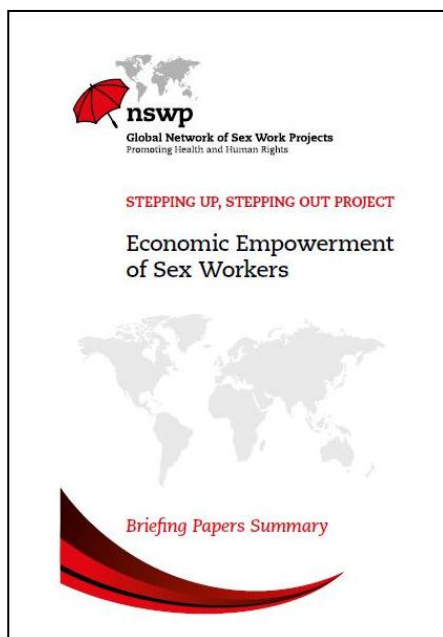
The murder of Petite Jasmine in Sweden, a terrible outcome of the stigma and related abuse caused by the Swedish model, prompted the production of this series of papers on sex work and human rights, including the right of sex workers to be protected from violence. This final

paper highlights that where there is criminalisation of sex work – including criminalisation of third parties such as clients – violence against sex workers will, and does, flourish. This paper explains that violence and related abuse against sex workers are a violation of fundamental human rights and suggests some ways to use human rights norms to address this widespread abuse.

You can download this resource as a single 75 page PDF or download each as an individual article [here](#).

NSWP has also produced this handy **Community Guide** which is a 13-page summary of the full toolkit.

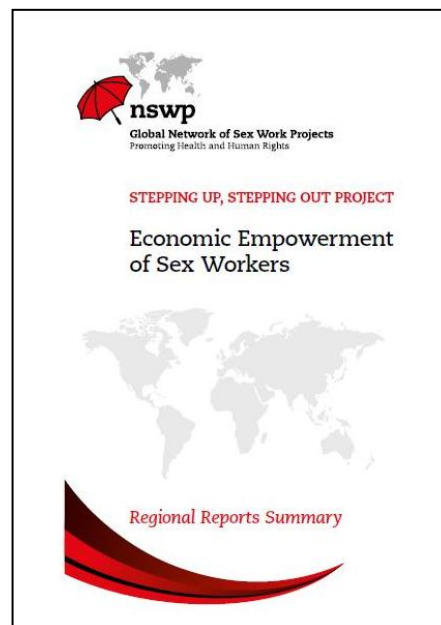
Summary: Economic Empowerment Briefing Papers



This **6-page report** summarises the findings of the **Economic Empowerment: Does Rehabilitation Have a Role?** briefing paper and the **Overcoming Practices that Limit Sex Worker Agency in the Asia Pacific Region** briefing paper.

In this summary, NSWP reflects on the impact of economic empowerment programmes for sex workers.

Summary: Economic Empowerment Regional Reports



This is a **7-page summary** of the **Asia and the Pacific regional report** on economic and social empowerment and the **Africa regional report** on economic empowerment programmes for sex workers. In this summary, NSWP reflects on best practices for the economic empowerment of sex workers, focusing on elements of successful economic empowerment programmes and describing lessons learnt from programmes that fail.

NSWP Strategic Plan 2016-2020



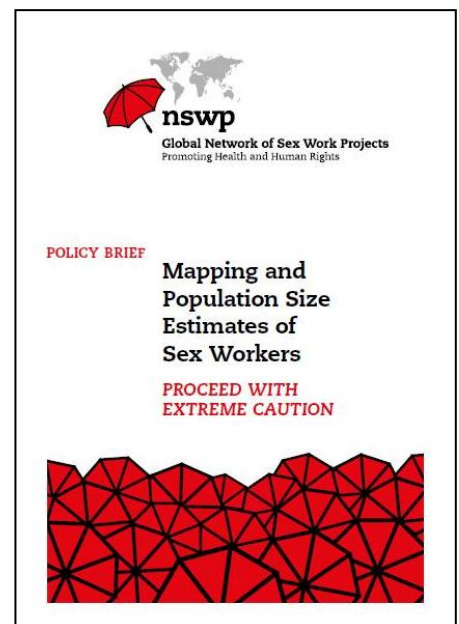
NSWP have also published our Strategic Plan for 2016-2020. The **Strategic Plan** outlines the mission, values, goals and strategies of the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) in 2016-2020. What does NSWP do, and why? The Strategic Plan describes it in detail.

The Strategic Plan is the result of an extensive consultation among NSWP's members and other stakeholders. It was informed by the **NSWP Strategic Review** which undertook a review of the previous two strategic plans of NSWP. The review was led by an independent consultant. It used five research methods: a survey of all NSWP members, consultation with selected members, in-depth interviews with key stakeholders, a focus group discussion with staff and a literature review.

This **review** is useful to sex workers and sex workers' rights organisations because it showcases key messages about NSWP's strengths, weaknesses and lessons in 2010-15.

A 10 page PDF **Summary Report** is also available.

Mapping and Population Size Estimates of Sex Workers: Proceed with Extreme Caution



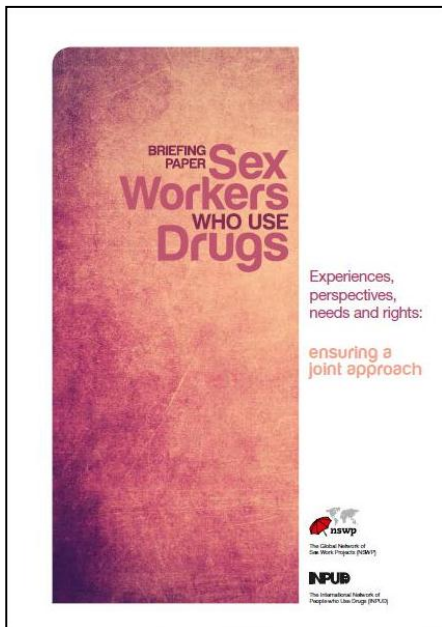
This **policy brief** is an overview and critique of mapping, population size estimates and unique identifier codes and how they are used. The practices of mapping the places where sex workers live and work, and creating population size estimates, are becoming more routine. Some of the threats associated with these practices, and the strategies that are

used to keep people safe and data confidential and secure, are discussed.

A 5-page **Community Guide** is also available.

This policy brief can be used by community-based organisations, programmers and epidemiologists, sex-worker led organisations and other researchers to study different mapping methods and their risks, as well as to improve their own research practices.

Sex Workers Who Use Drugs: Ensuring a Joint Approach



The International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) and the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) have written a joint **briefing paper** focussing on the experiences, views, needs, and rights of sex workers who use drugs.

The **Briefing Paper** discusses existing research and writing, and also includes case studies from sex worker-led and drug user-led organisations on the perspectives and experiences of sex workers who use drugs, and on how best to meet the needs of this community.

Double Criminalisation, Stigma, and Discrimination

Sex workers who use drugs face double criminalisation as a result of their drug use and sex work. They also face double stigma, discrimination, social exclusion, and

violence, due to both drug-userphobia and sex-workerphobia. Sex workers who use drugs face stigma, discrimination, and violence from the police, health and social care providers, as well as from the community, and their families.

The needs of sex workers who use drugs are often ignored and sidelined in the provision of health and social care and harm reduction services, and as a consequence appropriate and, comprehensive services tailored to their needs are rare. In addition, they also face considerable barriers to accessing the small number of services that are available. These barriers include criminalisation, discrimination, social exclusion, and risks of violence, all driving transmission of blood-borne and sexually transmitted infections, notably HIV and hepatitis C. In short, the human rights of sex workers who use drugs to the highest attainable standard of health, as well as their right to be free from violence and discrimination, are frequently violated.

Good Practice Recommendations – Nothing About Us, Without Us

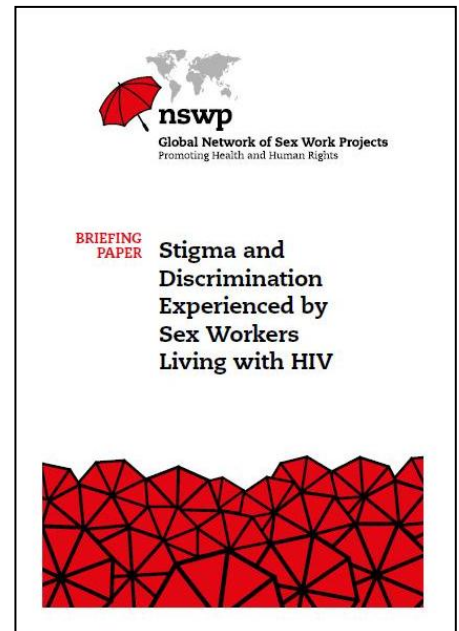
Sex workers who use drugs are often seen to be incapable of making decisions about their own lives and wellbeing, and this is used to justify their exclusion from the formation of policy and law that relates to them. As a result, their specific needs are often overlooked in policy development and programme design.

Harm reduction programmes, healthcare services, and policy related to sex workers who use drugs can be counterproductive, insufficient, and harmful when created without the meaningful involvement of sex workers who use drugs themselves. NSWSP and INPUD's **joint briefing paper** sets out good practice recommendations, emphasising that sex workers who use drugs **are experts on their own lives and on what services, laws, and policies they require**. As is noted in the document,

“The principle of ‘nothing about us without us’ should be fundamental in developing policies and programmes, and in service provision, ensuring the visibility and engagement of sex workers who use drugs.”

A 6 page **Community Guide** is also available.

Stigma and Discrimination Experienced by Sex Workers Living with HIV



NSWP has published the **'Stigma and Discrimination Experienced by Sex Workers Living with HIV'** briefing paper.

A 7-page **Community Guide** is also available.

The publications look at the different types of stigma and discrimination experienced by sex workers living with HIV globally. People living at the intersections of marginalised populations face unique challenges and barriers to realising their human rights and full participation within their communities. Sex workers living with HIV are at increased risk of violence, criminalisation and vulnerability to other infections, such as tuberculosis and hepatitis.

This briefing paper provides recommendations for policies and practices which respect their human rights. It uses case studies that highlight the experiences of sex workers living with HIV and the efforts required to meet their needs, and advocate for their rights.

The Global Fund Workshop Case Study



NSWP has published a **case study on the 2015 workshops on The Global Fund**.

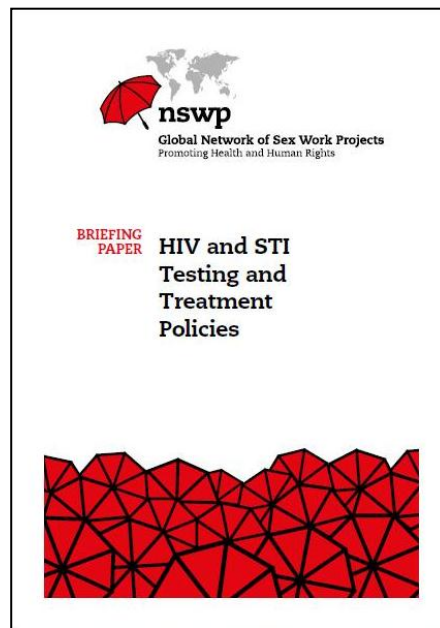
The Global Fund workshops are a series of five-day workshops which took place in 2015, organised by NSWP in partnership with regional sex worker-led networks.

The Global Fund is one of the world's largest funders for providing testing, treatment and care for people living with HIV.

The workshops are designed to provide sex worker communities with essential information for understanding The Global Fund.

This **case study** describes the goals, strategies and impact of the workshops.

HIV and STI Testing and Treatment Policies



This **briefing paper** explores sex workers' experiences of HIV and STI testing and treatment programmes from a global perspective.

Sex workers are twelve times more likely to be living with HIV than the general population, and yet sex workers are rarely included in the development and implementation of programming and programming that does exist often violates the rights of sex workers.

Through case studies and interviews, this briefing paper demonstrates there is a need for greater investment in appropriate, high-quality, rights-based services, and research led by sex workers in order to meet the specific needs of this population.

The paper covers topics including mandatory and coercive testing and treatment, periodic presumptive treatment and access to prevention, commodities and treatment.

NSWP publications in various languages

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

For example be sure to check the website for translations of briefing papers as they become available in *Chinese*, *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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