



**Global Network of Sex Work Projects**  
Promoting Health and Human Rights



*Annual  
Report*  
**2017**



# 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 Statement<sup>1</sup> and core values:

- I Acceptance of sex work as work.
- I Opposition to all forms of criminalisation and other legal oppression of sex work (including sex workers, clients, third parties<sup>2</sup>, families, partners and friends).
- I 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.

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.

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.

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## Board Members

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**PRESIDENT:** Kaythi Win  
(APNSW, Thailand)

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

**ASIA PACIFIC:** Sherry  
Sherqueshaa (Project X,  
Singapore) and Tony Zheng  
(Shanghai CSW & MSM  
Centre, China)

**EUROPE:** Christine  
(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) and Alex  
Andrews (SWOP Behind  
Bars, USA)

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

## NSWP Secretariat

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**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 2017

## Sex workers organising globally faced many challenges as well as opportunities in 2017

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

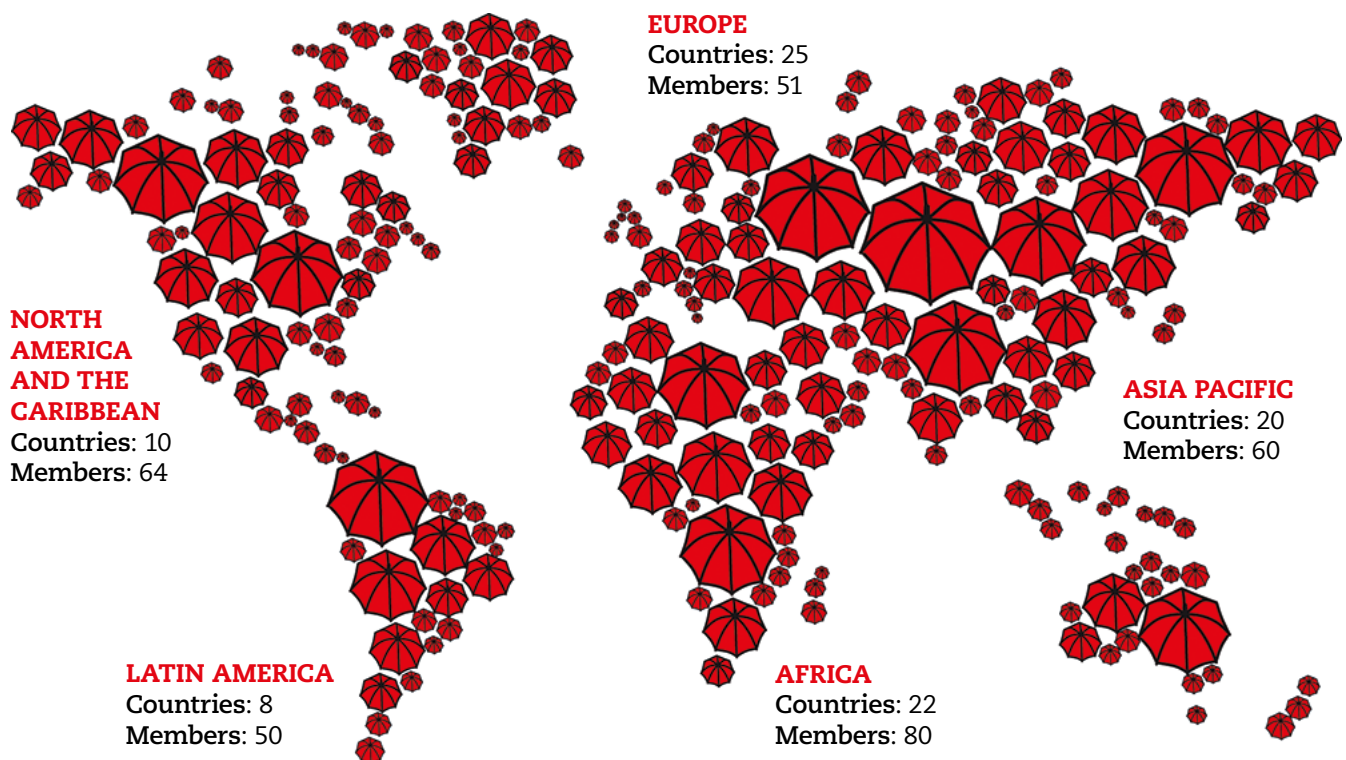
- I To convene and  
further build on NSWP  
achievements as the global  
network committed to the  
realisation of sex workers'  
human rights.
- I To build capacity within  
sex worker-led networks  
and organisations and  
support emerging sex  
worker leaders.
- I To promote rights and  
evidence-based 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 2017, NSWP membership grew to 305 members in 85 countries, spread across the five NSWP regions: Africa; Asia Pacific; Europe; Latin America; and North America and the Caribbean.





# NSWP *Highlights*

## Global Expert Meeting to develop a community-led evaluation framework

NSWP organised a Global Expert Meeting 3–7 September 2017 in Kiev, Ukraine to develop a community-led evaluation framework to evaluate the rollout of the Sex Worker Implementation Tool (SWIT) and a framework for assessing meaningful involvement of sex workers in policy development and programming, at local and national levels. The Global Expert Meeting was attended by representatives of sex worker-led organisations from Africa, Asia Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and external stakeholders from UNAIDS, UNFPA, the World Health Organization, UNDP,

LINKAGES, Bridging the Gaps, and the Global Fund.

Implementing Comprehensive HIV/STI Programmes with Sex Workers: Practical Approaches from Collaborative Interventions, known as the SWIT, is the international normative guidance for sex worker programming published in 2013 by WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, NSWP, the World Bank and UNDP. The SWIT provides practical guidelines on how to implement rights-based programming with and for sex workers. The SWIT has been adopted as normative guidance by the Global Fund, and LINKAGES and Bridging the Gaps key population programmes at

an international level, however, sex workers reported that national adoption of the SWIT remains limited.

The Global Expert Meeting was therefore organised to develop a community-led evaluation framework that will enable sex worker-led organisations to assess the extent to which various stakeholders in-country are using the SWIT and meaningfully involving sex worker-led organisations.

The evaluation framework developed at this meeting is being piloted in four countries – Indonesia, Kenya, Suriname and Ukraine – by sex worker-led organisations in 2018.



## Thematic briefings with UN bodies

NSWP coordinated a series of thematic briefings on the impact of 'End Demand' legislation on women sex workers during the first week of the 68th session of the CEDAW Committee in October 2017. Thematic briefings were held at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and for members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

These briefings were organised to address increasing pressure from fundamental feminists and abolitionist groups, as well as a small number of member states, to move away from a rights-affirming approach to sex work that respects, protects and fulfils the human rights of all sex workers, and towards an 'End Demand' approach which negatively impacts sex workers.

NSWP supported sex worker-led organisations from Kenya (Bar Hostess Empowerment and Support Programme and Kenya Sex Workers Alliance), Singapore (Project X) and Norway (PION) to draft their own shadow reports for the 68th CEDAW Session and for two sex workers from each country to attend the thematic briefings in Geneva. Representatives of NSWP member SANGRAM (on behalf of VAMP), India, joined the thematic briefing for CEDAW Committee members, along with representatives from the women's movement, including IWRAW-Asia Pacific, Amnesty International, CREA, and Mama Cash.

NSWP will continue to support member's engagement with the CEDAW Committee.



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## Global Workshop on strengthening capacity to engage in the Global Fund National Processes

NSWP organised a global workshop on strengthening collaboration between key population-led organisations and their capacity to engage in the Global Fund National Processes for representatives of global, regional and national key population-led networks from 16–21 November 2017 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The workshop was developed and facilitated by the NSWP Senior Programme Officer, in collaboration with other global key population networks and Global Fund staff. For NSWP members the workshop built on the knowledge and experience gained by Regional Community Experts during the previous Global Fund capacity building programme, implemented

by NSWP and the regional networks in the Sex Worker Networks Consortium.

This global workshop was the first collaborative global training by and for key population networks. It allowed participants to learn about the key population Implementation Tools (SWIT, MSMIT, IDUIT, and TRANSIT), build solidarity coalitions across key populations, as well as update knowledge of the Global Fund and its processes.

For NSWP the global workshop was the first stage in the ongoing collaboration with regional networks to strengthen capacity of sex worker-led organisations to engage in national Global Fund processes.



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# NSWP Achievements

## NSWP website and social media platforms

NSWP's website was accessed by 129,724 individuals (1 Jan–31 Dec 2017) – 9.3% of whom were returning visitors – who viewed 279,113 pages.

22% of all visits to the NSWP website were of pages in our Members' section. Pages in this section were accessed 60,262 times this year, highlighting the usefulness of having a single location to search for, learn about, and connect with sex worker organisations around the globe. Resources were downloaded from the NSWP website 47,740 times in 2017, news pages were viewed 33,100 times and NSWP member profiles were viewed 7,065 times.

In 2017, the Communications Officer worked with 5 regional correspondents – one from

each of the NSWP regions – to produce 61 regional and country-specific news articles and 8 featured members' profiles for the NSWP website. The NSWP news section served as a key source of information about sex work globally and in particular, sex work in Southeast Asia, with articles about Hijra sex workers in India, Khwaja Sara sex workers in Pakistan, and Migrant Nepali sex workers receiving over 10,000 views in total.

NSWP used a quarterly newsletter and social media platforms to engage and share information with members and allies in 2017. NSWP continues to use global and regional listservs to support information-sharing among members. NSWP maintains 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 2016, the group had 1,985 members. The NSWP Facebook Page, created in July 2016 to communicate to NSWP members and external

stakeholders, had 1,591 likes as of 31 December 2017. The NSWP Twitter account, @GlobalSexWork, has a wide reach with 16,310 followers as of 31 December 2017.

## NSWP publications

NSWP experienced some unavoidable delays in publishing all of the identified 2017 advocacy tools, some will be published later in 2018 and are listed in the 'looking forward' section below.

### POLICY BRIEFS

**Sex Work as Work:** NSWP Secretariat worked with a global consultant to review and document sex worker organisations' work to promote labour rights and document the benefits of looking at sex work within a labour framework.

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

**Sex Work and Gender Equality:** NSWP Secretariat worked with a global consultant to review the linkages between sex workers' rights and gender equality, document sex workers' experiences with the women's rights movement, and develop recommendations for women's rights organisations and policy makers.

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

**The Impact of Criminalisation on Sex Workers' Vulnerability to HIV and Violence:** NSWP Secretariat worked with a global consultant to look at how criminalisation increases sex workers' vulnerability to violence and HIV. This resource describes harms throughout the criminalisation process and makes a series of recommendations towards the full decriminalisation of sex work as an integral step to improving the lives of sex workers.

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

### BRIEFING PAPERS

**The Meaningful Involvement of Sex Workers in the Development of Health Services Aimed At Them:** NSWP Secretariat worked with global, regional and national consultants to review and document the extent to which sex workers are currently meaningfully involved in the development of healthcare services that are aimed at them.

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





## SMART SEX WORKER'S GUIDES

**The Global Fund Strategy 2017-2022: "Investing to End Epidemics":** The NSWP Secretariat developed this Smart Guide for sex workers to better understand the purpose and the goals of the Global Fund. This Guide describes the key points of the new Global Fund Strategy, looks at what they mean for sex workers, and explores the opportunities for sex work organisations to use the strategy.

### **Sex Worker's and Drug User's Guide to the Global Fund**

**Transition:** NSWP and INPUD partnered to produce this Smart Guide to help sex workers and people who use drugs understand the Global Fund transition processes. The guide is designed to help the community ensure continued rights-based health and social care programming for sex workers and people who use drugs after a country transitions away from Global Fund financing.

**Challenging the introduction of the Nordic Model:** NSWP Secretariat worked with a global consultant to produce this Smart Guide. The Guide builds on NSWP's existing 'Swedish Model Advocacy Toolkit', and is intended as a tool to strengthen and support NSWP members and sex workers' rights advocates' ability to actively challenge proposals to introduce the Nordic approach in their countries.

## RESPONSES AND STATEMENTS

### **Reconsidering Primary Prevention of HIV – New Steps Forward in the Global Response**

**HIV Response:** NSWP, MSMGF, INPUD, GATE, IRTG, GNP+, and ICW co-authored this resource and call to action prior to the 2017 UNAIDS Global Prevention Coalition meeting. The resource calls for renewed commitment to HIV primary prevention strategies that are proactive, address upstream factors, and re-centre communities most impacted by HIV.

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

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

## BRIEFING NOTES AND QUARTERLY GLOBAL FUND UPDATES

### **Global Fund Quarterly Updates:**

During the first half of 2017, the Senior Programme Officer produced two Quarterly Updates about the most recent topics being discussed and addressed within the Global Fund. Quarterly updates will continue in 2018.

[Quarter One](#)  
[Quarter Two](#)

### **Briefing Note: US Global Gag Rule Expansion:**

NSWP Secretariat produced this resource to provide information to our members about the United States' reinstatement and expansion of the Global Gag Rule and the impact it will have on sex workers' rights organisations.

## CASE STUDIES

### **Enhancing Community Capacity to Engage with Global Fund Processes Case Study:**

NSWP Secretariat produced this resource as a follow-up to the Global Fund Workshop case study published in 2015. This case study describes the goals, strategies and impact of the national-level workshops and follow-up activities.

### **Reviewing Sex Worker-Led Organisations' Use of International Guidelines:**

NSWP Secretariat produced this as the first of a series of five annual case studies that will monitor and document the impact of international guidelines and policies on sex work, and how NSWP and NSWP members use these international guidelines in local, national, regional and global advocacy efforts.

# NSWP Achievements

## Strengthened capacity within sex worker-led networks and organisations

In 2017, 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 (RCNF), MAC AIDS Fund, and Sexual Health And Rights Program – Open Society Foundations. Three regions, covered by the Bridging the Gaps programme, were prioritised for technical support.

**I 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 Workers Alliance (KESWA), which is based upon the SWIT. The faculty of Kenyan sex workers facilitated three academies in 2017, attended by sex workers from Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. SWAA is funded through NSWP by Bridging the Gaps and Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund.

**I 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.

**I 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 63 national and local sex worker-led organisations and networks.

**I SEX WORKERS: STRENGTHENING RIGHTS-BASED RESPONSES TO HIV:** Through the Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (RCNF) 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 2017.

The Sex Worker Networks Consortium brought together regional coordinators to reflect on the implementation of the first year of global and regional activities; review and improve the common monitoring and evaluation framework; and share global and regional workplans. 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 workshops and activities and provided technical support to national sex worker-led organisations and networks. National sex worker-led organisations that participated in this RCNF supported programme reported using their learning on SWIT to advocate in at least 21 national policy forums in 2017.

### **I MAKING THE GLOBAL FUND WORK FOR SEX WORKERS:**

Through the RCNF-Global Fund partnership grant the Sex Worker Networks Consortium continued to build capacity of sex worker-led organisations in eligible countries to engage in Global Fund national processes in 2017. During the first half of



2017, NSWP received funding from the Global Fund CRG Special Initiative through CLAC for the NSWP Senior Programme Officer to continue providing technical support to regional networks and Regional and National Community Experts to implement national activities.

In September 2017, the Sex Worker Networks Consortium was awarded a direct grant from the Global Fund, through the Global Fund Community, Rights and Gender Strategic Initiative. This grant supported the global workshop on strengthening collaboration between key population-led organisations and their capacity to engage in the Global Fund National Processes, which NSWP organised in November 2017 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Regional and national activities will commence in 2018.

## Engagement in International Policy and Programme Platforms

Throughout 2017, 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, due to funding cuts experienced within UNAIDS and cosponsors, the committee has been largely inactive since 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 rollout of the SWIT.

During 2017, NSWP representatives sat on:

- The World Health Organization Civil Society Reference Group.
- The Global Fund Communities, Rights and Gender Advisory Group.
- The Global Fund Communities Delegation.
- In addition, NSWP has a seat on the Bridging the Gaps Board and 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**

In 2017, 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 has maintained strong alliances with other global networks of key populations, including MSMGF 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.

- 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.



**I GLOBAL FUND BOARD  
– COMMUNITIES**

**DELEGATIONS:** to influence and improve rights-based approaches to HIV prevention and treatment programmes for key populations, including sex workers.

**I GLOBAL FUND  
COMMUNITIES, RIGHTS  
AND GENDER ADVISORY**

**GROUP:** to influence and improve rights-based approaches to HIV prevention and treatment programmes for sex workers.

**I 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+.

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

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

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

# Looking Forward to 2018

The following advocacy tools were developed in 2017 but the publication was unavoidably delayed until 2018:

- | **Smart Guide** on Advocacy Tools and Resources Used by Sex Worker-Led Organisations to Combat Violence.
- | **Policy Brief** on the Impact of 'End Demand' Legislation on Women Sex Workers.
- | **Briefing Paper** and **Community Guide** on Migrant Sex Workers.
- | **Briefing Paper** and **Community Guide** on Sex Workers' Access to Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Services.



# Financial Summary 2017

## Income 2017

NSWP would like to thank the following donors for their financial support during 2017:

INCOME	£
Aidsfonds – Bridging the Gaps II Programme	283,828
Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (RCNF)	466,614
The Global Fund	51,717
LINKAGES	28,028
RCNF-Global Fund Partnership	17,794
MAC AIDS Foundation	74,911
Alliance Consultancy	14,859
CLAC – The Global Fund TA Contracts	52,558
Open Society Foundations – Sexual Health and Rights Program	68,443
Mama Cash	13,064
IWRAW-Asia Pacific	2,255
Miscellaneous	4,724
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£1,078,795</b>

## Expenditure 2017

EXPENSES	£
Global personnel (Secretariat staff and global consultants)	313,639
Global activities	286,188
Global operating costs	55,980
Capital costs	4,921
Regional sex worker-led networks activities:	
Africa	116,242
Asia Pacific	130,137
Europe	100,930
Latin America	32,960
North America and the Caribbean	28,942
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£1,069,939</b>

Note: There is a carry forward of 2017 activities of £131,858 to be completed in 2018.

NSWP Global activities	74,961
Regional – Africa	43,500
Regional – Asia Pacific	3,545
Regional – Europe	4,252
Regional – North America and the Caribbean	5,600



**Global Network of Sex Work Projects**  
Promoting Health and Human Rights



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