



nswp

Global Network of Sex Work Projects
Promoting Health and Human Rights

annual report 2018



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 NSWP, 2013, NSWP Consensus Statement on 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: Kaythi Win
(APNSW, Thailand)

AFRICA: Aimée Furaha
(UMANDE, Democratic
Republic of Congo)
and Phelister Abdallah
(KESWA, Kenya)

ASIA PACIFIC: Manjula
Ramaiah (ASHODAYA
SAMITHI, India) and Sherry
Sherqueshaa (Project X,
Singapore)

EUROPE: Dinah de Riquet-
Bons (STRASS, France) and
Nataliia Isaieva (Legalife-
Ukraine, Ukraine)

LATIN AMERICA: Cynthia
Navarrete Gil (APROASE,
Mexico) and Miguel Angel
Saurin Romero (Asociación
Civil Cambio y Acción, Perú)

NORTH AMERICA

AND THE CARIBBEAN:

Shaunna-May Trotman
(Guyana Sex Work Coalition,
Guyana). A board member
representing North America
was elected in early 2019
(Natasha Potvin, Peers
Victoria Resources Society,
Canada).

*All Board members are sex
workers and four 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

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER:

Dani Anderson

ADMIN AND MEMBERSHIP

OFFICER: Manuela Nehrig

The View

from 2018

Sex workers organising globally faced many challenges as well as opportunities in 2018

NSWP continued to
implement various strategies
as set out in our [Strategic
Plan 2016–20](#):

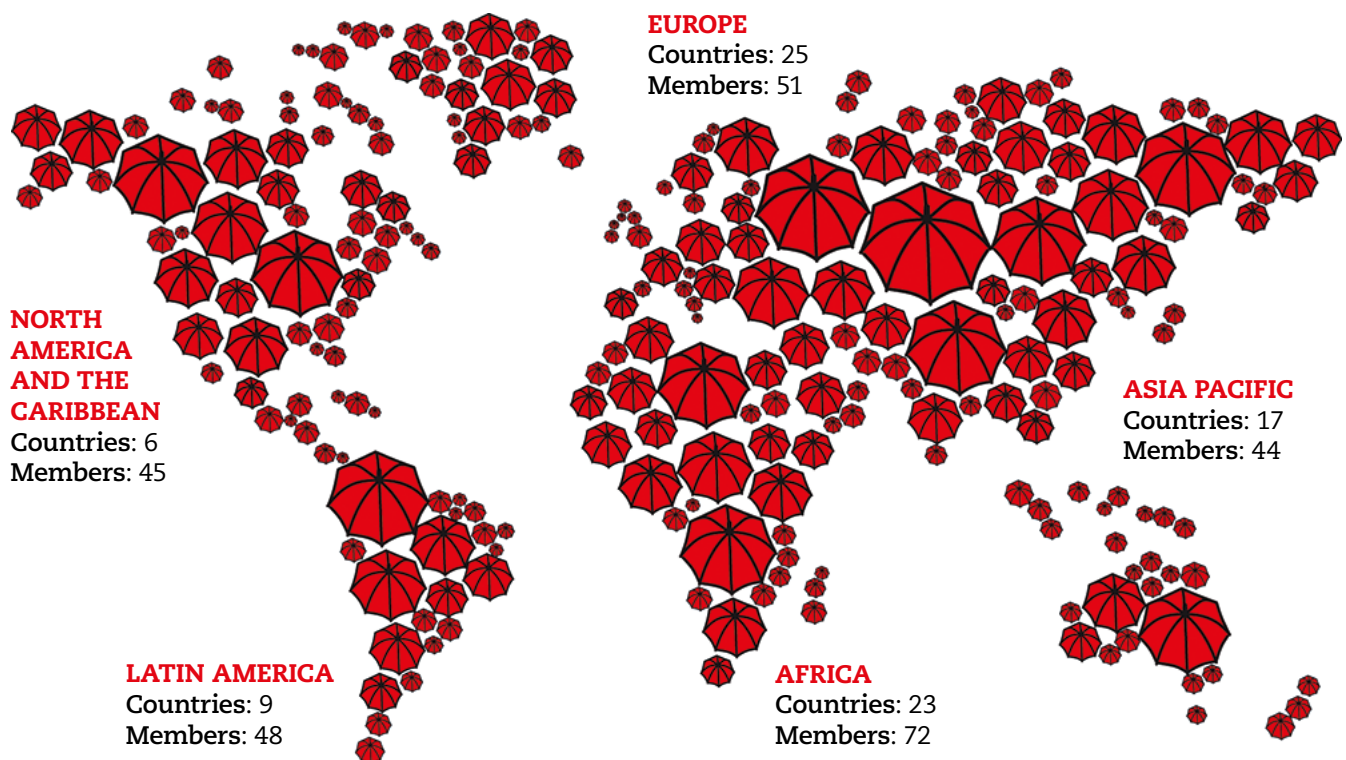
- I To convene and
further build on NSWP
achievements as the global
network committed to the
realisation of sex workers'
human rights.
- I To build capacity within
sex worker-led networks
and organisations and
support emerging sex
worker leaders.
- I To promote rights and
evidence-based policies
and 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 2018, NSWP membership shrank to 260 members in 80 countries, spread across the five NSWP regions, following a review of membership to identify active member organisations.



NSWP *Highlights*



Sex Worker Inclusive Feminist Alliance

In line with the decision by NSWSP's Board to prioritise a long-term strategy of building alliances with allies in the women's movement to further advance sex workers' rights, NSWSP had held initial discussions in 2017 with a small group of allies in the women's movement. The Sex Worker Inclusive Feminist Alliance (SWIFA) launched formally in July 2018. The Alliance is led by NSWSP and includes Amnesty International – International Secretariat, Centre for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), CREA, African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET), Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC), International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW Asia Pacific), Open Society Foundations (OSF) and Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR). Alliance partners share the same core principles and values, and agreed a set of objectives and core activities including: advocating for alignment of a rights-affirming position on sex work across the United Nations; supporting sex worker-led organisations engaging with UN Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures; and supporting sex workers' engagement in women's movement spaces.





NZPC with women leaders from the National Council of Women, the Business and Professional Women's Federation, Family Planning Association and the Equal Opportunities Commissioner, who supported NZPC's submission to the 70th session of CEDAW

Steering Committee on HIV and Sex Work

NSWP continued to co-chair the Steering Committee on HIV and Sex Work, alongside UNDP and UNFPA. A meeting of the Committee was held on 26 November 2018, where the Committee discussed the 2012 Guidance Note on HIV and Sex Work, which was produced in 2009 and updated in 2012 to provide a coordinated human rights-based approach to promoting universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in the context of adult sex work. The November meeting re-affirmed the Guidance Note and a decision was made to develop an accessible summary of key messages and principles.

Supporting sex worker-led organisations to engage with CEDAW

NSWP supported sex worker-led organisations to engage with the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) through capacity building and support to submit shadow reports to the Committee. NSWP worked with IRAW-AP to produce a Smart Sex Worker's Guide to CEDAW, and NSWP's Policy Officer provided remote technical

support to the country teams of sex workers who presented their shadow reports to the CEDAW Committee. Sex workers from Macedonia (STAR-STAR), Mexico (APROASE), Nepal (SWAN) and New Zealand (NZPC) attended CEDAW sessions in July and October-November 2018. NSWP will continue to support sex workers to engage with CEDAW in 2019.

Community-led evaluation of the roll-out of the SWIT and meaningful involvement of sex workers

Following a Global Expert Meeting in 2017, NSWP supported sex worker-led organisations to pilot use of a tool to evaluate the roll-out of the SWIT and meaningful involvement of sex workers in four countries: Indonesia, Kenya, Suriname and Ukraine. Following this, a global report was published and is available

on the NSWP website in English, French, Russian and Spanish. The evaluation tool is designed to be used by sex worker-led organisations to identify gaps and provide information to support sex worker rights' advocacy, and is available on the NSWP website in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

NSWP Achievements

Strengthened capacity within sex worker-led networks and organisations

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

In 2018, NSWP continued to provide technical support and work with regional networks to build their capacity. In turn, they worked with sex worker-led organisations within the five NSWP regions, with the support of Aidsfonds, Bridging the Gaps, the Global Fund, LINKAGES, Open Society Foundations, and the Robert Carr Fund (RCF). Three regions, covered by the Bridging the Gaps programme, were prioritised for face-to-face technical support visits.

ASWA: NSWP continued to provide technical support to ASWA Secretariat 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)**, a programme based on the SWIT which was implemented by ASWA. The faculty of Kenyan sex workers facilitated four academies in 2018, attended by sex workers from Angola, Burkina Faso, Eswatini, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali and South Africa. SWAA is funded through NSWP by Bridging the Gaps and the Robert Carr Fund.

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.

Regional sex worker-led networks provided technical support to sex worker-led organisations in 18 countries.

SEX WORKERS NETWORKS CONSORTIUM

Sex Workers: strengthening rights-based responses to HIV:

Through the Robert Carr Fund (RCF) grant to the Sex Worker Networks Consortium, NSWP continued to work with regional sex worker-led networks to advocate for a rights-based approach to sex work, build sex worker-led organisation's capacity to advocate for the SWIT at national, regional and global levels, and build the sustainability of global and regional sex worker-led networks in 2018.

The Sex Worker Networks Consortium organised two consortium meetings to reflect on the implementation of the final year of the RCF programme of activities; review and improve the common monitoring and evaluation framework; and share global and regional work plans. 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. Regional networks coordinated national-level activities, provided technical support to national sex worker-led organisations and networks, and held regional capacity-building activities. Sex worker-led organisations that participated in this RCF-supported programme reported using their learning on SWIT to advocate in at least 15 regional policy forums in 2018.

Making the Global Fund work for sex workers: Through a direct grant from the Global Fund Community, Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative, the Sex Worker Networks Consortium implemented a capacity building programme for sex worker-led organisations in eligible countries to engage in Global Fund national processes in 2018. Sex worker-led organisations from 27 countries took part in the global programme of capacity building, receiving technical support from NSWP's Senior Programme Officer and Community Experts in the region, and attending regional and national workshops. A case study on the first year of this two-year programme will be published in 2019.



NSWP website and social media platforms

NSWP's website had 332,909 page views during 2018, and was accessed by 164,613 users, 9.3% of whom were returning visitors.

27% of all visits to the NSWP website were of pages in our Members' section. Pages in this section were accessed 92,635 times in 2018. Resources were accessed either directly or through browsing the [Resources](#) section of the website, 56,194 times, accounting for nearly 17% of all website hits. News pages were visited 38,859 times in 2018, and information on the 2018 International AIDS Conference was accessed 1,328 times. In 2018, the Communications Officer worked with 5 regional correspondents – one from each of the NSWP regions – to produce 30 regional and country-specific news articles and 2 featured members' profiles for the NSWP website. In 2019, the Communications Officer will produce news stories for the website based on information shared from NSWP members and other partners, and work with the NSWP regional networks to produce member profiles.

NSWP used the Sex Work Digest, a quarterly newsletter, and social media platforms to engage and share information with members and allies in 2018. NSWP continued to use global and regional listservs to support information-sharing among members. NSWP maintained a private group on Facebook for sex workers and sex workers' rights advocates to discuss issues and organise around common causes. As of 31 December 2018, the group had 1,857 members. The NSWP Facebook Page, created in July 2016 to communicate to NSWP members and external stakeholders, had 2,261 likes as of 31 December 2018 and the NSWP Twitter account, @GlobalSexWork, has a wide reach with 17,828 followers.

Engagement in International Policy and Programme Platforms

In July 2018, NSWP attended the International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam. In partnership with ICRSE, SWAN, and Proud, NSWP hosted events for sex workers attending the Conference: a workshop and a satellite event on the effect of punitive laws, policies and practices on sex workers' vulnerability to HIV and respect of their human rights. The organisations also hosted the Sex Worker Networking Zone, a daily programme of activities in the Global Village. A full report on activities at AIDS2018 is available on the NSWP website.

During 2018, NSWP representatives sat on:

- World Health Organization Civil Society Reference Group;
- Global Fund Communities, Rights and Gender Advisory Group;
- Global Fund Communities Delegation;
- UN Steering Committee on HIV and Sex Work.
- In addition, NSWP has a seat on the Bridging the Gaps Board and LINKAGES (USAID 5-year programme for people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, transgender persons, sex workers and prisoners) Advisory Board.

Sex worker pre-meeting at AIDS2018



© NSWP

NSWP Achievements

NSWP publications

POLICY BRIEFS

The Impact of Stigma and Discrimination on Key Populations and Their Families:

This paper was developed jointly between the [International Network of People who Use Drugs \(INPUD\)](#), [MPact: Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights](#), and NSWP. It explores the experiences of key population groups in relation to their right to raise a family, informed by varying levels of criminalisation, stigma and discrimination and other individual factors.

[Policy Brief](#) | [Community Guide](#)

The Impact of 'End Demand' Legislation on Women Sex Workers:

This paper outlines the impact of 'end demand' legislation on the human rights of female sex workers, through research and testimony from NSWP members in countries where paying for sex is criminalised. It explores how these laws not only fail to promote gender equality for women who sell sex, but actively prevent the realisation of their human rights.

[Policy Brief](#)

BRIEFING PAPERS

Sex Workers' Experiences of Stock-outs of HIV/STI Commodities and Treatments:

This paper was developed jointly with the [International Treatment Preparedness Coalition \(ITPC\)](#), and explores the experiences of sex workers relating to stock-outs of essential medicines,

antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), condoms and lubricants, diagnostics for STIs and HIV, and HIV viral load testing in 20 countries. It provides direct evidence from sex workers; highlighting how these stock-outs result in increased vulnerability to infections, treatment interruptions, HIV-/STI-related drug resistance, late diagnoses, treatment failure, and death.

[Briefing Paper](#) | [Community Guide](#)

The Homophobia and Transphobia Experienced by LGBT Sex Workers:

This paper documents the stigma and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender sex workers and highlights differences in their experiences when compared with other members of their respective communities. It was developed in collaboration with [MPact: Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights](#).

[Briefing Paper](#) | [Community Guide](#)

Sex Workers' Access to Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Services:

This paper discusses the obstacles sex workers face when accessing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, and examines the quality of services available to them. It also provides practical examples and recommendations for improving the accessibility and acceptability of SRH services for sex workers.

[Briefing Paper](#) | [Community Guide](#)

Migrant Sex Workers: This paper places migrant sex work in the context of international labour migration, using consultation responses from NSWP member organisations. It explores the human rights barriers encountered by migrant sex workers as a result of their type of labour, including lack of access to services, increased precariousness and social exclusion.

[Briefing Paper](#) | [Community Guide](#)

SMART SEX WORKER'S GUIDES

Smart Guide: Rights-Affirming International Policies Relating to Sex Work:

In recent years, a growing number of international organisations have released policies, guidance and recommendations that promote the rights of sex workers and advocate for the full decriminalisation of sex work. It can be difficult for sex workers and sex workers' rights activists to maintain an awareness of the many policies and recommendations that now exist. The purpose of this Smart Guide is to provide an accessible introduction to these rights-affirming international policies and recommendations on sex work, as well as to explore how international human rights law can be used in sex workers' rights activism.

Smart Guide to CEDAW: This Smart Guide was developed in collaboration with the [International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific \(IWRAP-AP\)](#), and aims to provide NSWP members with increased understanding of CEDAW and its potential for use in advocacy work.

Smart Guide: Advocacy Tools and Resources Used by Sex Worker-Led Organisations to Combat Violence:

This Smart Guide provides an overview of the advocacy tools and interventions used by sex worker-led organisations globally to combat violence against sex workers. It builds on the guidance provided in the [Sex Worker Implementation Tool \(SWIT\)](#).

RESPONSES AND STATEMENTS

NSWP Statement on International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers:

NSWP wrote this statement on December 17, the fifteenth International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers.

HIV2020: NSWP joins international alliance to organise alternative community-led conference in 2020:

An alliance of key population-led networks, networks of people living with HIV, treatment activists, and supporters announced plans to organise an international community-led HIV conference in 2020, following the decision to host the 2020 International AIDS Conference in the USA. HIV2020: *Community Reclaiming the Global Response* will take place in Mexico City in July 2020, to run concurrently with the 2020 International AIDS Conference in San Francisco and Oakland.

NSWP denounces the harassment, arrests and detention of sex workers in

DRC: NSWP issues a statement condemning the harassment and detention of sex workers in DRC as part of the 'Ujana' programme, aiming to crack down on clothing and behaviour deemed to be "offensive to morality".

Global Constituency-led Networks Raise Concerns Over IAS Decision to Host the 2020 International AIDS Conference in the U.S.A.:

Global organisations released a statement raising concerns over the decision to host the 2020 International AIDS Conference in San Francisco, in light of ongoing travel bans which mean many key populations groups will be unable to participate.

QUARTERLY GLOBAL FUND UPDATES

During 2018, the Senior Programme Officer produced four Quarterly Updates about the most recent topics being discussed and addressed within the Global Fund. Quarterly updates will continue in 2019.

[Quarter One](#) | [Quarter Two](#) | [Quarter Three](#) | [Quarter Four](#)

BRIEFING NOTES

U.S.A FOSTA/SESTA

legislation: This Briefing Note provides information about the United States' recent legislation – The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA) and Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA) – that criminalise online platforms used by sex workers for advertising and information sharing, including for safety purposes.

Meaningful Involvement of Sex Workers:

This document is a practical tool for organisations to self-assess whether they meaningfully involve sex workers, and for sex worker-led organisations to assess whether they are meaningfully involved. It uses the definition of meaningful involvement from both the consensus arrived at during the Global Expert Meeting and the Sex Worker Implementation Tool (SWIT) to determine the meaningful involvement of sex workers.

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



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

In 2018, NSWP started to develop an alliance with eight international women's rights organisations to advance the acceptance of sex workers' rights within the women's movement.

NSWP maintained strong alliances with other global networks of key populations, including MPact and INPUD, and strong working relationships with GNP+, ICW 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.

- 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 – COMMUNITIES DELEGATIONS:** 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+.

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

| SWIFA: Sex Worker Inclusive Feminist Alliance.

| IWRAW-ASIA PACIFIC: to increase sex worker-led organisations understanding of and engagement with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

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

| COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND ACTION COLLABORATIVE (CLAC): an alliance of constituency-led networks formed to improve community engagement in Global Fund processes.

Looking Forward to 2019

The following advocacy tools will be developed in 2019

- Policy Brief on The Impact of Anti-Trafficking Legislation and Initiatives on Sex Workers (delayed from 2018).
- Briefing Note on submission to General Recommendation on Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration (CEDAW).
- Briefing Note on Social Protection.
- Briefing Note on Sexual Exploitation and Sex Work.
- Policy Brief and Community Guide on Sex Workers and Travel Restrictions.
- Briefing Paper and Community Guide on Lack of Access to Justice.
- Briefing Paper and Community Guide on Shrinking Spaces and Voices for Sex Workers.
- Smart Guide to Recognising Sex Workers as Experts in their Own Lives.



Financial Summary 2018

Income 2018

NSWP would like to thank the following donors for their financial support during 2018:

INCOME	£
Aids Fonds – Bridging the Gaps II Programme	326,295
Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (RCNF)	485,241
Global Fund	236,678
LINKAGES	41,690
Open Society Foundations – Sexual Health and Rights Program	55,451
Open Society Foundations – Springer book	7,251
Mama Cash	4,253
PITCH	23,022
Aids Fonds – Sex Work Team	8,700
UNFPA	7,483
MPact	12,608
ITPC	6,245
INPUD	4,807
UNAIDS	2,302
Miscellaneous	8,281
TOTAL INCOME	£1,230,306

Expenditure 2018

EXPENSES	£
Global Personnel (staff and global, regional and national consultants)	328,254
Global activities	269,720
Global operating costs	58,240
Capital costs	5,618
Regional Sex Worker-led Networks activities:	
Africa	261,663
Asia Pacific	108,815
Europe	85,905
Latin America	42,730
North America and Caribbean	51,330
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£1,212,276



Global Network of Sex Work Projects
Promoting Health and Human Rights

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