

SEX WORKERS

AT THE 22ND

INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

AMSTERDAM, JULY 2018



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Summary

Between 23 and 27 July 2018, more than 120 sex workers from more than 25 countries attended the [22nd International AIDS Conference](#) (AIDS 2018) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The bi-annual International AIDS Conferences are the largest global gathering of HIV academics, implementers, policy makers, people living with HIV and those most affected by HIV, including sex workers.

Whilst IAC started in 1985, the first substantive action by sex workers, organised by NSWAP, took place during the VIII IAC in Amsterdam where NSWAP was formally launched. Since then, sex workers have played an important role in these Conferences.

This report presents the key activities led by or including sex workers at AIDS2018 and explore some of the key thematic issues of the conference. It also includes recommendations to the International AIDS Society (IAS), policy makers and donors for a greater and more meaningful inclusion of sex workers at IACs.

The theme of the 2018 Conference 'Breaking barriers, building bridges' and its focus on HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia were welcome by the sex worker movement. However, concerns were raised - as they had been raised at previous Conferences - about the tokenistic inclusion of sex workers in the official programme: lack of scholarships granted for sex worker activists, limited number of sex worker-led abstracts approved, high costs for participation, which all led to greatly limited sex worker presence. Furthermore, the decision by International AIDS Society to hold its next conference in San Francisco, United States - where a travel ban on sex workers and people who use drugs will, de facto, deny participation of two of the key populations - contributed to the realisation that slogans such as 'Nobody Left Behind' are still empty words for many HIV and public health professionals.

"Hosting the AID2020 conference in the US - which still has a travel ban on drug users and sex workers as well as several specific countries - counters all pretence that the International AIDS Society considers sex works and drug users as crucial partners in the fight against HIV"

Sex worker participant of the demonstration at the Flame of Inclusion ceremony

"No AIDS Conference in Trump's America!"

Slogan of sex worker activists used at their protests at AIDS2018

Sex workers also expressed concerns about the increasing focus on biomedical interventions such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a daily or event-based pill that can help prevent HIV. Whilst sex workers have diverse opinion on using PrEP and call for more (peer-led and collaborative) research on this prevention tool, there is strong evidence that decriminalisation of sex work would have the greatest impact on reducing new HIV infections in the sex worker community and amongst our clients.

'Impact of punitive laws, policies and practices on sex workers' vulnerability to HIV and respect of their human rights' was the key theme selected by the Sex Worker Organising Committee (see below) which coordinated the Sex Worker Networking Zone with a daily programme of activities, along with a workshop, a Satellite session, the Sex Worker March and No Pants, No Problem Party. These activities were made possible thanks to a grant from the Aidsfonds Pitch Programme and financial support from UNFPA and Bridging the Gaps Programme through NSWP.

About the Sex Worker Organising Committee

The Sex Worker Organising Committee included national (PROUD), regional (ICRSE and SWAN) and global sex worker-led organisations (NSWP).

PROUD - Dutch Union of Sex Workers

PROUD is sex worker-led association with an exclusive (former) sex worker membership. PROUD maps the needs of sex workers through fieldwork, advocates for rights-based and evidence-based sex work policy on a local and national level and assists individual sex workers who face work and stigma related problems with practical and legal support.

International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe (ICRSE)

International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe (ICRSE) is a network of 104 organisations in 31 countries from Europe and Central Asia and their allies that work together to support the development of national and international law, policy and practice, which respect and uphold the human and labour rights of sex workers throughout Europe and Central Asia.

Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network (SWAN)

The **Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network (SWAN)** is a network of civil society organisations and sex worker led groups and organisations engaged in advocating for human rights of the sex workers in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. SWAN started in 2006 as a project within the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (**HCLU/TASZ**) and in 2012 became an independent organisation with its headquarters in Budapest, Hungary.

Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP)

The **Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP)** is a membership organisation. NSWP **members** are local, national or regional sex worker-led organisations and networks across five regions: **Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America and the Caribbean**. 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.

About Aidsfonds Sex Work

Aidsfonds' vision is the end of AIDS in a world where all people affected by HIV and STIs access prevention, treatment, care and support. The different departments focus on different key populations. The Aidsfonds' sex work programme aims to ensure that every sex worker has access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Aidsfonds Sex work programme coordinates activities across all programs to safeguard that lobby & advocacy for sex workers' takes place. Aidsfonds SW holds worldwide technical experience across various countries including Africa, Eastern-Europe and Central Asia.

Overview of Activities and Thematic Issues

Sex Worker Pre-Conference

On 22 July, 88 sex workers and activist from 27 countries came together during a one-day pre-meeting to network and discuss the sex work roadmap for the week of the conference ahead: key themes and priorities to highlight during the event. After the round of introductions, the key events on sex workers' rights were identified and action plans were decided upon by the group, building on a joint sex worker community analysis of core issues and topics of the conference.

The pre-meeting ended with banner-making sessions, which were later used in the Sex Worker Networking Zone and actions organised by sex workers during the conference, such as the Sex Workers' March and interventions during conference sessions.





Criminalisation of sex work

One of the most important and overarching issues sex workers highlighted at AIDS2018 was the criminalisation of sex work and the impact of punitive laws, policies and practices on the health of sex workers worldwide. While there is a global consensus on the importance of sex work decriminalisation among UN agencies, human rights NGOs, sex worker-led organisations and in the HIV world, the overwhelming majority of states continue to directly criminalise sex workers or penalise them in accordance with administrative laws, outlawing soliciting or advertising, penalise their clients through 'end demand' models, and punish third parties by penalising those who facilitate or profit from sex workers' labour.

'End Demand' legislation ranges from national criminal laws, which can lead to imprisonment, to city laws, which fine or ban individuals from certain areas for a period of time for soliciting or paying for sex; from purchasing sex anywhere in the world to purchasing sexual services in public places, not in licensed brothels or within designated 'prostitution-free' areas. 'End Demand' laws are often accompanied by laws criminalising third parties"

Criminalisation is a primary cause of sex workers' vulnerability to HIV. In a criminalised and penalised environment, sex workers are unlikely to report violence, or to be taken seriously when they do, which creates a culture of impunity for law enforcement and civilian offenders alike. During policing, harassment and violence is commonplace, and confiscation of condoms and denial of medication in detention increase vulnerability to HIV.

FOSTA/SESTA

Sex workers from the US highlighted numerous times in the official Conference and Global Village programme a new type of criminalisation of their work. In April 2018, the President of the US signed into law two Bills which have already been proven to impact sex workers both in the US and globally. The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA) and Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA) are anti-trafficking laws that criminalise online platforms used by sex workers for advertising and information sharing, including for safety purposes. They impede sex workers' livelihoods and economic security, increase their vulnerability to abusive practices, violence, unsafe work environments and HIV/AIDS, and do not address trafficking and labour exploitation.

PrEP

While HIV prevention efforts among sex workers have traditionally focused on condoms, there is an increasing emphasis on a range of emerging biomedical methods of HIV prevention. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is the use of anti-retroviral HIV medicines (ARVs) by people who do not have HIV to prevent the transmission of HIV.

Although the questions of PrEP promotion for sex workers are complex and wide-ranging, sex workers and their organisations are rarely consulted in discussions around this intervention, which was confirmed by many sex worker attendees at IAC 2018. Furthermore, several activists reiterated that the heavy focus on PrEP is not matched by a strong call for decriminalisation of sex work in the HIV world. Many also fear that funding towards biomedical approaches results in decreased financial support for community mobilisation and advocacy for sex work decriminalisation. Furthermore, limited attention is paid to the long-term side effects of PrEP and sex workers' concerns about condom use. See more about the sex worker community's opinion on PrEP in [NSWP's Briefing Paper on PrEP](#)

Stigma and discrimination

Sex worker attendees all confirmed that there is widespread and persistent stigma and discrimination against sex workers, especially sex workers of colour, (undocumented) migrant and trans sex workers in healthcare and HIV/AIDS services across the world. These trends were reproduced by the AIDS2018 as well, where sex workers often felt that they were not meaningfully included despite acknowledged as a key population.



Sex Workers at the Main Conference

Despite on-going and vocal advocacy by sex workers about meaningful involvement of sex workers during the International AIDS Conferences, AIDS 2018 sessions that included sex worker speakers or focussed on a rights-affirming approach to sex work and HIV remained very limited, with only one satellite session and one workshop led by sex workers from across the world.

Sex workers however made our presence felt throughout the 5 days of the main conference, by engaging in various sessions and organising direct actions several times.

Opening Speech by Dinah de Riquet-Bons

Dinah, the Co-Chair of Transgender Europe, Board Member of ICRSE and Board Member of PROUD delivered a powerful welcome speech at the conference opening, taking place on the first day. Dinah emphasised that the inclusion of sex workers, especially those most affected by violence, poverty and HIV/AIDS should be centred in the response to HIV and AIDS with meaningful measures.



Photo: Matthijs Immink/IAS

"I received my HIV diagnosis in 1991 in New York on a hot summer day at the piers near Christopher street. I can hardly describe what an affect my HIV diagnosis had on me at age 21, knowing there was no future for people living with HIV and AIDS back then. The only perspective was getting sick, deteriorating, and dying painfully with no treatment and no cure.

From that moment onwards I learned about society's stigma, exclusion, discrimination, anger, hate and fear towards those living with HIV and AIDS. I saw my communities fighting day by day with no hope. We lived without a notion of tomorrow or the future.

Now see me at the age of 48, standing here in front of you as a proud trans woman of colour, a long-term survivor, an HIV and trans sex work activist. It's an enormous honour and an important momentum for me, and all the communities I represent, to welcome you all here. [...]

Transgender sex workers are fighting every day to survive poverty, violence, homelessness, joblessness and bad access to healthcare. We face exclusion, discrimination and racism at all levels of society. We are highly affected by power structures that do not include us. We must work way harder to achieve a good quality of life and equal access to healthcare.

How can we stop HIV and AIDS and fight such inequality which, at the end of the day, affects us all?

How do we end the disproportionate suffering of over-represented groups in key populations affected by HIV and AIDS?

These are questions to which people from my community have valid answers, yet we are not invited to contribute our knowledge and experience when decisions are made on what could and should be done to end the epidemic. To those of you in positions of power, I say: Build bridges to those groups that are made invisible by society because of fear, of phobia and stigma, discrimination and racism.

Trans sex workers, especially black and those of colour living with HIV, are the most stigmatised, discriminated people worldwide and experience the highest rates of murder and suicide.

But, we, people living with HIV, are not here as a window dressing. Building bridges means sitting at the table when decisions are being made, it means giving us a voice and inviting us to reflect when making policies on sex work, on human trafficking and on STI and HIV prevention."

Satellite Session

The first day of the conference, the Sex Worker Organising Committee hosted a satellite on punitive laws, policies and practices on sex workers' vulnerability to HIV and respect of their human rights. Six sex workers from Cameroon, India, France, Greece, Mexico and the USA spoke about their experiences of sex work-related laws in their countries in a session chaired by Luca Stevenson, ICRSE Coordinator. The panel covered a range of legal models and types of law enforcement used against sex workers.

Manjula Ramaiah from [ASHODAYA](#) spoke about the harm sex workers face from brothel raids and closures in India, highlighting that these are not the solution to poor working conditions.

Kelli Dorsey from [St James Infirmary](#) shared news on [FOSTA-SESTA](#), introduced in the USA earlier this year. She presented data from new research showing the harms already experienced by sex workers in the country.

SPEAKERS:
Manjula Ramaiah, [ASHODAYA](#), India (brothel closures and raids)
Kelli Dorsey, [St James Infirmary](#), United States (new anti-trafficking laws in USA)
Patrick Francois Waffo Lele, [Avenir Jeune de l'Ouest](#), Cameroon (criminalisation of same sex practices and male sex workers)
Cynthia Navarette, [APROASE](#), Mexico (criminalisation of third parties and conflation of sex work and trafficking in legislation)
Anna Kouroukou, [Red Umbrella Athens](#), Greece (criminalisation of trans and migrant sex workers)
Thierry Schaffauser, [STRASS](#), French Union of Sex Workers, France (criminalisation of clients and resisting 'abolition')

IMPACT OF PUNITIVE LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES ON SEX WORKERS' VULNERABILITY TO HIV AND RESPECT OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS

JOIN SIX SEX WORKER SPEAKERS TO DISCUSS CURRENT LEGAL FRAMEWORKS REGARDING SEX WORK IN THEIR COUNTRIES

**MONDAY 23rd JULY
14:45 - 16:45
HALL 11B**

#SexWorkersAtAIDS2018

supported by [proud](#) [ICRSE](#) [SWAN](#) [nswp](#) [aidsfonds](#) [PITCH](#)



Cynthia Navarette from [APROASE](#) spoke about the laws in Mexico, which criminalise third parties and conflate sex work and trafficking:

“The law to prevent human trafficking was passed in 2007. But this law is being used against sex workers. We are victims of this law, not victims of sex work. It is important to understand the difference between trafficking and sex work.”

Patrick Francois Waffo Lele from [Avenir Jeune de l’Ouest](#) spoke about the criminalisation of homosexuality in Cameroon, its effect on male sex workers in the country as well as the recent raids and arrests his organisation faced.

“You can’t stop HIV without supporting solidarity and organising of sex workers!”

Thierry Schaffauser from [STRASS Syndicat](#) also spoke about harms of the criminalisation of sex workers’ clients and third parties, presenting the recent [evidence](#) gathered by Medecins du Monde, France:

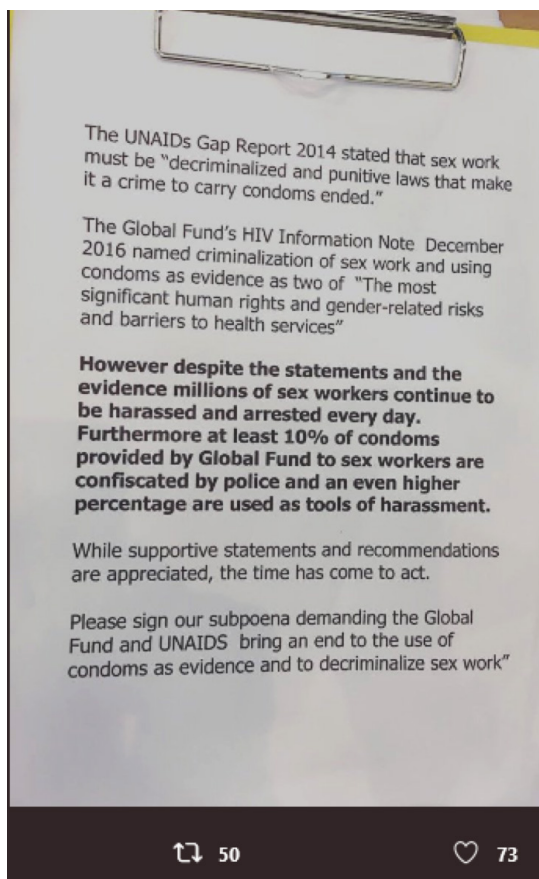
“There is a dramatic increase in violence against sex workers as well as new STI infections since the law change. The Swedish model pushes us to work in more isolated areas”.

Anna Kouroupou from [Red Umbrella Athens](#) spoke about the punitive laws in Greece, which has a ‘legalised’ model for sex work. Under these laws, sex workers are forced to undergo mandatory health checks every 15 days and are not allowed to marry.



Red Umbrella Athens shared videos of the speakers on their Facebook page, which [you can view here](#)

Creative Action by EMPOWER, Thailand



Funded by PITCH [Empower Foundation](#) has been present throughout the Conference carrying out arrests on delegates to protest the 'condoms as evidence' policies used by many countries. During the Conference, they have carried out arrests on 160 delegates, and closed eight booths in the Global Village 'suspected of promoting prostitution' and seized over 1000 condoms.

220 people signed a subpoena, [demanding the Global Fund and UNAIDS bring an end to the use of condoms as evidence and to decriminalise sex work.](#)



Abstract Session on harms of criminalisation of sex work

On 26 July, 'Creating danger: Impact of end-demand laws and policing of sex work' presented research from Canada, France, the Netherlands, United States of America, and Zambia on the harmful impact of criminalisation of sex work. The session was co-chaired by Ruth Morgan Thomas, NSWP Global Coordinator and included new research from PROUD and Aidsfonds on violence against sex workers in the Netherlands. A video of the session can be watched [here](#).

Sex Worker Participation in the Press Conference on 'End Demand' Models



On 26 July, a press conference raised concerns about the effect of 'end demand' policies on sex workers' access to health and HIV services. Two studies - from Canada and France - were discussed, showing that 'end demand' approaches 'may exacerbate barriers to healthcare' and lead to decreases in condom use. Duduzile Dlamini of the Sisonke sex workers movement, Loveness Bowa Gunda of YONECO and O'Cindy Cynthia Samuels of the [Guyana Sex Work Coalition](#) also spoke at the press conference.

Linda-Gail Bekker, President of the International AIDS Society and International Chair of AIDS 2018, said. "If 'end demand' laws create new barriers to HIV prevention and care, that is a very significant concern."

Award to Duduzile Dlamini



Photo: Steve Forrest/IAS

Duduzile Dlamini from [Sisonke South Africa](#), sex workers' rights champion was awarded the inaugural [Prudence Mabele Prize](#). The award is named in honour of the life and work of Prudence Mabele, women's and HIV rights activist and the first black woman in South Africa to publicly reveal that she was living with HIV.

Speech of O'Cindy Cynthia Samuels

O'Cindy from the Guyana Sex Work Coalition spoke in the 'Building bridges for the next generation' session on the last day of the conference and highlighted that:

"Framing all sex work as sexual exploitation, trafficking or violence against women destroys self-determination of sex workers. The stigma violates human rights and impedes the #HIV response."



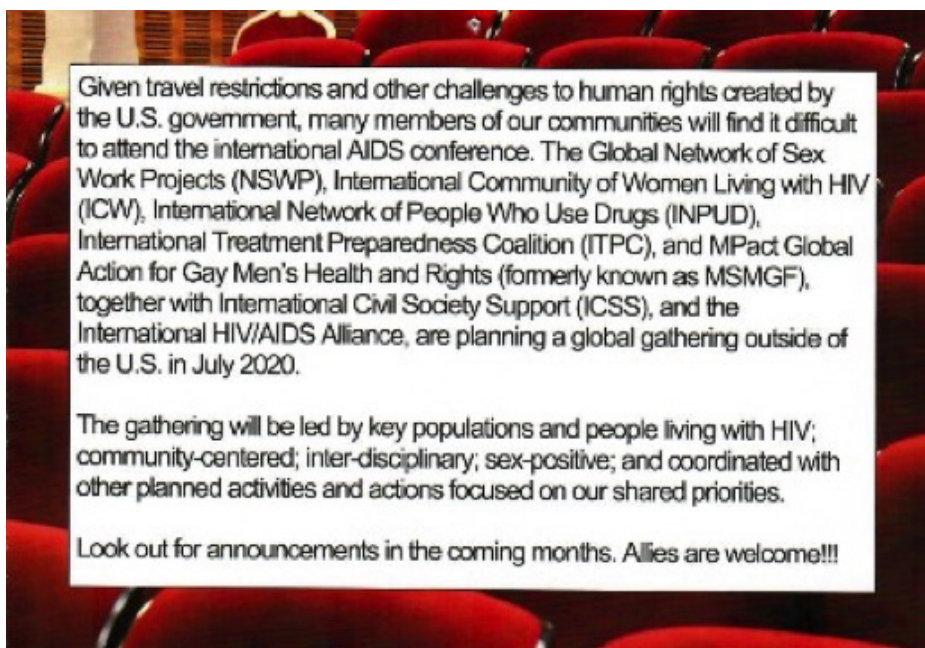
Photo: Matthijs Immink/IAS

Disruption of Bill Clinton's Address on the Last Day of the Conference

On the last day of the conference, the former President of the USA was giving the closing speech when sex worker activists interrupted his address, walking down the central aisle of the conference hall with red umbrellas.



The activists were demanding the decriminalisation of sex workers and people who use drugs and calling for AIDS 2020 not to be held in the US. The activists took turns to ask the former statesman when he would back decriminalising sex work and drug use, and whether he thought San Francisco was an appropriate location for the 2020 conference. Flyers calling for a change of location were also inserted in the delegates' bags.





In the Global Village

Sex Worker Networking Zone

Day 1 (23/07/2018)

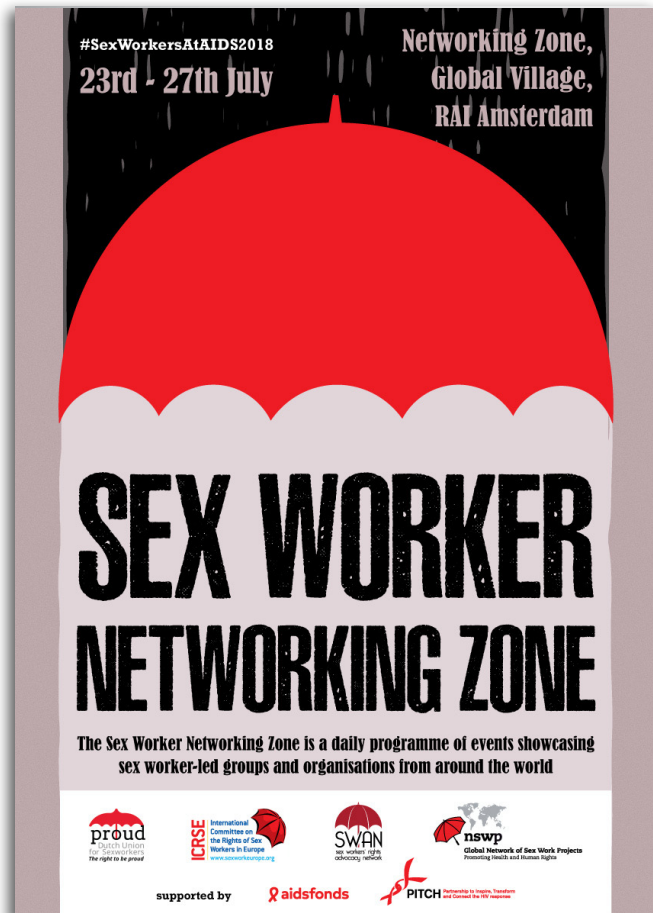
■ The programme of the Sex Worker Networking Zone began with a session introducing the global and regional networks, with presentations from **NSWP**, **APNSW**, **ASWA**, **CSWC**, **ICRSE**, **SWAN** and **PLAPERTS**.

Day 2 (24/07/2018)

■ **PROUD** began the day's Sex Worker Networking Zone activities with a discussion on proposed changes to legislation in the Netherlands, which will increase the criminalisation of clients and third parties. Members of PROUD shared that, following a public consultation where feedback on the proposals was very negative, they have managed to secure their participation in future discussions on changes to the law.

■ **STRASS Syndicat** performed 'Our Crossings are Stronger than your Borders'. The creative performance covered sex work, criminalisation and political resistance.

■ In the final Sex Worker Networking Zone session of the day, **APNSW** presented Sex Work, Rights and Sex Worker's Fights in the Asia Pacific. **OPSI** Indonesia shared that government policy in Indonesia has led to increased raids and policing of sex work, and **Empower Foundation** shared their experiences of law enforcement in Thailand: "across the Asia Pacific, our two main problems are police and stigma".





Day 3 (25/07/2018)

- **Best Practices Policy Project** opened the Sex Worker Networking Zone activities with a session dedicated to the life and work of Sharmus Outlaw, a sex worker activist who passed away in 2016.
- Organisers and participants from the **Sex Workers Academy Africa** gave a talk on the project and its successes, providing groundbreaking peer-led capacity building and community empowerment. Read more about the latest SWAA [here](#).
- Betania Santos and Lourdes Barreto presented on sex worker organising in Brazil.
- In the final session of the day, **Red Umbrella Fund** presented on their work funding sex work projects around the world, and explained the current call for proposals. The audience also heard from past grantees on their experiences of applying and working with the Fund.

Day 4 (26/07/2018)

- **Legalife Ukraine** opened the Sex Worker Networking Zone with a screening of 'The Job', a film produced earlier this year with support from Open Society Foundations and in partnership with ICRSE. The film tells the story of three sex workers and highlights the need for decriminalisation of sex work in Ukraine.
- **Sex Workers Outreach Project** presented on the negative impact of **FOSTA-SESTA** on sex workers' vulnerability to HIV. Since the law was proposed, sex workers have been seeing websites they use for advertising and safety being closed down, with the effects being **felt most by migrant sex workers and sex workers of colour**. They also discussed a national day of action organised for 1 June, which involved sex workers contacting their representatives to discuss the effects of the law.
- Finally, **Scarlet Alliance** and **SWOP NSW** led a discussion on the role of sex worker advocacy in 23 years of decriminalisation of sex work in New South Wales.

Protest by Sex workers and Allies at the Positive Flame Ceremony



On 26 July, sex workers and allies protested at the AIDS2018 Positive Flame ceremony, challenging the decision to host AIDS2020 in San Francisco and Oakland that means that sex workers, people who use drugs, and activists from Venezuela, Yemen, Libya, Syria, Somalia North Korea and Iran currently banned by the Trump administration will be excluded. Key populations and people living with HIV called for AIDS 2020 to be moved from the USA through [#AIDS2020ForAll](#) - you can [sign the petition here](#). In the meantime, NSWP, MPACT, INPUD, ITPC and other allies are preparing for an alternative community-led event to be held in Mexico in July 2020.



Workshop on the Impact of Punitive Laws

On 25 July, PROUD, ICRSE, SWAN and NSWP hosted a workshop entitled 'The impact of punitive laws, policies and practices on sex workers' vulnerability to HIV' in the Global Village. A panel of speakers presented on the legal frameworks for sex work in their countries (Australia, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya and Malawi) and the group then discussed their own experiences of punitive laws and legal frameworks and how this sex workers' health including their vulnerability to HIV.



Session on Media Representation of Sex Workers

On 24 July, PJ Starr and Monica Jones (The Outlaw Project, [Best Practices Policy Project](#)) presented on media representations of sex workers and HIV. The session was called 'Display the red umbrella' and encouraged participants to consider new media representation that shares accurate information about sex workers and takes a rights-based approach to sex work.

Trans Sex Workers Workshop



On 26 July, the Sex Worker Organising Committee and [IRGT](#) coordinated a workshop by and for trans sex workers from across the world in the Trans Networking Zone to talk about their concerns and strategise about cross-border solidarity.

Sex Workers' March

On 24 July, PROUD organised the sex workers' march, which left from the Global Village and marched to the Red Light District in Central Amsterdam. Hundreds of sex workers joined the march to call for respect for their human rights and the decriminalisation of sex work. At the Oudekerksplein, PROUD presented the Dutch Director of Municipality Healthcare and City Council member with a manifesto for a model legislation for sex work in the Netherlands.



Celebrating NSWP's 26th Anniversary

No Pants No Problem, a community driven event which started in Montreal in 2004 hosted a party - including DJ sets, kissing competition and performance - in celebration of NSWP and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network's 26th anniversaries.

Thank you No Pants No Problem and Jessica Whitbread for the support and solidarity!



AIDS2018 in Social Media

[#SexWorkersatAIDS2018](#)

 **ICRSE**
@sexworkeurope

We are at the Sex Workers Pre Meeting for #IAC2018. Many amazing activists here to discuss the road map for the next week and plan our actions. #SexWorkersatAIDS2018 pic.twitter.com/y0KCQUbSnB

1:09 PM - Jul 22, 2018

13 retweets 46 likes

 **SWARM**
@SexWorkHive

Amazing day of networking and making signs at the Sex Workers Pre Meeting for the International AIDS Conference - #IAC2018. #SexWorkersatAIDS2018 #AIDS2018 #IAC2018 pic.twitter.com/YrdBAHQj1

8:08 PM - Jul 22, 2018

2 retweets 33 retweets 94 likes

 **Scarlet Alliance**
@scarletalliance

Excellent @sexworkeurope @nswp @SWAN_Network #sexworker panel on the punitive laws, policies and practices that pose barriers to HIV prevention and create human rights violations for sex workers globally. #sexworkersataids2018 #AIDS2018 pic.twitter.com/ui3VbnK9sN

4:20 PM - Jul 23, 2018

1 retweet 8 retweets 8 likes

 **SWAN**
@SWAN_Network

Big thanks to Charlize Theron for visiting us at our Sex Worker Networking Zone and showing her support for sex workers' rights! #SexWorkersatAIDS2018 pic.twitter.com/pjHLibKSia

10:38 AM - Jul 24, 2018

3 retweets 62 retweets 160 likes

 **ICRSE**
@sexworkeurope

Amazing performance by @SexWorkersOpera at Global Village.#SexWorkersAtAIDS2018 pic.twitter.com/gVTNSKo17M

12:34 PM - Jul 24, 2018

23 retweets 46 likes

 **Scarlet Alliance**
@scarletalliance

Monica Jones, PJ Starr and J Leigh Brantly conducting workshop on creating the whole gaze for media on #sexwork and #HIV. #sexworkersataids2018 #AIDS2018 pic.twitter.com/Fr7IAVEHbT

1:22 PM - Jul 24, 2018

8 retweets 18 likes

NSWP @GlobalSexWork
Coverage of yesterday's [#SexWorkersatAIDS2018](#) march through Amsterdam in [@parool parool.nl/amsterdam/in-b...](#) [#AIDS2018](#) [pic.twitter.com/bq62VibUZm](#)
10:57 AM - Jul 25, 2018
1 67 111

SWARM @SexWorkHive
Activists at [#AID2018](#) disrupt a co-ordinating committee re: the next AIDS Conference - its planned to be held in the USA, which we strongly oppose ([thebody.com/content/80881/...](#)) [#sexworkersatAIDS2018](#) [pic.twitter.com/zvrgQzzYPz](#)
6:38 PM - Jul 25, 2018
1 10 24

SWAN @SWAN_Network
Red Umbrella Fund presentation and Q&A with inputs from sex workers on their experiences of application process. [#SexWorkersatAIDS2018](#) [pic.twitter.com/x1hcyioGeQ](#)
4:54 PM - Jul 25, 2018
7 15

Sweat @SweatTweets
[@SweatTweets](#) Dudu Dlamini speaking out against end demand policies. We want full decriminalisation and recognition of sex work as work [#AIDS2018](#) [#SexWorkersAtAids2018](#) [pic.twitter.com/UJ3nUhVdtp](#)
10:16 AM - Jul 26, 2018
4 4

ICRSE @sexworkeurope
Sex workers interrupted the ['#positiveflame'](#) ceremony and asked for conference to change its location for 2020. [@AIDS_conference](#) is planned to take place in San Francisco where SWs, migrants, drug users and many other key populations won't be able to attend. [#SexWorkersatAIDS2018](#) [pic.twitter.com/YyfuDnYHGv](#)
10:56 AM - Jul 26, 2018 · Amsterdam RAI
5 133 179

Karris Hamilton @05hamiltonk
Really insightful session from [@GlobalSexWork](#) and others on how 'end demand' laws and policing of sex work increases violence against sex workers [#AIDS2018](#) [pic.twitter.com/4PjPpKrzjT](#)
12:36 PM - Jul 26, 2018
10 16

Hydra e.V. Berlin @hydra_berlin
Session on [#SESTA](#) [#fosta](#) starts with a moment of silence for a trans*sex worker who was murdered 4 days ago in the USA [#SexWorkersatAIDS2018](#) [pic.twitter.com/mOGI4KxsFF](#)
2:20 PM - Jul 26, 2018
3 9 29

Hydra e.V. Berlin @hydra_berlin
[#Sexarbeiter](#)*innen von Empower Foundation in Thailand laufen als Polizei durch die [#IAC2018](#) Wer Kondome dabei hat wird verhaftet. In sehr vielen Ländern gilt Mitführen von Kondomen als Beweis, dass man anschaffen geht. Kontraproduktiv für Bekämpfung von HIV [#SexWorkersatAIDS2018](#) [pic.twitter.com/AVqu5A7Toi](#)
1:46 PM - Jul 25, 2018
13 13

ICRSE @sexworkeurope
The [#sexworker](#)-led workshop on successful advocacy started with a minutes of silence for our colleagues and friends not with us anymore today [#SexWorkersatAIDS2018](#) [pic.twitter.com/tnJtF2vsHJ](#)
7:39 PM - Jul 25, 2018
7 9

ECP @ProstitutesColl
Sex workers from Empower, Thailand, arrest, raid and close down premises for possession of condoms at the International AIDS Conference 2018 in Amsterdam! [#SexWorkersatAIDS2018](#) [#IAC2018](#) [#AIDS2018](#) [pic.twitter.com/muDj8qubba](#)
9:34 AM - Jul 26, 2018
3 49 72

SWAN @SWAN_Network
Happening at our networking zone: Panel discussion on the role of sex worker advocacy in achieving decriminalisation of sex work in New South Wales. [#SexWorkersatAIDS2018](#) [pic.twitter.com/g6WN3sMOW4](#)
4:19 PM - Jul 26, 2018
1 11 23

prostitutie.nl @prostitutie_nl
In 10 minuts at [#aids2018](#) the session "Creating Danger: Impact on end-demand laws and policing of sex work" starts. Dinah Bons [@PROUDnl](#) and Sally Hendriks [@Aidsfonds](#) are ready to present our study on sex work and violence in the Netherlands. Hall 11a [#SexWorkersatAIDS2018](#) [pic.twitter.com/vHj0jBOdvy](#)
10:53 AM - Jul 26, 2018
5 13

International AIDS Conference @AIDS_conference
AIDS 2020
Congratulations to sex worker rights champion Duduzile (Dudu) Dlamini (in centre) for receiving the first-ever Prudence Mabele prize! Named in honour of the trailblazing activist, the US\$25,000 Prize is the largest given at an International AIDS Conference [ow.ly/Uokx301XSU](#) [pic.twitter.com/4RbzqA8hAr](#)
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Recommendations

Recommendations to the International AIDS Society (IAS), HIV/AIDS Policy Makers and Donor

- Conference location decisions must consider barriers for entry for sex workers and for other criminalised and marginalised communities.
- Sex workers need to be at the table when policies are discussed. Although the Global Village is a great networking initiative, sex workers demand place at the main Conference, with an adequate number of sessions focussing on a rights-affirming approach to sex workers and their needs and that gives voice to sex workers and not just academics talking about us.
- We demand that IAS reviews its scholarship selection programme to ensure equitable opportunities for key populations to participate in International AIDS Conferences, and that they publicly share disaggregated data about scholarship recipients, that allows key populations to easily track participation.
- The heavy focus in the Conference programme on biomedical responses must be balanced with an equal focus on structural issues affecting key and other vulnerable populations, such as criminalisation and punitive laws, policies and practices, stigma and discrimination, poverty and gender inequality.
- Sex workers and other key population representatives must be in decision-making positions at IAS and in the wider HIV world.
- We demand that HIV/AIDS funding is channelled directly to sex worker-led groups and funding priorities are defined together with our communities.
- We call for the meaningful involvement of sex worker-led organisations in HIV prevention, treatment and care and oppose biomedical interventions that do not meaningfully involve sex worker-led organisations.

* All photo credits Juno Mac, Sex Worker Advocacy and Resistance Movement unless stated otherwise

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Health and rights  for key populations



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