

The Red Umbrella Fund 2013:

Call for Applications is open!



The Red Umbrella Fund is the first global fund guided by and for sex workers. It provides funding to sex worker-led organisations and networks that are based in any country in the world; registered or unregistered; led by women, men and/or trans.

The Red Umbrella Fund aims to strengthen and ensure the sustainability of the sex worker rights movement by catalysing new funding specifically for sex worker-led organisations and national, regional and global networks.

Application documents in English, Spanish, Russian and French can be downloaded [here](#).

Deadline for applications is 1 August 2013 (00:00 CEST - Central European Summer Time)

US Supreme Court Rules on Anti-Prostitution Loyalty Oath

On June 20, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a 6-2 decision that the Policy Requirement of the Anti-Prostitution Loyalty Oath, from the U.S. Leadership Act of 2003, violates the First Amendment, and is therefore unconstitutional.

This is a partial victory for the sex worker rights movement, as it unfortunately makes distinction between sex work and human trafficking, and it is not a defence of sex worker rights. However, this ruling may decrease stigma around sex work, by allowing organisations in the United States that receive **PEPFAR** funding to publically adopt a neutral stance towards sex work, and focus on implementing best practices for public health aims.

There is little real change in terms of funding restrictions for both American and international organisations. Since the First Amendment only applies to U.S. citizens, the ruling does not alter pledge requirements for foreign organisations. There is also little practical change in funding restrictions for U.S. organisations, since a previous case lower district courts had temporarily kept the Anti-Prostitution Loyalty Oath from being enforced among U.S. organisations since 2006.

This may signal a turning point in public opinion towards sex work – which gives our movement some added momentum. It is crucial now that we build on this momentum in order to further progress towards sex worker human rights.

You can read a more in depth report of the ruling on our website [here](#).



Global Commission on HIV and the Law e-discussion



The Global Commission on HIV and the Law have are inviting people to participate in an e-discussion, *Taking the Commission's Recommendations Forward*, from 27 June to 25 July.

The e-discussion aims to analyse experiences in implementing the Commission's recommendations, as well as identify good practices, challenges, lessons learned, opportunities and challenges in addressing human rights and legal frameworks in the context of HIV.

The Global Commission on HIV and the Law's **final report**, was released in July 2012. The report included recommendations regarding the decriminalisation of sex work, including sex workers, our clients, our families, and our businesses and managers.

The recommendations were explicit in their opposition to the criminalisation of commercial sex and were also clear in calling for countries to repeal laws prohibiting activities associated with sex work including, brothel keeping. States are told to take all measures to stop police violence and harassment, and to prevent other human rights abuses such as mandatory HIV and STI testing.

The e-discussion will take place in 2 phases:

- Phase I: *Experiences, good practices and lessons learned* (27 June – 11 July)
- Phase II: *Looking ahead: Strategically taking the Commission's recommendations forward* (11-25 July)

For full instructions and participate in the discussion online by clicking [here](#).

You may also contribute by sending your submission to hivlawdiscussion@unteamworks.org.

Call for papers to Feminist Economics



The journal **Feminist Economics** is producing a special issue on 'Sex Work and Trafficking' and has issues the following call for papers:

'Economists have paid relatively sparse attention to the sex industry, despite its size and financial importance. Moreover, feminists remain deeply divided on the issue of agency. The debate between the "sex-work" and "abolitionist" lobbies suggests a strict dichotomy between work and exploitation. Yet existing studies suggest that the industry comprises a continuum of different degrees of agency and in this way resembles other forms of market-based work.

The special issue, planned for online publication in 2015 and print publication in 2016 (contingent on funding), will focus on theoretical analyses of sex work, evaluations of alternative policy regimes, and the emergence of new sexual services and markets. With the expansion of male, gay, and transgendered sex work, analyses that emphasise sex work as a contract between class

categories (men and women) may be unduly one-sided. In addition, more valuable insights may be provided by conceptualisations that highlight the caring labour and emotional aspects of sex work and its role in constructing and preserving gender identities. Economic analyses that draw analytical concepts from anthropology, sociology, or law are also encouraged. Given the speed at which markets for sex have spread worldwide, *Feminist Economics* especially welcomes contributions from the Global South and transition economics.'

Contributions may cover diverse topics, including but not limited to:

- Types of exchanges in sex work (contractual, relational, survival, gendered); the role of stigma; skills, emotions, and risks
- Continuity/discontinuity between different types of sex-based and sexual-economic exchanges (marriage versus sex work; sex work versus pornography)
- Bargaining power and informational asymmetries in sex work and trafficking; the role of clients
- Migration, human trafficking, and emerging markets for sex work; blurred boundaries between marriage migration, labor migration, sex tourism, and sexual harassment
- Market segmentation and the role of technology
- The politics of representation among sex workers and clients

Deadline for abstracts:
Please direct queries and abstracts (500 words maximum) to:

Guest Editors, Francesca Bettio (bettio@unisi.it), Marina Della Giusta (m.dellagiusta@reading.ac.uk), and Yana van der Meulen Rodgers (yrodgers@rci.rutgers.edu), no later than 15 August 2013.

If the Guest Editors approve an abstract, the complete manuscript will be due **1 April 2014** and should be submitted to *Feminist Economics* through the submissions website <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rfec> Questions about these procedures may be sent to feministeconomics@rice.edu, +1.713.348.4083 (phone), or +1.713.348.5495 (fax).



nswp+

Fighting for the Rights of HIV+ Sex Workers

NSWP+ launches!

To mark International Sex Worker Day, we have formally launched the NSWP+ website.

NSWP+ was formed during the Sex Worker Freedom Festival in 2012, when a group of positive sex workers came together and demanded recognition that: **'sex workers are not the problem, but part of the solution'**

NSWP+ is a platform for HIV positive sex workers and people committed to treatment access and equal rights for sex workers living with HIV. We have launched this special platform within the NSWP website to campaign for the rights of HIV positive sex workers and to bring our issues, alongside the energy and glamour of the sex worker movement to the wider treatment activist movement.

On the new NSWP+ website platform you will find news and resources on treatment access, testing and treatment, HIV and Health Financing and Human Rights. You can also join in the discussion on the interactive NSWP+ Discussion section.

To keep NSWP+ relevant to the needs of positive sex workers, we are setting up a global advisory group of sex workers living with HIV. This group will be consulted via email and skype on issues that are relevant specifically to positive sex workers and this working group can bring forward country and/or regional issues to the NSWP+ platform to be shared via the NSWP+ website. If you are interested in joining see more information [here](#).

WHO develops 'Sex Worker Implementation Tool'

In December 2012 guidance on *'Prevention and Treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections for sex workers in low- and middle-income countries:*

Recommendations for a public health approach' was

launched. The guidance was developed jointly with WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS and NSWP who conducted the community consultation to establish sex worker values and preferences relating to the interventions being considered.

NSWP particularly welcomed the recommendations that governments should work towards the decriminalisation of sex work and elimination of the unjust application of non-criminal laws and regulations against sex workers which exacerbate sex workers vulnerability to HIV and STIs. In addition we welcomed the recommendation that HIV prevention and treatment programmes need to include interventions to enhance community empowerment among sex workers that is sex worker-led and we particularly welcome the recommendation set out in the document that redefines the ethical use of periodic presumptive treatment (PPT) among sex workers. It emphasises that PPT should only

be used as an emergency short term measure under the strictest of conditions and while comprehensive sexual health services are being developed and that PPT like other interventions must not be imposed as part of a coercive or mandatory public health regime.

WHO, along with other partners, is currently developing an implementation tool to accompany these guidelines and NSWP members have participated in the drafting groups. A consultation meeting was organised in Accra, Ghana in May at which more than 25% of the participants were sex workers nominated by NSWP from all over world who shared their knowledge and experience of sex worker-led organising, service delivery and advocacy. We look forward to the development of the tool and note the outcome that even middle to high income countries are to be expected to implement the recommendations **as a minimum** in good practice for sex work interventions, **including** the including recommendations to work towards decriminalisation and support community empowerment.

Other news headlines

South Africa: CGE report



The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) in South Africa has 'concluded that the current legal regime that criminalises sex work had failed sex workers and instead perpetuated substantive abuse of their constitutional rights According to South Africa's IOL News.

Commissioner Janine Hicks, speaking at the launch of the CGE report called for all laws against sex workers to be repealed. 'Decriminalisation means: repeal all laws against sex work...we believe it is the only viable approach to promoting and protecting the dignity and rights of sex workers.'

Ireland fails to listen



Ireland's Oireachtas Justice Committee is to recommend that the purchase of sex be made a criminal offence.

The Justice Committee initially refused to allow any sex workers to address it either in public or in private, eventually relented but still only allowed two sex workers access. Many other organisations that were supportive of proposals to criminalise were allowed to participate.

Canada awaits Supreme Court ruling



Three laws related to sex work are currently being reconsidered in the *Bedford v. Canada* Supreme Court hearing, which took place on June 13th. You can read an in-depth analysis of the case on [this story](#) on the NSWP website.

Scotland successes



April saw the Sex Workers Rights Festival taking place in Glasgow.

The week long programme, attended by dozens of sex workers from across the globe, incorporated a variety of events, including presentations on different legal systems from sex workers and academics, erotic and professional skill sharing workshops, art shows, film nights and public education workshops.

SWOU, as the organising collective, in partnership with **SCOT-PEP**, also created sex worker-only spaces where Taboo subjects, such as sex work and violence, sex work and money or sex work and addiction/mental health were discussed. The festival's success was particularly significant in the face of the Scottish Trades Union Council **cancelling the venue** that had been booked for one of the major events just days before it was due to take place. The festival also received significant amounts of positive press coverage including this article in the *Herald*.

Defeat of attempt to introduce the Criminalisation of the Purchase of Sex in Scotland.

Scotland's sex workers and allies celebrated at the end of June as a proposed law failed to receive cross-

party support in the Scottish Parliament. This came after months of lobbying and campaigning against the private member's bill proposed by Rhoda Grant MSP. SCOT-PEP released the following **press statement** on the announcement that the proposal had fallen.

Sex work activists are delighted that the vast majority of MSPs decided to listen to the international body of academically rigorous evidence that clearly demonstrated that this proposal was completely misguided.

Brazil



The Brazilian Network of Prostitutes released a statement on June 7, 2013, in response to the government's recent censorship of a rights based HIV prevention campaign

developed by sex workers in partnership with the STD/AIDS

Department/Ministry of Health earlier this year.

The campaign was ordered to be taken offline just 2 days after the launch, by the Minister of Health. A sanitised campaign was re-launched several days later. Sex worker NGOs quickly mobilised and released statements criticising the government's actions. As the Brazilian Network of Prostitutes noted, "With the government's decision to first veto and then drastically alter the AIDS campaign supposedly constructed in partnership with prostitutes, we see that they are using this social group to affirm what they desire, thereby ignoring the achievements of the social movement and violating diverse democratic principles".

The full statement from the Brazilian Network of Prostitutes is available [here](#).

China: Abuses against sex workers



Human Rights Watch (HRW) have published another new report, *Swept Away: Abuses against sex workers in China*

The report documents how sex workers in China are subject to physical abuse by police, arbitrary detentions and extortion, mandatory HIV testing and a new report says.

The report by advocacy group Human Rights Watch (HRW) also describes cases of sex workers being coerced into HIV testing and sent to 're-education' camps.

There are 5 core recommendations in the report including the removal of criminal and administrative sanctions against

sex work and related offences, an immediate end to mandatory HIV testing of sex workers and enforcement of provisions that prohibit arbitrary arrests and detentions.

This report was timely as only two weeks later on May 30th, 2013, Chinese activist **Ye Haiyan** was detained by the police. Ye has a long history of activism related to gender, child abuse, and sex work. The official reports attempted to portray her in a negative light, however, these Chinese media reports fail to explain why she needed to defend herself and her 13-year-old daughter in such a way from violent intruders in her Guangxi home.

NSWP joined the many other activists calling for her release. You can read the full story on our website [here](#).

USA



San Francisco police will no longer use condoms as evidence when arresting and charging sex workers, according to an announcement by law enforcement agencies and the Human Rights Commission.

This announcement follows a six-month trial moratorium period in which condoms were not used as evidence in cases.

Read the full article in the [San Francisco Examiner](#).

On 21st June **New York** State Assembly passed what has become known as the "No Condoms as Evidence" bill. Activists and organisations are now urging the Senate to take action. You can keep up to date as the situation develops on the [No Condoms as Evidence Blog](#).

Australia



Scarlet Alliance have renewed calls for full decriminalisation in Western Australia, in **this report**, whilst an MP in South Australia has introduced a bill which the **Herald Sun** described as 'decriminalisation' into the parliament's lower house.

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

Other Publications

Namibia: UN Special Rapporteur on Sex Work



The United Nations Special Rapporteur, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, has said that 'the criminalisation of sex work in Namibia lies at the foundation of a climate of stigma, discrimination and violence surrounding sex work.'

She further reported that ‘Stigma, discrimination and violence often discourage sex workers from accessing public services, particularly health care, thereby violating their rights as well as hampering efforts to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. It also discourages them from seeking justice and redress when their rights are violated. The discrimination that they suffer is also often evident in other spheres such as education and employment. Particularly concerning is the lack of access by sex workers to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, including access to safe and legal abortion.’

The full document ‘**Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights**’, was shared at the 23rd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva in June and contains the recommendation that Namibia:

- **repeal the provisions relating to sex work in the ‘Combating of Immoral Practices Act (Act 21 of 1980) and all similar municipal regulations**

Treat Us Like Human Beings

Discrimination against Sex Workers, Sexual and Gender Minorities and People Who Use Drugs in Tanzania

This report from Human Rights Watch (HRW) documents how police torture, rape and assault sex workers, sexual minorities and drug users, while medical staff deny them healthcare, undermining efforts to reduce HIV infection.

The Tanzanian government has committed itself to reduce the stigma attached to marginalised groups and to work towards the decriminalisation of same-sex intimacy and sex work.

“The government’s HIV policy can’t succeed if police are driving away the very people the public health programmes most need to reach,” Neela Ghoshal, a HRW researcher said in a statement on the release of the report.

Coverage of Key Populations at the 2012 International AIDS Conference

This report co-authored by The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF), Global Action for Trans* Equality (GATE), The Center of Excellence for Transgender Health (CoE), The Harm Reduction Coalition, The International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD), Different Avenues and NSWP was released on 4th June. The report states that coverage of key populations at the conference was poor, topics were largely disconnected from community needs, and geographic distribution was extremely uneven.

International AIDS Conference (IAC) permanent partners formally responded to the report [here](#) and requested that this letter is shared where the original report appears. The authors of the original report have responded to this letter with a [rebuttal](#).



nswp

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NSWP is a private not-for-profit limited company. Company No. SC349355

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.

NSWP wishes to acknowledge the financial support of UNFPA in producing the Sex Work Digest.

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