

SMART SEX WORKER'S GUIDE TO SWIT

Sex workers are one of the populations most affected by HIV, due to criminalisation, unsafe working conditions, barriers to consistent condom use, lack of access to health services, etc. The Sex Worker Implementation Tool (SWIT), is a document that provides recommendations for implementing HIV and STI testing, treatment and prevention strategies that empower sex workers. This Infographic provides a short summary of the good practice and evidence-based recommendations in the SWIT, and the principles for implementation.

GOOD PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS



All countries should work toward decriminalisation of sex work and elimination of the unjust application of non-criminal laws and regulations against sex workers.



Governments should establish antidiscrimination and other rights-respecting laws to protect against discrimination and violence, and other violations of rights faced by sex workers in order to realise their human rights and reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and the impact of AIDS. Antidiscrimination laws and regulations should guarantee sex workers' right to social, health and financial services.



Violence against sex workers is a risk factor for HIV and must be prevented and addressed in partnership with sex workers and sex worker-led organisations.



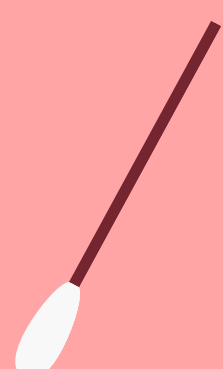
Health services should be made available, accessible and acceptable to sex workers based on the principles of avoidance of stigma, non-discrimination and the right to health.



EVIDENCE-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS



Offer a package of interventions to enhance community empowerment among sex workers.



Offer periodic screening for asymptomatic STIs to female sex workers.



Offer voluntary HIV testing and counselling to sex workers.



Promote correct and consistent condom use among sex workers and their clients.



Offer female sex workers, in settings with high prevalence and limited clinical services, periodic presumptive treatment (PPT) for asymptomatic STIs. PPT should be implemented only as a short-term measure in settings where STI prevalence is high



Use the current WHO recommendations on the use of antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV-positive general populations for sex workers (and refer to the latest ones published in 2013, i.e. begin ART below a CD4 count of 500).



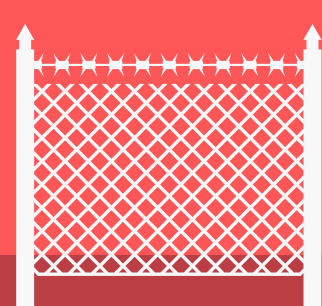
Use the current WHO recommendations on harm reduction for sex workers who inject drugs (in particular needle and syringe programme and opioid substitution therapy).



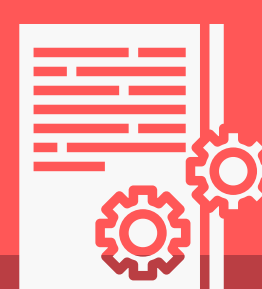
Include sex workers as targets of catch-up hepatitis B immunisation strategies in settings where infant immunisation has not reached full coverage.

Principles for implementing comprehensive HIV and STI programmes with sex workers

These principles underlie the 2012 recommendations and the recommendations in the SWIT:



Programmes should address structural barriers



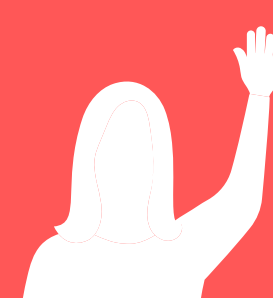
Programmes must have impact at multiple levels, from the front-line to the national policy level



Programmes should be holistic – considering all the services sex workers need; and complimentary – finding ways to coordinate and integrate service delivery, to be more effective and accessible



Community empowerment



Community participation and leadership in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE SEEN AS A MINIMUM GLOBAL STANDARD, APPLYING EQUALLY TO HIGHER INCOME COUNTRIES AND LOWER AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES.

To learn more about SWIT, read NSWP's Smart Sex Worker's Guide to SWIT.
www.nswp.org/resource/the-smart-sex-worker-s-guide-swit
or at <http://bit.ly/nswp-swit>



Global Network of Sex Work Projects
Promoting Health and Human Rights