



Global Network of Sex Work Projects
Promoting Health and Human Rights

*Annual
Report*
2016



About NSWP

THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF SEX WORK PROJECTS (NSWP) is a membership organisation which exists to uphold the voice of sex workers, amplify the voices of sex worker-led organisations globally, and connect regional networks advocating for the rights of female, male, and transgender sex workers. It advocates for rights-based health and social services, freedom from abuse and discrimination, and self-determination for sex workers.

NSWP members are sex worker-led organisations and networks from across the five NSWP regions: Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe – including Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, and North America and the Caribbean. Our organisational culture and rules ensure that we are led by sex workers and that sex workers are meaningfully involved at all levels within NSWP.

To become a member of NSWP, sex worker-led organisations must endorse the NSWP Consensus Statement¹ and core values:

- Acceptance of sex work as work.
- Opposition to all forms of criminalisation and other legal oppression of sex work (including sex workers, clients, third parties², families, partners and friends).
- Supporting self-organisation and self-determination of sex workers.



NSWP members are from diverse cultures and have different experiences and organisational histories. Most are independent sex worker-led organisations, some are informal groups of sex workers within larger organisations, and some are non-governmental organisations who support sex workers' rights. Some member organisations provide services, some focus on advocacy, and some on mobilising to reduce vulnerability. All work on human rights issues that affect the health and well-being of sex workers.

NSWP advocacy focuses on the following issues and goals:

- **Human rights:** Sex workers' human rights are promoted and protected.
- **Health:** Sex workers have universal access to health services, including for HIV.
- **Labour:** Sex work is recognised as work.
- **Stigma and discrimination:** Sex workers live free from stigma and discrimination.
- **Criminalisation and legal oppression:** Sex workers do not face criminalisation or legal punishment.
- **Violence:** Sex workers live free from all types of violence.
- **Migration and trafficking:** Sex work is not conflated with trafficking and sex workers can move and migrate freely.
- **Economic empowerment:** Sex workers have free choice of employment and economic security.

1 <http://www.nswp.org/resource/nswp-consensus-statement-sex-work-human-rights-and-the-law>

2 The term 'third parties' includes managers, brothel keepers, receptionists, maids, drivers, landlords, hotels who rent rooms to sex workers, and anyone else who is seen as facilitating sex work.

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Board Members

PRESIDENT: Pye Jakobsson
(Rose Alliance, Sweden)

AFRICA: Aimée Furaha
(UMANDE, Democratic
Republic of Congo) and
Brighton Carter (POW
WOW, Zimbabwe)

ASIA PACIFIC: Kaythi Win
(Vice-President, APNSW,
Thailand) and Tony Zheng
(Shanghai CSW & MSM
Centre, China)

EUROPE: Christine (STRASS,
France) and Nataliia Isaeva
(Legalife-Ukraine, Ukraine)

LATIN AMERICA: Karina
Bravo (Asociación Flor de
Azalea, Ecuador) and Miguel
Angel Saurin Romero
(Asociación Civil Cambio
y Acción, Perú)

**NORTH AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN:** Marlon Taylor
(Jamaica SW Coalition) and
Alex Andrews (Sex Workers
Outreach Project Behind
Bars, USA)

*All Board members are sex
workers and two board
members are openly living
with HIV.*

NSWP Secretariat

GLOBAL COORDINATOR:
Ruth Morgan Thomas

OPERATIONS MANAGER:
Gillian Galbraith

PROGRAMME MANAGER:
Paul-Gilbert Colletaz

**SENIOR PROGRAMME
OFFICER:** Mick Matthews

SENIOR POLICY OFFICER:
Neil McCulloch

POLICY OFFICER:
Katherine Koster
(joining in 2017)

**COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER:**
Katherine Van Meyl

**ADMIN AND MEMBERSHIP
OFFICER:** Manuela Nehrig

The View from 2016

2016 presented many opportunities as well as many challenges to sex workers' organising globally

NSWP began to implement various strategies as set out in our 2016–2020 Strategic Plan:

- To convene and further build on NSWP achievements as the global network committed to the realisation of sex workers' human rights.
- To build capacity within sex worker-led networks and organisations and support emerging sex worker leaders.
- To promote rights and evidence-based policies and programmes affecting sex workers.

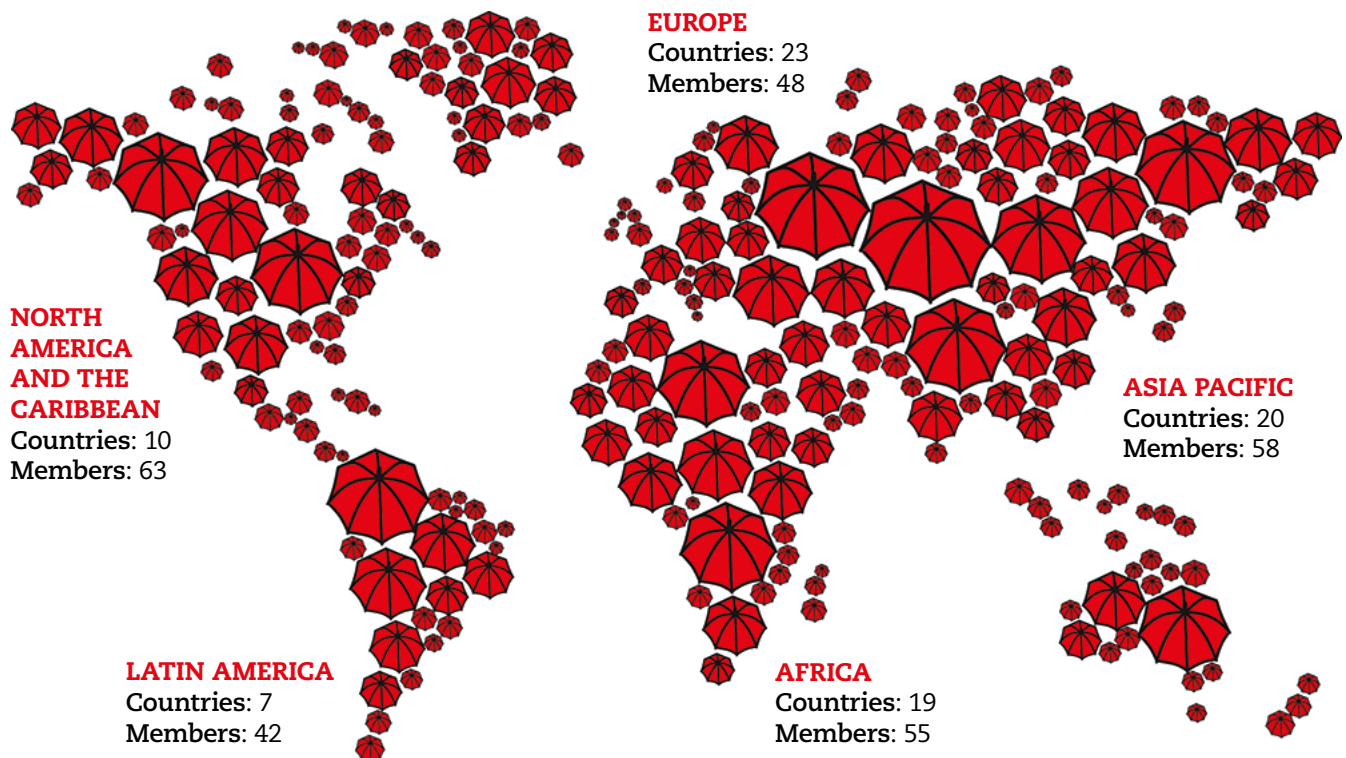
NSWP and our members participated in international and national dialogues and spaces, to promote rights and evidence-based policies and programmes affecting sex workers, using the Sex Worker Implementation Tool and NSWP Consensus Statement as the foundation for all global advocacy.

In addition to capacity building and technical support provided to regional networks, NSWP developed a range of advocacy tools, highlighted below, that bring the human rights of sex workers strongly into focus.



NSWP Membership

In 2016, NSWP membership grew to 266 members in 79 countries, spread across the five NSWP regions: Africa; Asia Pacific; Europe; Latin America; and North America and the Caribbean.





NSWP *Highlights*



Amnesty International launches policy on state obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of sex workers

On 26 May 2016, Amnesty International adopted a Policy on State Obligation to Respect, Protect, and Fulfil the Human Rights of Sex Workers. Amnesty International calls on states to decriminalise all aspects of adult consensual sex work including all laws, which criminalise sex workers, clients, and third parties, as one of the measures to ensure sex workers human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. The policy also calls for the end of

the discriminatory enforcement of other laws against sex workers, such as vagrancy, loitering, and immigration requirements. NSWP will monitor the impact of the Amnesty International policy at national level as part of a five-year case study on the impact of international guidelines and normative guidance on the lives and work of sex workers at a grassroots level. The first of the annual case studies will be published in 2017.

Sex workers' resilience and resistance at International AIDS Conference in Durban

The International AIDS Conference took place in Durban, South Africa from 18–22 of July 2016. The last time the AIDS Conference was in Durban was in 2000. NSWP, the African Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA) and Sisonke invited sex workers from around the world to participate in a sex worker-only pre-meeting on 17 July 2016. Eighty-eight individuals from 41 sex workers-led organisations registered for the sex workers pre-meeting. NSWP, ASWA and Sisonke also organised the Sex Worker Networking Zone in the Global Village, with a programme of events that allowed NSWP members from around the world to showcase their work.

Some highlights include:

- During the Opening Ceremony of the IAC and in many sessions throughout the conference, two sex workers held a clock that stated, “you’ve been talking for [mm:ss] without a mention of sex work”. This was to showcase the importance of acknowledging sex workers, as one of the four key populations disproportionately affected by HIV, in addressing the HIV epidemic.
- Sex workers interrupted a presentation by the Deputy Health Minister of South Africa who was arguing against the decriminalisation of sex work.

Sex workers also protested during the Deputy Minister of Justice & Constitutional Development’s presentation, where he misrepresented the successes of the Swedish model and spoke negatively about decriminalisation in New Zealand.

- Sex workers protested against Doctors 4 Life, an organisation that was advocating for the eradication of sex work from a moral and religious perspective.
- ESWA were recipients of the UNAIDS Red Ribbon Award in the category of reduced inequalities for Outstanding Community Based Organisation in the response to HIV.
- Charlize Theron came to the sex workers’ networking zone in support of sex workers’ rights
- NSWP members SWEAT and Sisonke held a demonstration for decriminalisation in South Africa and also mock arrested attendees of the conference who were carrying condoms. These attendees were placed in a mock jail cell. This was to showcase how condoms are being used as evidence of sex work in South Africa.
- During the Closing Ceremony, sex workers from around the world participated in a “Red Umbrella” action to highlight the call for full decriminalisation of sex work.

NSWP members protest for the decriminalisation of sex work in South Africa and the 2016 International AIDS Conference.



THANKS TO PJ STARR WHO SUPPLIED THE IMAGE FEATURED ON THE COVER OF THIS DOCUMENT.

The Sex Worker Implementation Tool (SWIT) adopted by the Global Fund and LINKAGES

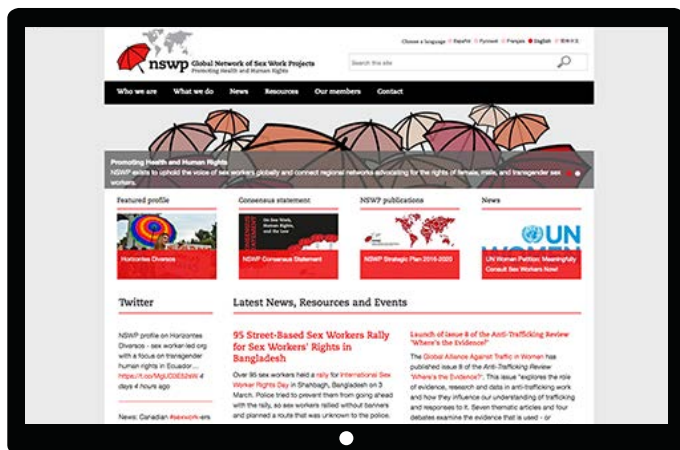
Implementing comprehensive HIV/STI programmes with sex workers: practical approaches from collaborative interventions (known as SWIT) was developed as a collaboration between sex workers, service providers, policy makers, donors and academics which was led by a partnership including WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS and NSWP. The SWIT promotes community-led rights-based responses to address the vulnerabilities that have led sex workers to be disproportionately impacted by HIV.

NSWP, with support from UNAIDS and co-sponsors, successfully lobbied for the uptake of the SWIT as the international normative guidance for sex worker programming. In 2016, the Global Fund adapted the sex worker programme module used to develop country funding requests to align with the SWIT. LINKAGES also adopted the SWIT and other key population implementation tools as the programmatic guidance that their in-country partners should reflect in their work plans.



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NSWP Achievements



NSWP website and social media platforms

NSWP's website was accessed by 128,585 individuals (1 Jan – 31 Dec 2016) – 19.1% of whom were returning visitors – who viewed 266,750 pages. 13% of the visits to the NSWP website included visiting the *resources pages*, which were accessed 34,632 times during the year, with the top three being The Real Impact of the Swedish Model on Sex Workers Advocacy Toolkit, Research for Sex Work 15: Resistance and Resilience, and the NSWP Consensus Statement. *Members' pages* were accessed 77,111 times, *news pages* were accessed 30,093 times and NSWP member profiles were accessed 6,545 times. Regional Correspondents, in each of the 5 NSWP regions, continued to provide coverage of regional and country-specific news and featured members' profiles for the NSWP website, making an important contribution to NSWP's website and providing

fresh perspectives from sex worker communities in their regions.

NSWP social media platforms are used to engage and share information with members and allies. NSWP continues to operate global and regional listservs to support information-sharing among members. NSWP maintains a private group on Facebook to ensure a relatively safe and secure space for sex workers and sex worker rights advocates to discuss issues and organise around common causes. As of 31 December 2016, the group had 1,882 members. The NSWP Facebook Page, which was set up in July 2016, is used to communicate to NSWP members and external stakeholders; as of 31 December 2016, the page had 1,100 likes. The NSWP Twitter account, @GlobalSexWork, has a wider reach with 14,274 followers on 31 December 2016.

NSWP publications

NSWP experienced some unavoidable delays in publishing all of the identified 2016 advocacy tools, some will be published later in 2017 and are listed in the looking forward section below.

BRIEFING PAPERS AND POLICY BRIEFS:

- NSWP Secretariat worked with global, regional and national consultants to review current international policy and document sex workers' lived experiences of the use of PrEP and Early Treatment as HIV Prevention Strategies in a Briefing Paper and community Guide on PrEP.

BRIEFING PAPER: <http://www.nswp.org/resource/prep>

COMMUNITY GUIDE: <http://www.nswp.org/resource/community-guide-prep>

- NSWP Secretariat worked with a global consultant to review current international policy and conduct a global consultation with NSWP members to document the lived experiences of young people selling sex in a Policy Brief and community Guide on Young Sex Workers.

BRIEFING PAPER: <http://www.nswp.org/resource/young-sex-workers>

COMMUNITY GUIDE: <http://www.nswp.org/resource/community-guide-young-sex-workers>

- NSWP Secretariat worked with a global consultant to summarise research on the harms that are caused to sex workers as a result of the criminalisation of third parties. This Policy Brief sets out in detail why NSWP and its members call for the decriminalisation of third parties.

BRIEFING PAPER: <http://www.nswp.org/resource/policy-brief-the-decriminalisation-third-parties>

COMMUNITY GUIDE: <http://www.nswp.org/resource/community-guide-the-decriminalisation-third-parties>

SMART SEX WORKER'S GUIDES:

- NSWP Senior Programme Officer drafted a community friendly introduction to the Global Fund as a resource for sex workers interested in learning more about the Global Fund.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/the-smart-sex-workers-guide-the-global-fund>

- NSWP Secretariat worked with a global consultant to review current research and document sex workers' lived experiences of the use of ICT and recommendations for its ethical use in a Smart Guide for Service Providers.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/smart-service-providers-guide-ict-and-sex-work>

- NSWP Secretariat worked with a global consultant to document the impact of anti-sex work programming and anti-trafficking initiatives on the human rights of sex workers. This Smart Guide provides strategies used by NSWP members on how to combat approaches that put sex workers at risk, directly or indirectly.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/the-smart-sex-workers-guide-addressing-the-failure-anti-sex-work-organisations>

RESEARCH FOR SEX WORK 15: RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE

- Research for Sex Work 15: Resistance and Resilience was published to celebrate International Sex Workers Rights Day on 2 June 2016. NSWP Communications Officer worked with authors, an editorial board and peer-reviewers on this publication.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/research-sex-work-15-resistance-and-resilience>

RESPONSES AND STATEMENTS:

- NSWP Secretariat wrote a statement to welcome Amnesty International's Policy on State Obligations to Respect, Protect, and Fulfil the Human Rights of Sex Workers

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/nswp-welcomes-amnesty-internationals-policy-protecting-the-human-rights-sex-workers>

- NSWP Secretariat wrote a statement in the light of some media coverage in mid-2016 on the subject of the decriminalisation of sex work. This media article criticised Amnesty International and made some alarmist and extremely misleading statements about the decriminalisation of third parties.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/criminalisation-third-parties-and-its-impact-sex-workers-human-rights>

- NSWP, MSMGF (The Global Forum on MSM & HIV) together with the Global Platform to Fast-Track the HIV and Human Rights Responses Among Gay and Bisexual Men and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men (The Platform) co-authored a joint statement in light of the exclusion of key populations from the draft 2016 UN Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS which was finalised at the UN High Level Meeting on Ending AIDS.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/exclusion-kills-joint-statement-nswp-and-msmgf>

- NSWP, MSMGF (The Global Forum on MSM & HIV) together with the Global Platform to Fast-Track the HIV and Human Rights Responses among Gay and Bisexual Men and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men (The Platform) co-authored a joint statement to express outrage over the failed political declaration. The political declaration failed to meaningfully address the HIV epidemic among key populations.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/high-level-failure-the-united-nations-key-populations>

- NSWP Secretariat wrote a response to the UN Women Consultant "seeking views on UN Women approach to sex work, the sex trade, and prostitution." NSWP also published an online petition calling on UN Women to meaningfully include sex workers in the development of their policy on sex work and provided UN Women with a Draft Framework for a UN Women Human Rights Affirming Approach to Sex Work in response to UN Women E-Consultation.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/nswp-formal-response-un-women-consultation>



NSWP Achievements

Strengthened capacity within sex worker-led networks and organisations

NSWP continued to provide technical support and work with regional networks to build their capacity and in turn they worked with sex worker-led organisations within the five NSWP regions, with the support of Bridging the Gaps Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund, MAC AIDS Fund, and Sexual Health And Rights Program – Open Society Foundations. Three regions, covered by the BTG programme, were prioritised for on-site technical support.

ASWA: NSWP continued to provide technical support to ASWA to strengthen capacity around organisational development, financial management and human resource management.

NSWP also continued to provide technical support to the South-South learning programme, the Sex Worker Academy Africa (SWAA), an ASWA initiative coordinated by Kenya Sex Worker Alliance (KESWA) which is based upon the SWIT. The faculty of Kenyan sex workers facilitated five academies in 2016, attended by country teams of sex workers from Zambia, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Botswana, Togo, Cameroon, Swaziland, Senegal, Lesotho, Mozambique, and Ghana. SWAA is funded through NSWP by Bridging the Gaps and Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund. NSWP published a Case Study of the SWAA, published in December 2015.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/sex-worker-academy-africa-case-study>

APNSW: NSWP continued to provide technical support to APNSW's Management Committee and Secretariat to strengthen capacity around organisational development, membership systems, financial management, and human resource management.

SWAN: NSWP continued to provide technical support to SWAN to build their capacity around governance, organisational development and membership systems, and financial management.

SEX WORKERS NETWORKS CONSORTIUM:

Sex Workers: strengthening rights based responses to HIV

Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (RCNF) awarded the Sex Worker Networks Consortium a second grant for 2016–18 to strengthen global advocacy and further build the capacity of regional and national sex worker-led networks and organisations in advocating for the SWIT at regional and national level and providing some core funding for global and regional networks. In the first year the Sex Worker Networks Consortium brought together regional coordinators to develop a common programme for the SWIT capacity building workshops and monitoring and evaluation framework. Regional networks implemented regional workshops and provided technical support to countries networks that organised national-level activities. NSWP provided technical support to the regional networks and developed advocacy tools and

resources to support the call for a human rights-based approach to sex work at local, national, regional and global levels.

Making the Global Fund work for sex workers: capacity building to support our engagement in Global Fund processes

2016 was the second year of the two-year award to the Sex Worker Networks Consortium to build capacity of sex workers in eligible countries to engage in





Global Fund national processes. Following on from the global and regional workshops run in 2015, NSWP Senior Programme Officer provided technical support to regional networks and Regional and National Community Experts to implement national capacity building workshops and activities in 18 of the 34 countries that attended the regional workshops.

Global Fund training in Nepal



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Engagement in international policy and programme dialogues and forums

Throughout 2016, NSWP's Global Coordinator continued to co-chair the UNAIDS Steering Committee on HIV and Sex Work with UNFPA and UNDP. The Steering Committee was designed to bring together the UNAIDS Secretariat and some of its co-sponsors, NSWP regional representatives, independent experts, and international donors. However, with the funding cuts experienced within UNAIDS and cosponsors the committee has been largely inactive in 2016 and NSWP is no longer funded as the Secretariat. The Steering Committee Co-Chairs continue to explore opportunities to promote and monitor and evaluate the roll out of the SWIT.

During 2016, NSWP representatives sat on;

- the UNAIDS Inter Agency Working Group on Key Populations;
- the World Health Organisation Civil Society Reference Group;
- The Global Fund Communities, Rights and Gender Advisory Group;
- and The Global Fund Developed Countries Delegation and Communities Delegation.
- In addition, NSWP has a seat on the LINKAGES (USAID 5-year programme for LGBT people, people who use drugs, sex workers, and transgender people) Advisory Board.

NSWP and *Partnership Working* to Advance Sex Workers' Rights



NSWP continues to invest
in partnerships to enhance
the health and human
rights of sex workers

GLOBAL NETWORKS OF KEY

POPULATIONS: NSWP has maintained strong alliances with other global networks of key populations, including MSMGF and INPUD. NSWP has also maintained strong working relationships with GNP+ and ITPC to ensure the needs of sex workers are integrated into their work and to strengthen NSWP's work around sex workers living with HIV and treatment advocacy.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND ACTION COLLABORATIVE

(CLAC): an alliance of constituency-led networks formed to improve community engagement in Global Fund processes.



UNAIDS STEERING COMMITTEE ON HIV AND SEX WORK: to influence and improve UN policy on HIV and sex work.

WHO HIV CIVIL SOCIETY REFERENCE GROUP: to influence and improve WHO guidelines and policy on HIV and sex work.

GLOBAL FUND BOARD – DEVELOPED COUNTRIES NGO DELEGATION: to influence and improve rights-based approaches to HIV prevention and treatment programmes for key populations, including sex workers.

GLOBAL FUND COMMUNITIES, RIGHTS AND GENDER ADVISORY GROUP: to influence and improve rights-based approaches to HIV prevention and treatment programmes for sex workers.

GLOBAL NETWORK OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV (GNP+): to ensure the needs of sex workers living with HIV are incorporated within the work of GNP+.

FREESPACEPROCESS (FSP): to explore the potential for a common advocacy agenda with other HIV global networks and organisations.

GLOBAL COALITION ON WOMEN AND AIDS (GCWA): to ensure sex workers' needs and rights are addressed in HIV responses to women and girls.

LINKAGES ADVISORY BOARD: to influence and enhance HIV and sexual and reproductive health programmes being provided to sex workers through the LINKAGES programme.

COALITION FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY AIDS (CCABA): coalition that brings funders and technical experts together to advocate for the best policy, research, and programmes and work on addressing the needs of children of key populations.

Looking Forward to 2017

NSWP will publish the following advocacy tools that were developed in 2016 but the publication was unavoidably delayed until 2017:

- Briefing Paper and Community Guide on Migrant Sex Workers.

In addition to our on-going work outlined in the NSWP Strategic Plan, the Board of Directors approved the following advocacy priorities for advocacy tools to be developed in 2017:

- Briefing Paper on access to and quality of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services.
- Briefing Paper on meaningful involvement of sex workers in the development of health services for sex workers.
- Policy Brief positioning sex work in a labour framework to advance the recognition of sex work as work.
- Policy Brief on the impact of criminalisation on sex workers' vulnerability to HIV and violence.
- Smart Sex Worker's Guide on challenging the introduction of the Nordic model.
- Smart Sex Worker's Guide on advocacy tools and resources used by sex worker-led organisations to combat violence.

In addition to those identified by the NSWP Board the following advocacy tools will also be developed in 2017 as part of specific programmes:

- Smart Sex Workers' Guide on the Global Fund Strategy.
- Policy Brief and Community Guide on Sex Work and Gender Equality.



Financial Summary 2016

Income 2016

NSWP would like to thank the following donors for their financial support during 2016:

INCOME	£
Aidsfonds – Bridging the Gaps II Programme	288,103
Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (RCNF)	440,087
Global Fund – RCNF partnership	256,141
MAC AIDS Foundation	69,639
Open Society Foundations – Sexual Health and Rights Program	10,990
Aidsfonds – Stepping Up Stepping Out Programme	10,497
Aidsfonds – Stepping Up, Stepping Out Programme (AMA)	10,497
HIVOS	12,000
UNAIDS	20,660
Alliance Consultancy (Ukraine)	22,949
Global Fund – Community Leadership and Action Collaborative	12,457
Miscellaneous resource mobilisation	10,567
TOTAL INCOME	£1,154,090

Expenditure 2016

EXPENSES	£
Global Personnel (staff and global, regional and national consultants)	301,682
Global activities	192,025
Global operating costs	54,264
Capital costs	4,892
Regional Sex Worker-led Networks activities:	
Africa	206,387
Asia Pacific	168,533
Europe	123,936
Latin America	44,403
North America and the Caribbean	44,403
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£1,140,524
Income carried forward to reserves	£13,566



Global Network of Sex Work Projects
Promoting Health and Human Rights

The Matrix
62 Newhaven Road
Edinburgh, Scotland
UK, EH6 5QB
+44 131 553 2555
secretariat@nswp.org
www.nswp.org

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Company No. SC349355

