

# International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers

# DECEMBER

# 17

## International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers

This day was created in to call attention to hate crimes committed against sex workers all over the globe.

Inaugurated by Dr Annie Sprinkle and started by the Sex Workers Outreach Project USA, the first annual day was in 2003 and was held as a memorial and vigil for the victims of the Green River Killer in Seattle Washington. International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers has empowered workers from over cities around the world to come together and organise against discrimination and remember victims of violence.

**NSWP marks 17<sup>th</sup> December: The Real Impact of the Swedish Model On Sex Workers**

**To mark International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers this year NSWP launched a new advocacy toolkit: *'The Real Impact of the Swedish Model On Sex Workers'***

As many countries around the world are moving to adopt the so-called Swedish Model or Nordic Model we know all too well how this sanctions state violence against sex workers. It allows state-sponsored agencies such as health care, social services and law enforcement to single out sex workers first as victims and then as accessories to crime. Sex workers are seen as victims of violence perpetrated by clients and also as enablers of a crime being committed since they are providing sexual services legally of which the sale is illegal.



Advocacy Toolkit



Sex workers the world over face high rates of violence being perpetrated against them on a daily basis. Legal frameworks based on the Swedish Model often purport to 'decriminalise the sex worker while criminalising the client', however where the Swedish Model has been imposed, virtually no states have repealed laws that criminalise sex

work e.g. soliciting in a public place, brothel keeping, etc.

NSWP hopes that this advocacy toolkit will highlight the harms associated with this approach of criminalisation, both in relation to the simplistic and crude understandings of sex work and sex workers that are used to justify the law, and to the direct outcomes of the legal framework of criminalising the purchase of sex. In contrast to claims that the Swedish model is a necessary and effective approach in protecting women from violence and exploitation, sex workers in Sweden note worrying consequences of the law in terms of their safety and wellbeing.

The advocacy toolkit will be an evolving set of documents which will continue to raise awareness of the outcomes of the law and provide resources for sex workers, allies and researchers to challenge widespread promotion of this detrimental legal and political approach to the regulation of sex work.

The first series of four papers launched in the toolkit document the impact of the Swedish model on the lives of sex workers in Sweden. These papers serve as an evidence-based toolkit with which to undermine assertions that the law has not had detrimental side-effects.

The first paper of this series, **'Sweden's Abolitionist Understanding and Modes of Silencing Opposition'** discusses the disempowering generalisations that are made about sex workers and sex work that justify the law. The paper goes on to explore the understandings that have been used to exclude the voices of sex workers 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'** highlights the direct outcomes of the law, stressing that the law has failed in its ambition to decrease levels of sex work, and has had negative impacts on the lives of sex workers, exacerbating danger and risks to health and wellbeing.

**'Impacts of the Swedish Model's Justifying Discourses on Service Provision'** focuses on the indirect outcomes of the law: on how the understandings that justify the law have affected the perspectives of service providers (particularly social workers), and how 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'** 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.

A second series will be added to the advocacy toolkit in early 2015. These will document the ways in which the Swedish model undermines and violates sex workers' human rights.

These resources will be available in Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish early 2015.

## Award for research project focussing on Sex Work and Violence

**Sex Work and Violence: Understanding Factors for Safety and Protection, received the first Robert Carr Research Award in July at the 20<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference, in Melbourne, Australia.**



Award recipients including **Kay Thi Win (APNSW) & Marta Vallejo Mestres (UNDP)**  
© Dale Kongmont

The research project was overseen by a regional steering committee that included NSWP members

**SANGRAM's** Centre for Advocacy on Stigma and Marginalisation; the **Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers**, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and Partners for Prevention, a joint UN initiative working on gender-based violence. The research is aimed at finding solutions to stopping violence against sex workers as an important component in the response to HIV. The award recognised the unique research process used to reach the findings. It was described as an "exceptional, collaborative research project that brought together sex worker communities, sex work rights advocates, the United Nations, researchers and governments from four Asia Pacific countries."

Chris Beyrer, President of the International AIDS Society and Director of the Center for Public Health and Human Rights at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said that the project "stood out as an entry because of the participation of sex workers throughout the research process; a population that is often neglected by research or difficult to reach."

Sex worker community groups were included at the national level. Research was led by a local sex work organisation and the UN country teams, and done in a participatory

way that included sharing the initial analysis with the communities researched to ensure that their experiences were authentically reflected in the interpretations of the data.

Meena Seshu, Director of SANGRAM, said “the high and diverse number of stakeholders involved in the process also set the project apart. It embodies the spirit of collaborative work of different actors working together towards one goal: to increase the security and safety of sex workers, and to create an enabling environment that will allow them to access their rights as citizens to safe working conditions.”

Named after the human rights and HIV activist who **passed away in 2011**, the Robert Carr Research Award recognises a research project conducted by a community-academia partnership that has led to evidence-based programmes and/or influenced policies in the field of HIV to guide a human rights-based response.

The award is a joint initiative of the International AIDS Society (IAS), the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO), Human Rights Watch and the Johns Hopkins Center for Public Health and Human Rights, and is sponsored by the IAS, ICASO, the Open Society Foundations and the Robert Carr Fund for civil society networks.

The report of the research findings will be published soon.

## STRASS activist abused by Police on eve of IDEVASW

On December 16th, on the eve of International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, Thierry Schaffauser, founding member of STRASS, was distributing leaflets and condoms when he was arrested in Paris.

The **joint statement from STRASS and partners** confirmed that two plainclothes police officers then committed acts of violence against him including strangulation and suffocation. He was handcuffed and taken to a police station without being notified of the reasons for his arrest or being able to request the

assistance of a lawyer. The sex worker he was talking to and gave condoms to was also arrested and taken to the same police station. Homophobic and racist remarks were made during the arrest.

Thierry was examined by a doctor who found numerous injuries directly related to the disproportionate and violent conditions of his arrest. A formal complaint will soon be submitted to the General Inspectorate of the National Police.

## How Sex Workers are marking 17<sup>th</sup> December

Sex workers around the world mark this event in a variety of ways – here is just a very small selection.

**Wonetha** (Uganda), **Zi Teng** (China), **UHRA** (Uganda), **ASWA**, **KESWA** (Kenya), **SDTS** (Burundi) and many other organisations released statements to mark the day with many more using the Twitter hashtags **#IDEVASW** and **#Dec17** to publicise their events and statements.

**SWOP** (USA) produced an excellent **Google map** highlighting dozens of events around the world to mark the day.

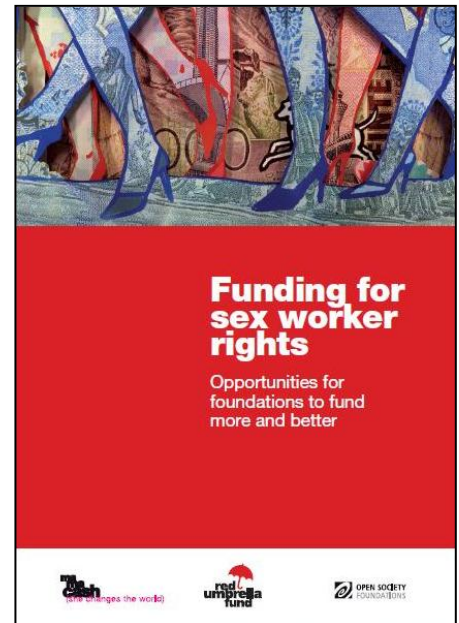
The European networks **SWAN** and **ICRSE** released a **joint statement**. SWAN also launched their brochure **“Stronger Together: Addressing Violence against Female, Male and Transgender Sex Workers in Central Eastern Europe and Central Asia”**. ICRSE have also produced a video filmed at their first Regional Training on Sex Work, HIV, Health and Human Rights. **The video** features sex workers activists from different countries in the region sharing their message with their colleagues.

SEX WORKERS  
ARE THE SOLUTION  
NOT THE PROBLEM

**ECP (UK)** held a **candlelit march** in London followed by speeches and the screening of a documentary featuring interviews with sex workers affected by the raids on flats in Soho.

## Funding for sex worker rights: report

*‘It is time for more funders to speak out in solidarity and provide more and better funding.’*



© Red Umbrella Fund

To mark 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 **Red Umbrella Fund**, **Mama Cash** and the **Open Society Foundations** launched their report which maps global grant-making for sex worker rights by foundations and other NGOs. **The research** identified 56 foundations and NGOs that altogether invested a total of €8 million (US\$11 million) in support of sex worker rights in 2013. This may sound like a lot to an individual organisation but it is just a fraction of overall spending on development and human rights.

*“The political struggle against criminalisation, the battle against violence done to us, the work of building organisational structures to link us and support us better – these are long-term efforts that need sustained steady financing.”*

- Sex worker organisation from Latin America participating in the survey

The report presents the Top 5 foundations investing in sex worker rights and highlights new trends and opportunities. Sex worker organisations share the key gaps in funding and provide recommendations to funders to improve their grant-making.

## Other headlines

### Evicted Tangail Sex Workers: What Happened and Where We are Now?

In September 2014, **APNSW**'s Co-coordinator, Kay Thi Win, and Media Director, Dale Kongmont, visited Narichanka, the national Bangladeshi sex worker network, to discuss how APNSW can most effectively support the recent eviction of sex workers from the Kandapara brothel in Tangail district. To increase visibility of the issue amongst the international community a short film, **Kandapara, the Lost Brothel**, exploring the impact of the eviction on Tangail's sex workers, was produced by APNSW.



© APNSW

In July 2014, over 1000 sex workers and their families were forcibly evicted from the historic red-light district, **Kandapara**, which has existed as a sex worker living and working space for up to 300 years. Following the evictions, Kandapara was dismantled over a number of days; its homes, brothels, community services and shops were destroyed.

You can read the full story [here](#) and watch the video by clicking on the image above.

### Irish parliaments move closer to Swedish model

Just one month after the Northern Ireland Assembly passed a bill criminalising the purchase of sex, now only awaiting Royal Assent, the Republic of Ireland's government has introduced a bill that will make it a criminal offence to pay for sex.

The bill comes a year after the Oireachtas Justice Committee's **'Report on the Review of the Legislation on Prostitution in Ireland'** made the recommendation that the purchase of sexual services should be made illegal. Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald introduced the new legislation on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

However, as Ireland-based activist and writer **Wendy Lyon pointed out on Twitter**, "the offence of paying for sexual services will be inserted into the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 1993 as Section 5A" and there is no repeal of any of the parts of the 1993 Act that currently criminalises sex workers. "This bill will NOT decriminalise sex workers" she wrote.

North of the Irish border, in an unusual coalition, the two main parties in Northern Irish politics have joined forces to pass new legislation on human trafficking, with the result that clients of sex workers will now be criminalised in Northern Ireland. Clause 6 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions

and Support for Victims) bill contains the provision to criminalise clients of sex workers, the first part of the UK to vote in favour of such proposals.

Read more on these stories on **Northern Ireland** and the **Republic of Ireland** on our website.

### Canada: Anti Sex Worker Bill Passes Senate and becomes law

The Protection of Communities and Exploited persons act, Bill C-36, a harmful new piece of legislation introduced by the Conservative Canadian government in response to last year's **Bedford decision** became law on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

The Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs had their last reading of Bill C-36 in October and the Bill returned to the entire Senate, without amendment and for its third reading on November 4th.

Bill C-36 has been roundly criticised, and fought hard by sex workers, allies and human rights advocates. Earlier this year, Pivot Legal Society **released an in-depth report** on the far-reaching consequences of legislation that criminalises the clients of sex workers.

### UK politicians listen to sex workers and activists

In November, Members of the UK Parliament debated and passed the **Modern Slavery Bill**. Attempts to introduce new clauses into the bill to criminalise the purchase of sex were defeated.

Fiona McTaggart, a Labour MP, had proposed two new clauses to the Modern Slavery Bill which would criminalise the clients of sex workers. She refused to use the term sex work throughout, and instead promoted to the House of Commons the view that **"We should see prostitution as a**

**problem not of badly behaved women but of men who pay to own those women's bodies. It is vile exploitation and a form of modern slavery that we should end.** Her amendments were defeated.

Clause 22 of the bill was also dismissed. This clause proposed a review of the links between prostitution and trafficking, and of whether law enforcement around sexual exploitation was adequate. A commenter on Twitter described this clause as "a ticking time-bomb" since such a review could prompt another discussion of criminalisation of clients or even of the workers themselves.

Jet Young, from **SWOU**, described what happened as "a huge relief", also adding "there is much evidence that criminalising clients often leads to an increase in violence and harassment of sex workers, not only from dangerous clients, but various law enforcement agencies as well."

Niki Adams from the **ECP** called the outcome "a massive victory for a mobilisation spear-headed by sex workers" and that "as a result of so many people acting so quickly and so effectively we are now in a stronger position to demand full decriminalisation."

Full story and extra links to the coverage [here](#).

## **Hijras Detained in "Concentration Camp" released**

Following a [protest on 23 November](#), advocating for the rights of India's sex workers and sexual minorities, police in the state of Karnataka undertook a "clean-up campaign" in the state's capital city, Bangalore, which resulted in the arbitrary detention of up to 200 Hijras.

Hijras - trans\* women who are commonly referred to as "India's 3<sup>rd</sup> sex" - often work as dancers, singers and sex workers. Local police began a mass "crackdown" on the Hijra community on the spurious pretext that the community was violating the Karnataka Prohibition of Beggary Act (1975). According to local advocates, approximately 167 Hijras were

arrested and transported to the city's Hoysalas Beggar Colony.



**Protestors in front of Bangalore Town Hall**

Bangalore's Beggar Colonies have become **de-facto concentration camps** for society's most marginalised members. Sex workers, Hijras, unemployed people, migrants, labourers, homeless people and anyone else police deem as having "no visible means of support in a public place", are commonly **detained and sent to these "relief centres" for "rehabilitation"**. Despite the law stipulating that a person charged with a vagrancy offence should have access to a court, and that a magistrate should be responsible for dispensing sentences, the majority of people are simply charge-sheeted by Colony staff, without access to legal advocacy or appearing before a court. In addition to the plethora of human rights violations and miscarriages of justice associated with this process, those detained in the Colony are often refused a release date, meaning that many are subject to indefinite detention.

Fortunately, due to the quick response of community advocates, the Hijras recently incarcerated within the Beggar's Centre managed to avoid the worst conditions of the Centre. However, given the positioning of Bangalore as an international city by India's politicians, who aim to promote the city as being "on par with European

cities", political expediency looks to ensure that the arbitrary

incarceration of Bangalore's most visibly marginalised communities looks to continue unabated.

Read the full story on our website [here](#).

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

[\*\*Oakland landlords now required to evict sex workers\*\*](#)

[\*\*Indian Judge Rules: It's not acceptable to assault Sex Workers\*\*](#)

[\*\*Singapore introduces new Anti-Trafficking Act despite concerns that it focuses too heavily on law enforcement\*\*](#)

[\*\*Brazilian Sex Worker Who Spoke Out Against Police Has Life threatened\*\*](#)

[\*\*ICW and NSWP Host Joint Workshop on Sex Workers' Rights\*\*](#)

[\*\*New York Dancers Win \\$10.8 Million Lawsuit\*\*](#)

[\*\*Murder Case in France Highlights Vulnerabilities of Migrant Sex Workers\*\*](#)

## Feature article

### Suicide after HIV witch hunt in Greece

**A Greek woman, named only as Katerina, took her own life in December. She had been publicly outed as living with HIV in a health ministry initiative in May 2012.**

In the run up to the 2012 elections, and in response to a massive rise in HIV rates following health sector budget cuts due to the country's economic crisis, the Greek police carried out a huge operation in downtown Athens. The police arrested drug users and suspected sex workers, forced them to undergo HIV testing and charged them with 'prostitution,' even without evidence that were selling sex or had transmitted to the virus to anyone. At least 12 sex workers had their names and private information published first on the police force's website, then in newspapers, TV and elsewhere on the Internet. Although charges were later dropped or reduced, the trauma of the detentions lasting up to 10 months and the stigma of their public outing have been difficult for the women to overcome.

believes that you're not entitled to any compensation for being shamed and thrown in jail for ten months," Mavroudi **said in an interview**.

Then Health Minister, Andreas Loverdos introduced legal provision 39A in April 2012, making it mandatory to conduct forced HIV testing on suspected sex workers, undocumented migrants and drug users. Although it was roundly condemned by sex workers rights and human rights activists and organisations – including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) – provision 39A was reinstated in July 2013.

In a May 2012 statement, UNAIDS expressed its concern saying: "The initiation of criminal prosecution against sex workers living with HIV for intentional gross bodily harm raises concerns about the inappropriate application of criminal law, particularly in a context where clients have the social and economic power to insist upon condom use. In addition, publication of names, photographs and positive HIV status drive sex workers into hiding and reduces their trust in health care services."

UNAIDS urged the Greek authorities "to adopt evidence-based programmes and (enable a) legal environment that supports all people

According to a **report in the Greek press**, which quotes Chrysa Botsi, a member of the Solidarity Initiative for Persecuted Women with HIV, Katerina had entered the **OKANA programme**, but "Katerina was not well." Said Botsi "A few days ago she decided that life was just too tiring for her. She couldn't take it anymore. She left a goodbye note and took her final dose. Katerina escaped and her departure is so painful."

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

## Sex Worker Leaders

You can view the latest featured leaders' profiles, including the inspirational Naomi Sayers from Canada **here**.

## Featured Members

Read in depth profiles of NSWP member organisations – including the latest profiles of SASOD – the Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (Guyana) and Kirmize Semsye – Red Umbrella Sexual Health and Human Rights Associate (Turkey) **here**.



A documentary about the crackdown was released in 2013.

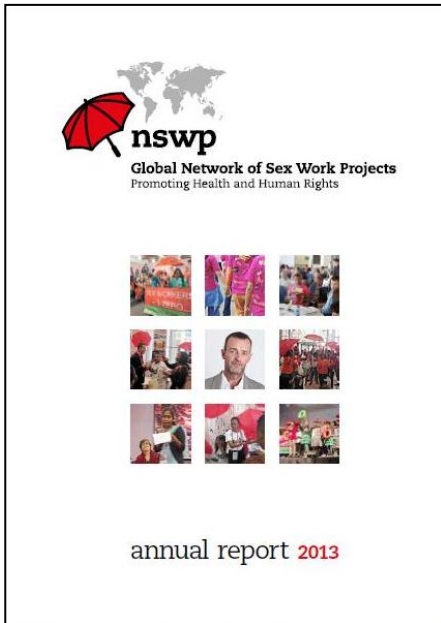
**"Ruins: Chronicle of an HIV Witchhunt"** was directed by Zoe Mavroudi and focused on the story of two sex workers, one of whom said she that wasn't able to get disability benefits. "It looks like the state

— including sex workers and their clients, people who use drugs, migrants and asylum-seekers — to access voluntary and confidential HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services."

The full statement on the UNAIDS website can be read **here**.

# Publications & Resources

## NSWP Annual Report 2013



This **NSWP Annual Report** for 2013 will be useful for sex work organisations looking for models on which to base their own annual reports. It will also be useful to sex workers globally, and particularly sex workers who are part of NSWP's member organisations, who wish to stay informed as to NSWP's activities last year.

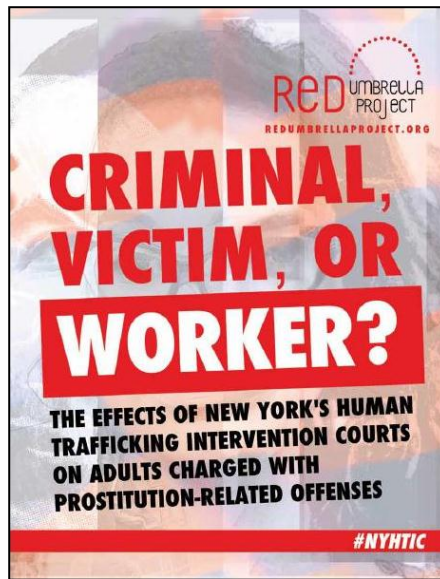
The report is also available in **Spanish, French, Chinese** and **Russian**.

## Criminal, Victim or Worker?

**The effects of New York's Human trafficking intervention courts on adults charged with prostitution-related offenses. A sex worker-led observational report on the first year of the court project.**

New York's Human Trafficking Intervention Courts (HTICs), the USA's first state-wide human trafficking intervention within a justice system, were launched in September 2013, with eleven courts established throughout the state. The

HTICs mandate people charged with prostitution-related misdemeanours, including survivors of trafficking as well as people who trade sex by choice and circumstance, to participate in alternatives to incarceration programmes. Defendants who complete a mandated programme obtain an adjournment for contemplation of dismissal (ACD), and if they are not arrested for any offense for six months, the charge is dismissed and sealed.



© Red Umbrella Project

**This report** documents what happens inside the Brooklyn and Queens HTICs, based on court observations that were conducted by staff and members of the **Red Umbrella Project** (RedUP) from December 2013 until August 2014.

**Findings include:**

- The HTICs are structured to encourage defendants to accept the offer of mandated sessions and pursue an ACD which is not an admission of guilt
- In Brooklyn, Black people are present in the HTIC and face prostitution-related charges at a disproportionately high rate
- In Queens, Mandarin speakers make up 46% of the defendants in the HTIC
- There are no publicly established standards for the social services that are mandated for defendants

## GAATW Anti-trafficking Review

**The Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW) recently released its annual peer reviewed publication, the Anti-Trafficking Review, in Bangkok. The theme of the 2014 Anti-Trafficking Review is "Following the Money: Spending on Anti-Trafficking".**

In addition to containing articles from an international network of individuals with various perspectives and analysis on the anti-trafficking discourse, the Review also contains a Debate Section, in which contributors were asked to speculate on the most effective use of US\$10 million in addressing anti-trafficking issues.

**Key points from the speakers' presentations:**

- The majority of funding dedicated to anti-trafficking initiatives is spent in either prevention or prosecution, and that a very small amount of funding is dedicated to victim assistance and/or reintegration services. (Mike Dottridge)
- Major donors don't consult with people who have experienced trafficking as to how funds for anti-trafficking initiatives should be spent (Mike Dottridge)
- There has been little research undertaken into the amount of funding the anti-trafficking industry attracts and virtually no research on the impact and effectiveness of funded anti-trafficking initiatives (Suzanne Hoff)
- Frontline workers report that funding for shelters and other assistance and re-integration services is notoriously difficult to access, whilst funding to attend or facilitate conferences exploring the issues surrounding anti-trafficking is much easier to access. (Suzanne Hoff)
- The social construct of anti-trafficking defines the policy response to the issue. Similarly, whether a person is recognised as a "victim" or "migrant" is defined by the media, who are influenced by policy defined by political expediency. (Kiril Sharapov)

- In Nigeria, grassroots responses to anti-trafficking issues (developed by and for the community) have proven more effective than “top-down” responses to the issues. (Victoria Nwogu)

Sex worker representatives from several **APNSW** member organisations, including the **EMPOWER Foundation (Thailand)** and **Scarlet Alliance (Australia)**, attended the launch of the Review. Sex workers raised the issue of how the **PEPFAR pledge** has impacted on the ability of sex worker organisations and NGOs providing services to sex workers to advocate for the rights of sex workers, particularly in relation to migration issues, the decriminalisation of sex work, the criminalisation of sex industry venues and those associated with ‘profiting’ from the sex industry, and the introduction of standardised occupational health and safety policies within sex industry spaces. Sex workers additionally identified that the PEPFAR pledge has contributed to the **conflation of migrant sex work and “sex trafficking”** to the detriment of many sex workers’ ability to travel and work in non-criminalised environments.

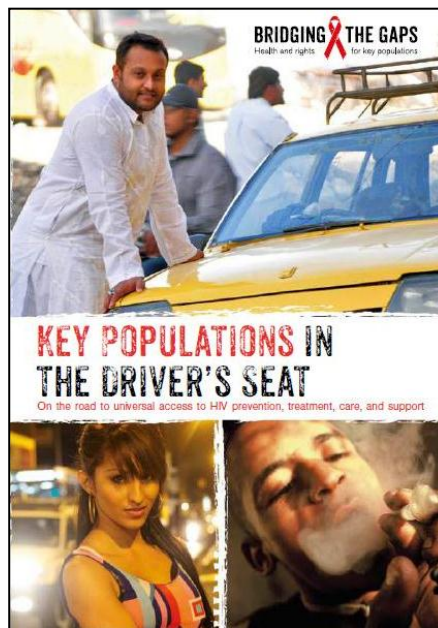
## Key populations in the driver’s seat

‘On the road to universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support’ – Bridging the Gaps.

**This publication** includes a selection of activities undertaken and achievements made during the first 28 months of the Bridging the Gaps programme. In the period September 2011 - December 2013, the programme reached almost 700,000 sex workers, LGBT people and people who use drugs, with services that met their needs.

At the same time, much-needed advocacy work is done at the global level. These are the results of an impressive joint effort by over 80 local partners in sixteen countries working together with global networks and Dutch partners, to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care, and

support for key populations, and to have their rights fully respected.



© Bridging the Gaps

The worldwide programme demonstrates the added value of working together with three key populations simultaneously, ensuring a holistic approach that is centred on both human rights and health, and linking community work with global advocacy.

## Gender, Violence and Health

Contexts of vulnerability, resiliencies and care among people in the sex industry. A “working paper” prepared as background to Building on the Evidence: An International Symposium on the Sex Industry in Canada.

**This paper** is a result of a research programme in Canada’s sex industry: workers and their intimate partners, managers and clients.

**Findings include:**

- By and large, the people linked to Canada’s sex industry are Canadian-born, Caucasian, in their 30s or 40s with a high school diploma and some form of post-secondary education or training
- In general, people involved in the sex industry report poorer health than do other Canadians system responds to and treats this part of the population

- The data suggests that sex workers experienced very high levels of discrimination early in life during school, at work, from the police/courts and in public settings. Sex buyers also experience discrimination
- Most sex workers do not feel exploited and most sex buyers are not oppressors
- Much of the vulnerability experienced by some sex workers has little or nothing to do with sex work
- Service environments more removed from normal networks of social regulation and control increase the likelihood of escalating serious conflict
- Stigma, fear and isolation are common experiences in the sex industry

## Global Action with Local Impact: Why Advocacy Matters



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**New report details recent global advocacy strategies used and outcomes achieved to enhance health and human rights for key populations**

A **new report** released in November examines the role of global-level advocacy in addressing HIV among key populations, including people living with HIV (PLHIV), people who inject drugs, sex workers, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. The



report focuses on global-level work conducted as part of the Bridging the Gaps programme.

“Communities are central to an effective HIV response among key populations,” said Dr. George Ayala, Executive Director of the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF). “Key populations are socially marginalised and too often subject to abuse and incarceration, blocking access to vital health services. Grassroots organisations play a critical role in addressing the social and structural factors responsible for disease inequity. They often provide the highest quality services to the local community, and they are best positioned to push for more effective government action to address HIV. Global advocacy is essential to ensure that local communities of key populations are sustainably-funded, technically prepared, and politically supported to maximise their impact.”

The report includes principles of practice for global advocacy and a detailed theory of change depicting causal chains that lead to improvements in health and human rights for key populations. Numerous examples of global advocacy are included with a focus on concrete results of global advocacy initiatives.

All work featured in the report was conducted by Bridging the Gaps global partners: the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD), the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP), the MSMGF, and the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC).

## Punishing success? Explanation of Band 4 of the Global Fund

### Explanation of Band 4 of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and its Implications for Civil Society and Key Populations

A **new briefing paper** published by **MSMGF** and **ICASO** asks whether the Global Fund's **New Funding Model** (NFM) is punishing the successes that countries with low and relatively low disease prevalence have had in their fights against HIV.

One of the features of the NFM will likely have a negative impact on a number of countries in terms of the funding they can expect to be granted by the Global Fund. The Country Band has been introduced to group all 123 eligible countries into one of four Bands. Which band a country is grouped into is based on disease level and income burden. Band 4 is the largest band, with 55 countries grouped in it. Band 4's overall share of the funding is only 7%. That means that almost half of all eligible countries will only be able to apply for less than a 10<sup>th</sup> of all available funding. This change in the way funds are shared among eligible countries appears to be because of the countries that now fall into Band 4, previously had invested in low impact interventions. These 55 countries are effectively being penalised for having low or relatively low disease prevalence.

This briefing paper is intended to help advocates better understand the country allocation methodology in general and the specificities of Band 4 in particular. It also outlines the implications of Band 4 classification for civil society and key populations, and provides advocacy entry points and recommendations for how the model can be improved.

## Engagement of Key Populations in Global Fund's Funding Model: Global Report

### Communities Delegation of the Global Fund: Global Report on the Engagement of Key Populations in the Global Fund's new Funding Model.

**The report** identifies six areas of concern reported by key population communities related to their engagement in the Funding Model. The engagement of key population communities is an explicit requirement of the Global Fund's Funding Model. These areas of concern will need to be addressed if the engagement of key population communities is going to be meaningful and lead to improved outcomes for these communities.

#### Areas of concern identified are:

- Communication and transparency
- Representation and accountability

- Influence
- Safety and confidentiality
- Resources and strengthening of systems and capacities
- Culture, respect and authenticity.

In light of the findings highlighting areas of concern which undermine key population communities and diminish the impact of their engagement in the Funding Model, the report makes a number of recommendations to improve and strengthen key affected community engagement.

#### Recommendations include:

- Enforce the Global Fund Requirements on Inclusive Engagement of Key Affected Communities
- Strengthen and sustain expertise within the Global Fund Secretariat and amongst technical partners to support community engagement
- Put in place requirements to ensure long-term, strategic investments in costed interventions on human rights, gender and community systems strengthening in every concept note.



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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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