

UNAIDS-Lancet Commission on Defeating AIDS Report

On 25th June a UNAIDS-Lancet Commission on Defeating AIDS report was released. It is a call for urgently scaling up access to HIV treatment and prevention, taking determined action to advance human rights, and reaching all key populations.

The report finds that countries most affected by HIV must focus on stopping new HIV infections and expanding access to antiretroviral treatment or risk the epidemic rebounding.

Adequate funding is crucial to ending AIDS. The report shows the critical need to front-load investments. Many countries can do more to finance their AIDS responses, but the report clearly demonstrates that international support to AIDS efforts remains absolutely essential.

Key recommendations from the report include a call to:

Forge new paths to uphold human rights and address criminalisation, stigma, and discrimination using practical approaches to change laws, policies, and public attitudes that violate human rights.

In relation specifically to sex work the report states:

“Violence, criminalisation, stigma and discrimination, and the scarcity of programmes and funding are the four main reasons why sex workers are being left behind in the AIDS response. Discrimination against sex workers is nearly universal. The combination of HIV-related stigma and stigma associated with sex work prevents sex workers from seeking HIV testing, and

sex workers are also less likely to receive treatment.”

“Many countries retain laws that criminalise sex work, and there is strong evidence that the criminalisation of sex work encourages behaviour associated with a high risk of HIV infections and other sexually transmitted infection. Where sex work is criminalised, violence against sex workers is often not reported or monitored, and legal protection is often not offered to victims of such violence.”

“For both generalised and concentrated HIV epidemics, decriminalisation of sex work and of same-sex relations could avert incident infections through combined effects on violence, police harassment, safer work environments, and HIV transmission pathways.”

“Practical solutions are needed to expedite changes in the laws, policies, and public attitudes that violate the human rights of vulnerable populations who might be at particularly high risk of HIV infection, such as women, sex workers, MSM, transgender people, injecting drug users, prisoners, and migrants. UNAIDS and its co-sponsors should redouble their efforts in this respect.”

Whilst welcoming much that is in the report, **NSWP have raised concerns** with regard to the reintroduction of regressive and stigmatising terminology used within the report around ‘high risk’ or ‘most at risk’ populations.

The full report is available (free of charge after free registration) at **The Lancet website**.

International Sex Worker Day

As always, many NSWP member organisations marked International Sex Worker Day on 2nd June. Here are a couple of examples of how people marked the event, the 40th Anniversary.

SWEAT - join the global call to Decriminalise Sex Work Now!



SWEAT video on You Tube © SWEAT

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of this day, Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Taskforce invited people to join them in amplifying the global call to decriminalise sex work, with the launch of a video.

Designed in partnership with **Blink Tower**, the short animation highlights the challenges facing sex workers in countries like South Africa where sex work is criminalised.

Although law reform for sex work has been in process for over a decade, many politicians say they can't support decriminalisation of sex work because 'the public' don't support the decriminalisation campaign.

SWEAT asked people to add their voice to the #sexworkiswork campaign by [viewing and sharing their video and signing the petition to decriminalise sex work.](#)

Brazil Celebrates ISW Day



Sex workers from Itatinga Garden, Campinas, at the Daspu Parade.

Image © Flavio Lenz

International Sex Worker Day was celebrated by organisations around Brazil.

In Rio, Belo Horizonte and Campinas (Southeast), Porto Alegre (South), Belém (North), Teresina and Campina Grande (Northeast), sex workers and activists promoted cultural and political activities, such as workshops, media interviews, parades, a catwalk and a public audience, as well as distribution of leaflets, papers, flowers and chocolate candies to sex workers.

Read more detailed stories of the events in Brazil [here](#).

Canadian Sex Workers Rally in Annual Red Umbrella March

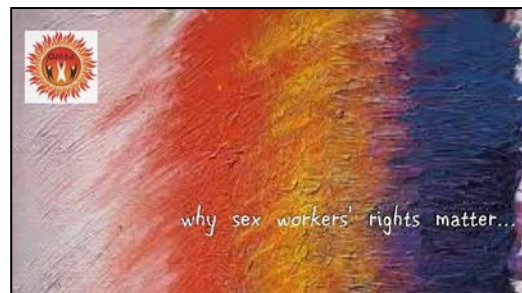
Sex workers in Canada held a national day of action across the country on Saturday, the 13th of June.

The third **annual Red Umbrella March** was especially significant this year, following the introduction of new sex work legislation late last year.

In Vancouver, a demonstration was organised by **Triple-X Workers' Solidarity Association of B.C.**, Downtown Eastside Sex Workers Against Violence, **Pivot Legal Society**, **PACE Society**, B.C. Coalition of

In Toronto, a Celebration of Sex Worker Solidarity was held in Allan Gardens and co-organised by **Maggie's - Toronto Sex Workers Action Project**, Regent Park Community Health Centre, STRUT, **Butterfly**, TransPride Toronto and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.

PEERS Victoria released this video: **"Why sex workers' rights matter"**



© PEERS Victoria

Events were held in other cities across the country, including Montreal, Québec City, Saint John's, Victoria and Winnipeg.

U.S. Sex Worker Rights Activists Call for U.N. to Hold U.S. Government Accountable

Source: BPPP

Representatives of U.S.-based sex worker rights organisations were in Geneva, Switzerland in May, meeting with members of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC), and advocating for greater human rights protections.

The HRC held its quadrennial Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the U.S.' human rights record on May 11th at the U.N. in Geneva. The UPR is a peer-based review process, through which the human rights record of each member state of the U.N. is subject to scrutiny by fellow governments, which call on other each other to address and end violations of civil, political, economic and social human rights in their own countries.

Experiential Communities, and **FIRST**. The organisers said in a statement:

"To even discuss obtaining sexual services with anyone in any place—including on the telephone or Internet—is now a crime, leaving our clients vulnerable to police entrapment stings."

The Vancouver march, led by people wearing red and carrying red umbrellas, passed through the Downtown Eastside, where dozens of sex workers have gone missing and been murdered, raising awareness of the fact that the Canadian government's new policy on sex work puts sex workers at greater risk of violence. With their clients fearing arrest sex workers have less power to negotiate terms and assess their safety.

In advance of the review this year, advocates with **Best Practices Policy Project**, **Desiree Alliance**, and **Sex Workers Outreach Project-NY** submitted a **report** to the HRC. Written in consultation with sex workers and their allies throughout the country, the report shows that criminalisation and stigmatisation of sex workers, and those profiled as such, exposes them to rape, extortion, physical violence, harassment, and discrimination at the hands of law enforcement. Criminalisation and stigma can also lead to denial of housing, healthcare, parenting and other reproductive rights, education, incomes, and employment. The report demonstrates that the legal system frequently fails to recognise that sex workers can be victims of violence, and thus denies justice or support to sex workers who seek help.

For Monica Jones, a human rights advocate and transgender woman of colour from Phoenix, Arizona, the issues raised in Geneva have directly impacted her own life. Like many transgender and gender non-conforming people of colour, she is threatened by regular harassment by police, who use anti-sex work laws to intimidate and harm members of communities already vulnerable to discrimination.

"As long as the police can target my community using these anti-sex work laws," Ms. Jones notes, "we will never be safe from violence, including the violence of incarceration."

The UPR of the U.S. comes as major uprisings are sweeping the country in response to persistent police violence and murders of people of colour. Sex worker communities, particularly those of colour, are all too familiar with the rampant profiling, harassment and violence that police carry out throughout the U.S. Sex worker rights advocates in Geneva are in solidarity with the #blacklivesmatter movement and other similar racial justice movements that seek to end police brutality.

"We refuse to be silenced when the criminalisation and stigmatisation of our communities means our voices and existence don't matter to those who hold power," said Derek Demeri, a member of the New Jersey Red Umbrella Alliance, who was in Geneva. Demeri pointed out that one of the many detrimental effects of

stigma and criminalisation is increased risk to sex workers' health and wellbeing.

"The U.S. is obligated to uphold the right to health under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, yet municipalities criminalise possession of condoms, jeopardising the health of sex workers and other communities and placing them at risk of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections."

#FacesOfProstitution

The #FacesOfProstitution hashtag has been filling up social media timelines since 29th March when a Sydney based sex worker started it in response to an offensive blog post by a fundamentalist Christian organisation was reposted on Mamamia, a popular Australian online women's magazine.

The hashtag **trended worldwide on BBC Trending** and has united sex workers across the globe in solidarity against the offensive stereotypes employed by anti-sex work campaigners to undermine the power of sex workers. These tired old stereotypes are wheeled out at various times and for this particular occasion it was the 25th anniversary of the film *Pretty Woman*. This threw up many articles decrying the film's supposed "romanticising of prostitution" and its "glamorising of prostitution" each article clamouring desperately to hijack the film claiming it tells a sex trafficking story. Anything nowadays goes when articles conflate trafficking with sex work; especially when articles can erase sex worker voices and experiences in favour for a juicier more perverse narrative to suit Nordic Model supporters' aims. One blogger even **wrote an open letter to Richard Gere**. It was also a week in which another powerful sex worker-driven campaign spread across the world to challenge offensive stereotypes employed by those who purport wanting to 'help sex workers'.

The campaign grew organically when sex workers in Australia took issue with **a blog post from Exodus Cry** republished on

the Mamamia website on 24th of March. The offensive blog post (since removed from the Mamamia website and not directly linked to in this article) argues the film *Pretty Woman* "glorifies prostitution" and "lured [women] into the sex industry by leading them to believe that prostitution was glamorous and romantic."

A Sydney sex worker Tilly Lawless started the #FacesOfProstitution hashtag in response to the Mamamia article. Tilly was angered by the way the piece "generalised sex workers" and "depicted all 'prostitution' as harmful". Tilly has been working as a sex worker for two years but only started identifying publicly as a sex worker a few months ago in Sydney, where sex work is legal. She decided to post a picture of herself on her Instagram feed to show another face of 'prostitution' - the face of a young woman who had made an informed choice to be a sex worker - as a protest against the blog adding the #FacesOfProstitution hashtag.

Tilly also posted the photo and hashtag in the Facebook group pages of **Scarlett Alliance - the Australian Sex Worker's Association** - other sex workers then asked if they could use the hashtag on Twitter. Then it began: a mass of hundreds of mostly Australian and mostly female sex workers posted images showing their faces to the world, many coming out publicly as sex workers on social media for the very first time. Sex workers in other countries soon followed with a number of prominent sex worker activists joining in.

"I was really pleasantly surprised," Lawless told BBC Trending, because sex workers *"are very rarely humanised as individuals, so often our bodies are spoken about but putting our faces on social media is such a powerful thing"*.

Another **sex worker responded to the blogpost** on Mamamia's website a few days later arguing that *"Confusing these two different topics - sex work and sex slavery - only hurts both sides. It further perpetuates the negative stereotypes and stigma of sex work. It creates confusion and silences us. It makes our fight for workplace rights and to end our discrimination just that little bit harder. And, importantly, it makes the victims of sex trafficking ambiguous."*

Northern Ireland's Sex Purchase Law Comes into Effect



Sex Workers protest outside Northern Ireland's Stormont Assembly
© Used with kind permission from Matt Lemon Photography

On 1st June, 2015 a new law in Northern Ireland criminalising the purchase of sex came into effect.

This makes Northern Ireland the only region of the United Kingdom to adopt the Nordic model, after a similar bill failed to pass in Scotland in 2013.

The bill was passed in Northern Ireland's Stormont assembly by 81 votes to 10 last October despite research commissioned by the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland that concluded that Northern Ireland's adoption of the Nordic Model would not be in sex workers' best interests.

A press release from the Northern Ireland Executive was published on 20th May. It said that "under section 15 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, it will become an offence to obtain sexual services in exchange for payment, either by paying, or promising to pay, any

person directly, or through a third party.

"Under the new law, it will be illegal to obtain, for payment, sexual services from anyone, whether or not

there is exploitation. The sexual services which will be illegal must involve the buyer being physically present with the seller and there must either be physical sexual contact or the seller must perform sexual acts where they touch themselves for the sexual gratification of the buyer. Under the legislation, payment includes money or the provision of goods or services. Anyone convicted under the new legislation can be sentenced to a maximum of one year's imprisonment, or a fine, or both."

Problematic Trafficking Bill Passes the US House

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA), a piece of bipartisan anti-trafficking legislation that has been criticised for its prioritisation of law enforcement, passed the US House of Representatives by 420 votes to three on 19th May. The legislation will now head to

President Obama's desk to be signed into law.

The problematic 'Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act' (SAVE) has been added on to the bill. This legislation would allow website owners to be charged as 'sex traffickers' if any trafficking victims are found to have been advertised on the site—whether or not the website owner had any knowledge of this happening. Sponsors of the bill have specifically stated **that their intent is to shut down**, or at least seriously cripple, advertising spaces for sex workers, such as Backpage.com, which would take away from sex workers a safe space for screening clients.

While the bill gained support from the usual anti-sex worker feminist organisations, dissent came from a surprising source. The Girls Educational and Mentoring Service (GEMS), an anti-trafficking organisation that runs diversion programmes and takes an abolitionist approach, published a **blogpost in March** detailing the reasons why they do not support the JVTA.

Both advocates for sex workers and victims of trafficking, speaking to RH Reality Check, agreed that the JVTA **focuses too much on unproven law enforcement efforts** and too little on the needs of survivors or measures that would prevent people becoming victims of trafficking.

Journal of the International AIDS Society



Special Issue: Police, Law Enforcement and HIV.
Abstract submission

Deadline: July 30, 2015

JIAS have put out **this call** for abstracts proposing research articles for a special issue on *Police, Law Enforcement and HIV* to be published in 2016. The editors invite submissions on any aspect of the theme of the Police role in the HIV response.

"Police behaviours are the key determinants of the risk environment for many people at risk of HIV. This is especially the case for street-based communities of sex workers and people who inject drugs, but applies to other marginalised communities such as MSM and transgendered people. The injurious impact of much police behaviour towards these communities has been well documented. What is not so well documented is how these behaviours can be changed, and how they are being changed, to make allies of Police in the national responses to HIV."

The Law Enforcement and HIV Network (LEAHN) will launch a special Thematic Series of the Journal of the International AIDS Society on Police, Law Enforcement and HIV at a LEAHN Consultation on Police and HIV at the Durban IAS Conference in July 2016.

For more information on contributions, proposed topics and how to submit an initial abstract see the **full call here**.

Anti-Trafficking Review - Call for Papers: 'Trafficking Representations'



Thematic Issue Guest Editors: Rutvica Andrijasevic, U of Bristol, & Nicola Mai, LMU & University and University of Aix-Marseille (LAMES).

Deadline for Submission: 8 January 2016, for publication Autumn 2016.

The **Anti-Trafficking Review** has put out this **call for papers** for a themed issue entitled 'Trafficking Representations.'

"Work that migrants do in the sex industry and other irregular employment sectors is increasingly characterised as exploitation and trafficking. Representations of trafficking and forced labour are pervasive within media, policymaking, and humanitarian debates, discourses and interventions...Celebrity interventions, militant documentaries, artistic works and fiction films have all become powerful vectors of distribution of the trafficking and 'modern slavery' rhetoric. These offer simplistic solutions to complex issues without challenging the structural and causal factors of inequality. They also tend to entrench racialised narratives; present a narrow depiction of an 'authentic victim;' and confuse sex work with trafficking.

Such representations play a key role in legitimising oftentimes problematic rescue operations that can involve criminalisation, detention and arrest of both non-trafficked and trafficked persons as well as justifying restrictive labour and migration laws that exacerbate migrants' precarious living and work situations."

The call states that authors may be interested in addressing several themes, **including** the human rights implications of the representations of sex workers only as victims of trafficking.

For more information about how to submit, word counts, etc. see the full call for papers **here**.

Anti-Trafficking Review: 'Fifteen Years of the Trafficking Protocol'

To mark 15th anniversary of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Issue 4 of the Anti-Trafficking Review takes stock of the impact of the Trafficking Protocol.

The Protocol created frameworks which have impacted people's lives: differentiating smuggling from trafficking; marking out women and children, rather than men, as priority stakeholders; defining trafficking broadly; placing organ sale within the mainstream of anti-trafficking work; and emphasising the concept of 'abuse of power' in the identification of trafficking.

What do the effects of these aspects of the Protocol look like on the ground, after 15 years of building anti-trafficking into government, NGO and INGO programming?

How do those who negotiated the Protocol view it now?

How has the Protocol's definition of trafficking been received and what aspects of the definition continue to be problematic or controversial?

Furthermore, what work needs to be done to make the Protocol more useful (to people who are trafficked) in the decades ahead?

Some have questioned the new international legal framework around trafficking established by the Protocol due to its placement under a crime control convention and the implicit prioritisation of prosecutions over human rights and victim protection.

Five 'Debate' pieces defend or reject the following proposition: **The Trafficking Protocol has Advanced the Global Movement Against Human Exploitation.**

Published by the **Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women**, the **Anti-Trafficking Review** is a peer-reviewed academic journal that promotes a human rights based approach to anti-trafficking.

Global Fund Launches Human Rights Complaints Procedure

The *Global Fund* has launched a human rights complaints procedure as part of its commitment to protect and promote human rights in the context of fighting AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

The complaints mechanism allows people to submit a complaint to the Global Fund's Office of the Inspector General if any of five minimum human rights standards (listed below) is believed to have been violated by an implementer of Global Fund grants, in line with the partnership's commitment to the highest standards of accountability. Implementers of Global Fund-supported programmes are expected to:

- Grant non-discriminatory access to services for all, including people in detention
- Employ only scientifically sound and approved medicines or medical practices
- Not employ methods that constitute torture or that are cruel, inhuman or degrading
- Respect and protect informed consent, confidentiality and the right to privacy
- Avoid medical detention and involuntary isolation unless as a last resort.

Principal Recipients (i.e. any type of organisation such as a government ministry, faith-based organisation or NGO that are tasked with the financial and programmatic responsibility for the Global Fund grant) are required to identify the risk that any of these standards may be violated. Where a risk is identified, they may need to develop a mitigation plan to ensure violations do not occur. Principal Recipients must also reflect these five standards in agreements with sub-recipients and suppliers and disclose to the Global Fund any cases of non-compliance with the standards.

Anyone can contact the Office of the Inspector General by email, by telephone or through the Global Fund's website. If someone believes

that they have either experienced or witnessed a violation of any of these five rights, they can file a complaint with the Office of the Inspector General online [here](#), via email at inspectorgeneral@theglobalfund.org or via the free telephone reporting service on +1 704 541 6918.

All information will remain confidential, and anyone making a complaint can also choose to remain anonymous.

"The Global Fund needs to know about any human rights infringements in the programs we support," said Inspector General Mouhamadou Diagne. "We encourage all to speak up using our whistle-blowing channels which are free, safe and confidential."

The Global Fund partnership is committed to removing human rights barriers that reduce access to health programmes, and undermine efforts to end HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics.

For more information regarding the complaints procedure, please download their [brochure](#) (also available in [عربي](#) [Español](#) [Français](#) [Русский](#)). You can also download a [poster](#) ([عربي](#) [Español](#) [Français](#) [Русский](#)) for use in awareness raising.

Policy of Mandatory HIV Testing of Sex Workers Repealed in Greece

According to a report at Human Rights Watch (HRW), on 2nd April Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, repealed the health regulation used to justify roundups and forced HIV testing of people alleged to be sex workers.

In April 2012, in response to a massive rise in HIV rates following health sector budget cuts due to the Greek economic crisis, police in Athens arrested drug users and suspected sex workers and forced them to undergo HIV testing. According to HRW, those found to be HIV positive were charged with causing intentional grievous bodily harm (a felony) or attempted bodily harm (a misdemeanour), for allegedly

having unprotected sex with clients while knowing they were HIV positive. At least 12 sex workers had their names and private information published first on the police force's website, then in newspapers, TV and by the Greek Center for Disease Control who disclosed their HIV-positive status.

Then Health Minister, Andreas Loverdos introduced legal provision 39A in April 2012, which made it mandatory to conduct forced HIV testing on suspected sex workers, undocumented migrants, and drug users. Human Rights Watch and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) had raised concerns about the regulation, which was reinstated the following year.

Most of the women were acquitted of all charges but, having spent up to ten months in detention, some felt lasting trauma and shame at having been publicly outed. In December last year the Greek press reported that **one of the women had committed suicide**.

In spite of the repeal of such a harmful health policy, HRW reports that sex workers in Greece continue to face other challenges. A new policing plan for the centre of Athens was announced on the 12th March. The plan includes targeted operations against "women sex workers," among others.

"Many women selling sex on the streets," writes Human Rights Watch, "fall afoul of the strict regulations governing legal sex work and face daily harassment by the police."

"Repealing a health regulation that led to such terrible abuse is a good first step." HRW continues. "But the Greek government should also implement a genuine public health approach to people who exchange sex for money, drugs, or life necessities. And this means ensuring that police operations respect the rights of women whose lives are hard enough already."

A documentary film about the crackdown in Athens was released in 2013. **Ruins: Chronicle of an HIV Witchhunt** was directed by Zoe Mavroudi who **was interviewed by VICE** about the film.

Ontario to Uphold C-36; Sex Workers Respond



© Jeniffer J. Reed

On 1st April, the Premier of Ontario (Canada) Katherine Wynne, said that Ontario would uphold Canada's new prostitution law—which criminalises paying for sex, and communicating or advertising for sex—following a review by the province's Attorney-General, Madeline Meilleur, which found the new law to be constitutional.

The review came about after Wynne issued a statement last December, a day after the law—C-36, or the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act—came into effect, saying that she had “grave concerns” about the its effect on sex workers' safety and asked for a review into whether it was constitutional.

“We will uphold the law,” said Wynne. “We'll obviously monitor and determine the impact of the law, but there's no clear unconstitutionality in the law.”

Meilleur said that there are approximately 26 cases in Ontario being prosecuted under the new law.

A coalition of sex workers, including NSWP members organisations and their supporters released the following statement, on the same day as the announcement:

Ontario Turning its Back on Sex Workers

Statement by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, **Butterfly (Asian and Migrant Sex Workers Support Network)**, COUNTERfit Women's Harm Reduction Program (South Riverdale Community Health Centre), Families of Sisters in Spirit, the Feminist Coalition in Support of Full Decriminalization and the Labour and Human Rights of Sex Workers, **Maggie's -Toronto Sex Workers' Action Project**, Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies (University of Toronto), NOW Magazine, **POWER (Prostitutes of Ottawa -Gatineau Work Educate & Resist)**, Sex Work Advisory Network Sudbury (SWANS), South Western Ontario Sex Workers, **Sex Professionals of Canada**, STOP The Arrests Sault Ste Marie, STRUT, Women in Toronto Politics, and Jane Doe (Sexual Assault Activist), Terri-Jean Bedford and Nikki Thomas.

“While Ontario Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur has not yet publicly released her review of Canada's new, misguided sex work law, we understand – according to a reported statement today by Premier Kathleen Wynne –that this review has found “no

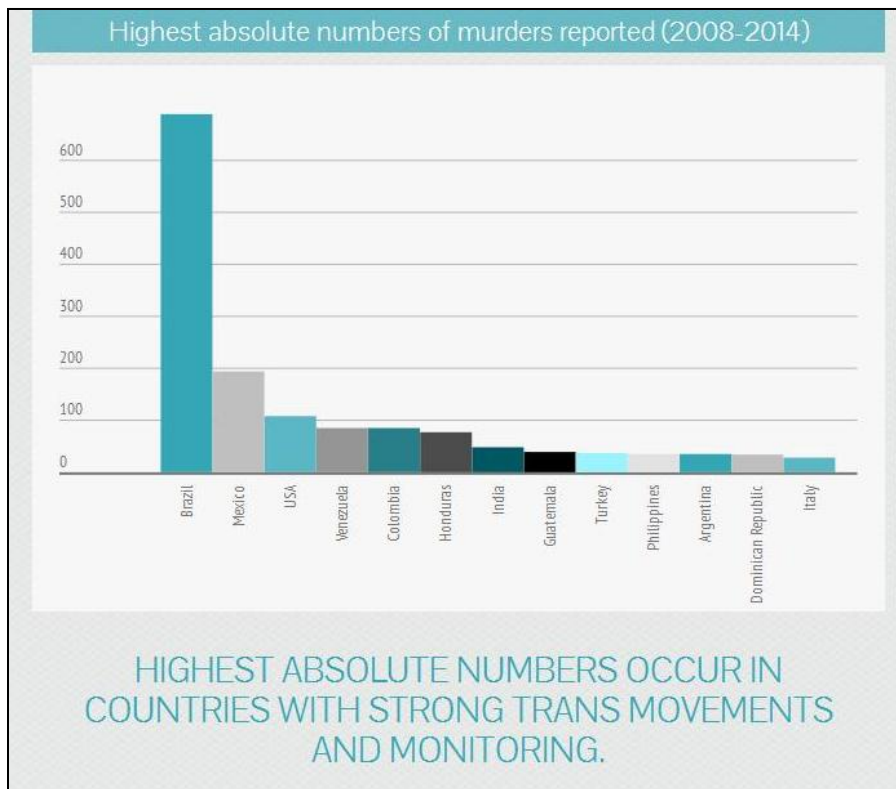
clear unconstitutionality” in the so -called Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act. We disagree with this conclusion, and are profoundly disappointed that the province appears to be turning its back on sex workers and Ontarian communities, despite Premier Wynne's own “grave concerns” with the new sex work law. This finding flies in the face of the December 2013 ruling in R. v. Bedford, in which the Supreme Court of Canada rightly upheld the human rights of sex workers. The new law is extremely similar to the old one, which was struck down by the Court as unconstitutional, and even further criminalizes sex work in some respects.”

“More than 190 lawyers from across Canada have gone on record expressing their concerns with the law's constitutionality (or lack thereof). It should also be noted that the Attorney General chose not to meet with sex workers and their allies while her review was underway, preferring not to hear from those on whose backs these laws will be tested. Canada's current sex work law replicates –and is even worse than –the failed “Nordic” model for sex work. The model chosen targets sex workers' clients, their means of advertising their services, and even preserves much of the unconstitutional prohibition on any communications about sexual services, including by sex workers themselves. It continues to surround sex work with a web of criminality. Sex workers have consistently articulated the many ways in which criminalizing them, their clients and their work settings does nothing to protect them, but instead undermines their ability to control their conditions of work to protect their health and safety.”

“The law ensures that harms to sex workers will continue, and is a terrible step backwards. Even if the Ontario Attorney General has concluded the law is “not clearly unconstitutional,” this is hardly an endorsement of the law –and certainly doesn't remove the fact that the new provisions will contribute to the risks of harm faced by sex workers. The Government of Ontario must not enforce this misguided law. We will continue to fight for the development of laws and policies that promote health, safety and human rights for all Canadians.”

TGEU Trans Murder Monitoring Report

TMM's report noted the level of aggression used in these murders: "While the actual circumstances of



© TGEU's *Trans Murder Monitoring (TMM) project*

Transgender Europe's Trans Murder Monitoring project (TMM) published a report in advance of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT - 17th May 2015.)

The report details a total of 1,731 cases of reported killings of trans and gender-diverse people from January 1st 2008 to December 31st 2014 in all regions of the world. Analysis of the data shows that **65 percent** of all murdered trans and gender-diverse people (whose profession was known) were sex workers.

The report follows a period when a spate of murders of trans sex workers have come to the attention of the sex worker community across the world. For example: in July 2013 **Dora Özerin** was murdered in Turkey; in the Philippines last year **Jennifer Laude** was murdered, allegedly by a US Marine, while in the USA, the first couple of months of this year saw the number of reported murders of trans women at a rate of **one per a week** – many of whom were sex workers.

the killings often remain unknown due to a lack of investigation and reports, many of the cases documented involve an extreme degree of aggression, including torture and mutilation. Many cases are not investigated properly by the authorities and many have hardly received any public attention at all."

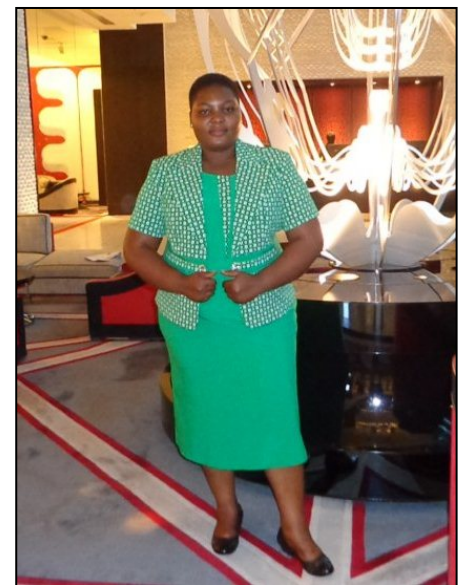
Paradoxically, the report found that higher numbers of reported attacks against trans and gender-diverse people were found in countries with stronger trans communities, due to better monitoring in those places. "The highest absolute numbers," reports TMM, "have been found in countries where strong trans and gender diverse people's movements and/or LGBT organisations do professional monitoring. This correlation points to the unknown number of unreported cases."

Analysis of the data shows that 65 percent of all murdered trans and gender-diverse people whose profession was known were sex workers. When the location of death has been reported, 38 percent were found to have been murdered in the street and 24 percent were murdered in their own homes.

Sex Worker Leaders

Also on our website you can view the latest featured **leaders' profiles**.

Recent profiles include **Daisy Nakato**, Executive Director of WONETHA in Uganda.



Daisy Nakato

Also this a moving profile of the late **Gabriela Leite** from Brazil, a tireless campaigner for sex workers' rights, who passed away in October 2013 at the age of 62.



Gabriela Leite

Other headlines

Swiss Government 'does not support criminalisation'

Sex Workers Protest France's Proposal to Criminalise Clients

'Trafficking' initiatives impact on Saskatchewan & in Georgia

CSWC join Regional Coordinating Mechanism

Raids increase health risk for Edinburgh Sex Workers

Toronto Pan Am Games – Impact on Sex Workers

Migrant Sex Workers Swept Up in Ottawa Raids to be Deported

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

Publications

French, Spanish and Russian Versions of the SWIT Published



Cover Image © PJ Starr

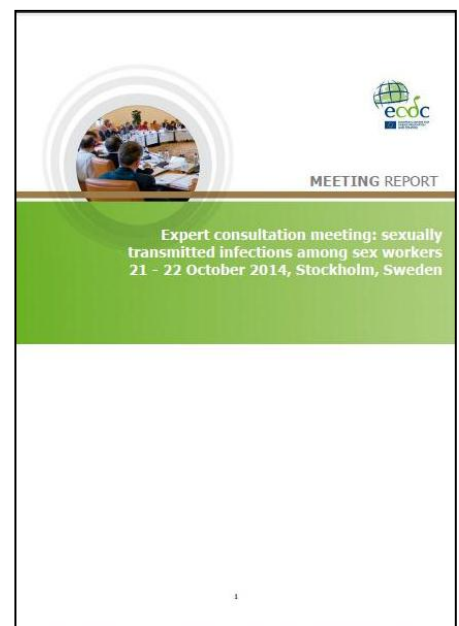
This hugely important resource has now been translated into several languages. You can access the SWIT tool using these links: [Russian](#) , [French](#) & [Spanish](#)

In 2013, **'Implementing Comprehensive HIV/STI Programmes with Sex Workers: Practical Approaches from Collaborative Interventions'** or the SWIT was published. The resource was authored by the World Health Organization, in collaboration with UNFPA, UNAIDS, NSWP and the World Bank. It is a comprehensive global tool aiming to offer guidance on how to implement the **WHO's 2012 recommendations on HIV and Sex Work**. It emphasises the importance of implementation at a grassroots level, led by local sex workers and local sex working collectives, as well as highlighting the importance of sex workers influencing HIV policy at national and international levels, through sex worker-led networks. It also calls for an end to the practice of law

enforcement officials using condoms as evidence of sex work.

The document affirms that the health of sex workers doesn't happen in a vacuum, and that countries should work towards the decriminalisation of sex work, and the empowerment and self-determination of sex working communities, as a fundamental part of the fight against HIV.

ECDC report - Expert Consultation Meeting: STIs among Sex Workers



The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) hosted its first 'Expert Consultation Meeting STIs among Sex Workers' meeting in October 2014 and has now released its public report of the meeting. NSWP was represented at the meeting.

The main aims of the expert consultation meeting, ECDC's first meeting on this topic, were:

- To agree upon the main areas where there is a clear need of public health action in the EU
- To discuss the best possible method for summarising the appropriate evidence based

methods for policy makers to tackle these needs

- To discuss and agree on the format of the output, the main audience and the main elements of a communication plan for such a product
- To agree upon the next steps and future input given through this advisory group

The meeting began with a review of previous policy work in the area of sex work, including previous WHO guidelines and the SWIT tool recommendations.

The group noted that the annexes of the latest UNAIDS Guidance Note on HIV and Sex Work clearly define “decriminalisation” and that work in this area should include all third parties and activities related to sex work. It was also proposed that the group begin from an assumption of agreement on decriminalisation in the light of evidence and previous work of WHO et al.

ECDC’s role is to provide guidance on disease transmission and control in order to prevent (new) infections. In addition, any ECDC activities in the field should take into account existing work and involve all stakeholders.

This meeting was a first step towards developing ECDC’s work in this area. As such, participants indicated their interest to remain involved in the process and help ECDC to “apply global solutions to local problems” including adapting global guidance to the national level. However, timing was highlighted as crucial, as if we wait too long countries will adopt repressive/non-evidence-based laws in the meantime.

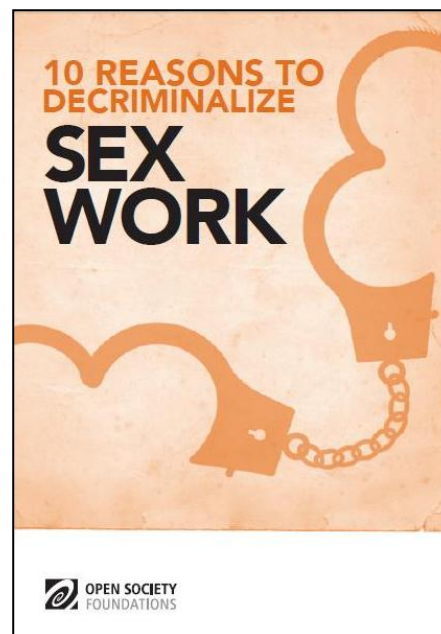
10 Reasons to Decriminalise Sex Work

Open Society Foundations have released an updated version of their 2012 brief “10 Reasons to Decriminalize Sex Work”.

The brief has been updated to reflect the most relevant arguments, and the latest news and evidence, which suggest the decriminalisation of sex work is the policy that best

protects the rights, health, and safety of sex workers.

Sex work is criminalised not only through prohibitions on selling sexual services, but also through laws that prohibit the solicitation of sex, living off the earnings of sex work, brothel-keeping, or the purchase of sexual services. By reducing the freedom of sex workers to negotiate condom use with clients, organise for fair treatment, and publicly advocate for their rights, criminalisation and aggressive policing have been shown to increase sex workers’ vulnerability to violence, extortion, and health risks.



This document provides ten reasons why decriminalising sex work is the best policy for promoting health and human rights of sex workers, their families, and communities. Removing criminal prosecution of sex work goes hand-in-hand with recognising sex work as work and protecting the rights of sex workers through workplace health and safety standards. Decriminalising sex work means sex workers are more likely to live without stigma, social exclusion, and fear of violence.

NSWP publications in various languages

Don’t forget that NSWP translate many of our publications into our other global languages. More recent additions include translations of our briefing papers on the following topics.

Be sure to check the website for other translations 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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