



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



*Annual  
Report*  
2015





# 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:

- Acceptance of sex work as work.
- 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).
- 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.

## Board Members

**PRESIDENT:** Pye Jakobsson (Rose Alliance, Sweden)

**AFRICA:** Aimée Furaha (UMANDE, Democratic Republic of Congo) and John Mathenge (HOYMAS, Kenya)

**ASIA PACIFIC:** Fatimah Abdullah (APSNW, Malaysia) and Kaythi Win (APNSW, Myanmar)

**EUROPE:** Borce Bozinov (STAR-STAR, Macedonia) and Christine (STRASS, France)

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

**NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:** Quincy McEwan (GSWC, Guyana) and Serpent Libertine (Sex Workers Outreach Project Chicago, USA)

*All Board members are sex workers and one board member is 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:** Anlina Sheng

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS:** Anelda Grové, Katherine Van Meyl and Nathalie Schmidt

**ADMIN AND MEMBERSHIP OFFICERS:** Camila Aguiar Penha and Avril Docherty



# The View

## from 2015

**2015 presented many opportunities as well as many challenges to sex workers' organising globally**

NSWP continued to implement activities under its three goals set out in our 2013–2015 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.

In 2015, NSWP undertook a strategic review in consultation with members and external stakeholders; evaluating the implementation of previous strategic plans<sup>3</sup> and drafting a new five-year strategic plan and monitoring and evaluation framework<sup>4</sup>.

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.

With funding only secured to 31 December 2015, NSWP continued to strengthen the capacity of sex worker-led networks and organisations to advocate for their human and labour rights, while at the same time raising funds to enable the implementation of the 2016–2020 Strategic Plan.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.nswp.org/resource/nswp-strategic-review-2010-15>

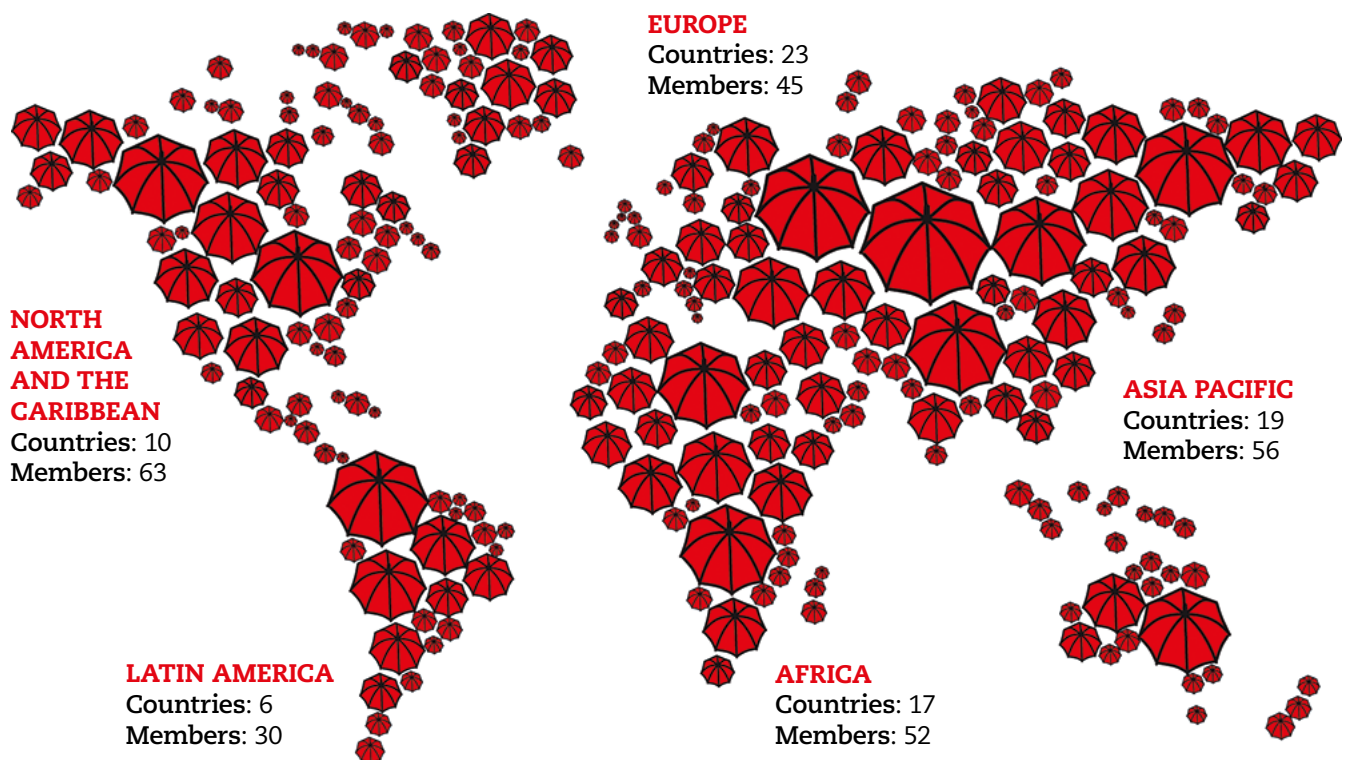
<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nswp.org/resource/nswp-strategic-plan-2016-2020>





## NSWP Membership

In 2015, NSWP membership grew to 247 members in 71 countries, spread across the five NSWP regions: Africa; Asia Pacific; Europe; Latin America; and North America and the Caribbean.



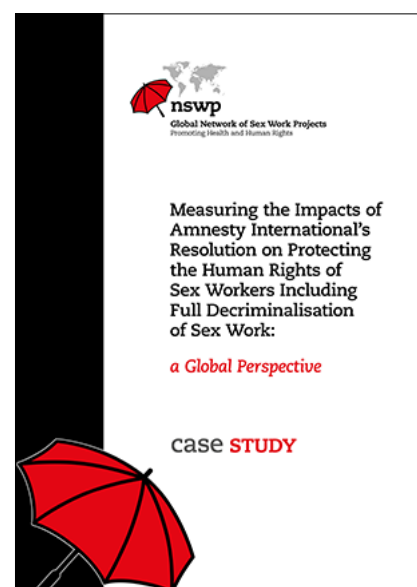
# NSWP Highlights



## Amnesty International developing a policy on protecting the human rights of sex workers

In December 2015, NSWP published a Case Study which documents the role of NSWP and its members in contributing to the process which resulted in Amnesty International's resolution to develop and adopt a policy, at the meeting of its International Council in August 2015, to protect the human rights of sex workers. This policy includes full decriminalisation of all aspects of consensual sex work between adults. The Case Study also reflects briefly on the anti-sex work campaigns targeting sex worker organisations and Amnesty International. The work was supported by the Bridging the Gaps programme and the Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/measuring-the-impacts-amnesty-international-s-resolution-protecting-the-human-rights-sex>







© NSWP/PLAPERTS



© NSWP/ASWA



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## Making the Global Fund work for sex workers

In 2015, Mick Matthews joined the NSWP Secretariat as Senior Programme Officer, to realise an ambitious programme to build the capacity of sex workers to understand and engage with Global Fund processes. The programme was developed by the Sex Workers Networks Consortium and led by NSWP in partnership with African Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA), Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW), Caribbean Sex Worker Coalition (CSWC), Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SWAN), and

Plataforma LatinoAmerica de Personas que Ejercen el Trabajo Sexual (PLAPERTS). To achieve this, a global workshop was held to train Regional Community Experts, who in turn ran regional workshops to train National Community Experts from 34 Global Fund eligible countries. The programme received financial support from the Global Fund-Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (GF-RCNF) partnership and was implemented in collaboration with the Global Fund Communities, Rights and Gender Team, Grant Management



© NSWP/APNSW

Division and the Office of the Inspector General, as well as the Communities Delegation to the Global Fund Board and other global key population networks such as MSMGF.

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

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/the-global-fund-workshop-case-study>



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## Advocating for the Sex Worker Implementation Tool (SWIT)

Following the launch of the SWIT in 2013, the UNAIDS Steering Committee on HIV and Sex Work, which NSWP Co-Chairs with UNFPA and UNDP, worked on a roadmap for promoting the adoption of the SWIT at country level. In December 2015, UNAIDS issued guidance to its country offices on Fast-Tracking the Response with Sex Workers. NSWP and partners successfully advocated for the SWIT to be adopted as the normative guidance

for implementing sex worker programming, with the Global Fund, USAID and LINKAGES all using the SWIT as guidance for its sex worker programming. NSWP's work on advocating for the SWIT was supported by Bridging the Gaps, Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund, and UNFPA.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/the-smart-sex-worker-s-guide-swit>

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/swit-case-study>



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# NSWP *Achievements*



## NSWP website and social media platforms



In 2015, Katherine Van Meyl and Nathalie Schmidt joined the NSWP Secretariat as Communications Officers. NSWP's website was accessed by 95,732 individuals (1 Jan–31 Dec 2015) – 22.2% of whom were returning visitors – who viewed 220,264 pages. 15% of the visits to the NSWP website included visiting the *resources pages*, which were accessed 31,561 times during the year, with the top three being The Real Impact of the Swedish Model on Sex Workers Advocacy Toolkit, The Smart Sex Worker's Guide to Sustainable Funding, and the

NSWP Consensus Statement. *Members' pages* were accessed 52,986 times, *news pages* were accessed 33,667 times and NSWP *members' and sex worker leaders' profiles* were accessed 5,978 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 2015, the group had 1,826 members. The NSWP Twitter account, @GlobalSexWork, has a wider reach with 11,454 followers on 31 December 2015.

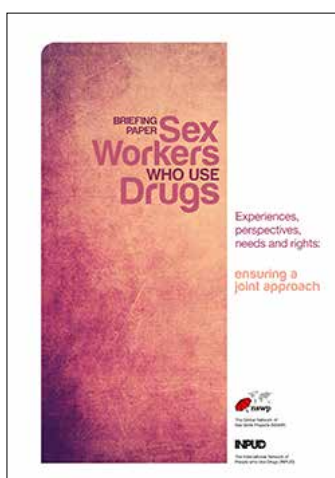


## NSWP publications

### BRIEFING PAPERS AND POLICY BRIEFS:

- NSWP worked with African Sex Workers Alliance, as part of the Stepping Up, Stepping Out programme run by SOA AIDS, to produce a regional Briefing Paper on Economic Empowerment programmes in Africa.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/economic-empowerment-does-rehabilitation-have-role>

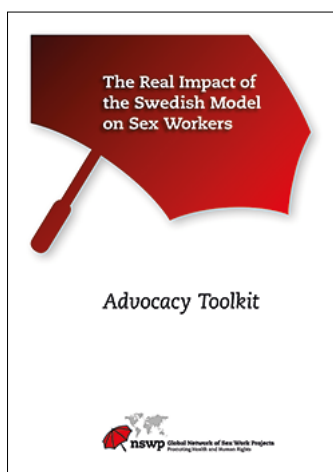


- NSWP worked with the International Network of People who Use Drugs to produce a Joint Briefing Paper on sex workers who use drugs, in consultation with members of both networks. The Briefing Paper was launched at the International Harm Reduction Conference in Malaysia.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/sex-workers-who-use-drugs-ensuring-joint-approach>

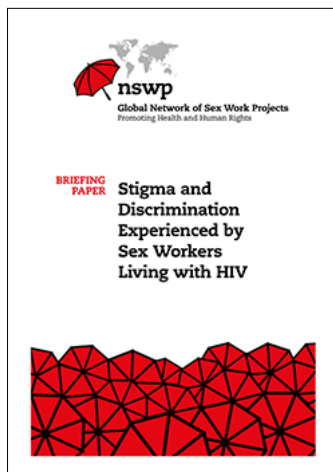
- NSWP worked with a global consultant to produce a Policy Brief on Mapping and Population Size Estimates.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/mapping-and-population-size-estimates-sex-workers-proceed-extreme-caution>



- NSWP worked with global consultants to add an additional four Briefing Papers to the Advocacy Toolkit on the impact of the Swedish Model on sex workers.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/the-real-impact-the-swedish-model-sex-workers-advocacy-toolkit>



- NSWP worked with national and regional consultants to document the lived experiences of sex workers and produce a Briefing Paper on Stigma and Discrimination experienced by sex workers living with HIV.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/stigma-and-discrimination-experienced-sex-workers-living-hiv>

- NSWP worked with national, regional and global consultants to review current international policy and document sex workers' lived experiences of HIV and STI testing and treatment practices to produce a Briefing Paper on HIV and STI testing and treatment.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/hiv-and-sti-testing-and-treatment-policies>

### SMART SEX WORKER'S GUIDES:

- NSWP produced The Smart Sex Worker's Guide to the Global Fund as part of the GF-RCNF supported programme to strengthen sex workers' capacity to understand and engage with the Global Fund.

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

- NSWP produced The Smart Sex Worker's Guide to SWIT to make the international normative guidance more accessible to sex workers and strengthen their capacity to advocate for rights-based HIV prevention and treatment programmes for sex workers.

<http://www.nswp.org/resource/the-smart-sex-worker-s-guide-swit>



- NSWP worked with consultants, as part of the Stepping Up, Stepping Out programme, to produce The Smart Sex Worker's Guide to Sustainable Funding.

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

# NSWP Achievements

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

NSWP continued to provide technical support and work with regional networks to build the capacity of sex worker-led organisations across all five NSWP regions, with three regional networks prioritised for on-site technical support.

**ASWA:** NSWP provided 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 (based upon international normative guidance, the Sex Worker Implementation Tool), the Sex Worker Academy Africa (SWAA), an ASWA initiative coordinated by Kenya Sex Worker Alliance (KESWA). The faculty of Kenyan sex workers facilitated four academies in 2015, attended by country teams of sex workers from Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, and Uganda. SWAA is funded through NSWP by Bridging the Gaps and Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund. NSWP published a Case Study of the development of the SWAA, which was published on the NSWP website.

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

**APNSW:** NSWP provided technical support to APNSW's Management Committee and Secretariat to support the finalisation of their Strategic Plan, Human Resource Management Manual and Governance Manual and to strengthen capacity around organisational development, membership systems, financial management, and human resource management.

**SWAN:** NSWP provided technical support to SWAN to build their capacity around governance, organisational development, financial management and operationalising their Strategic Plan.

### **SEX WORKERS NETWORKS CONSORTIUM:**

**Taking up the challenge:** *capacity building to support sex workers' engagement in the global AIDS response.*

In 2015, the regional sex worker-led networks continued to strengthen capacity of national sex worker-led organisations and networks. ASWA focussed on understanding, advocating, and implementation of the SWIT; APNSW focussed on treatment literacy and access to justice; CSWC focussed on challenging stigma and discrimination and access to services; ICRSE focussed on influencing

HIV responses in Europe through building sex worker leadership; SWAN focussed on documenting human rights violations; and PLAPERTS focussed on developing an information sharing platform for female, male, and transgender sex workers and influencing policy makers and programmers. 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*

In 2015, NSWP facilitated a global workshop in Cambodia to train Regional Community Experts, nominated by the



regional networks, who in collaboration with NSWP Senior Programme Officer and Global Fund staff, facilitated regional workshops organised in partnership with the regional networks to train National Community Experts. ASWA organised the Anglophone Africa (7 countries) and Francophone Africa (7 countries) workshops facilitated by the Regional Community Experts in Kenya and Senegal; APNSW organised a South East Asia workshop (5 countries) in Cambodia; PLAPERTS and CSWC organised a Latin America and Caribbean workshop (3 LA countries and 4 C countries) in Ecuador; APNSW and SWAN organised an Eastern Europe and Central Asia and South Asia workshop (4 EECA countries and 4 SA countries) in Cambodia.

## Engagement in international policy and programme dialogues and forums

Throughout 2015, NSWP's Global Coordinator continued to co-chair the UNAIDS Steering Committee on HIV and Sex Work with UNFPA and UNDP.

NSWP provided secretariat support for the Steering Committee, which brings together the UNAIDS Secretariat and some of its co-sponsors, NSWP regional representatives, independent experts, and international donors. The Steering Committee acts as a global reference group providing advice to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS. One of the main objectives of the committee is to develop a roadmap for the roll-out and scale-up of

the implementation of the SWIT which was sent out to all UNAIDS country offices in December 2015.

During 2015, 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.
- The Global Fund Developed Countries 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 continued to build strong alliances with other global networks of key populations, including MSMGF and INPUD. NSWP has also developed strong working relationships with GNP+ and ITPC to ensure the needs of sex workers are integrated into the work of both networks 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 2016

In addition to our on-going work outlined in the NSWP Strategic Plan, the Board of Directors identified the following advocacy priorities around which advocacy tools will be developed in 2016:

- | Young sex workers.
- | Sex workers' experiences of PrEP.
- | Ethical use of ICT.
- | Migrant sex workers.
- | Decriminalisation of third parties.
- | Challenging anti-sex work projects and advocates who present themselves as human rights defenders, through identifying what rights-based programmes actually look like.





# Financial Summary 2015

## Income 2015

NSWP would like to thank the following donors for their financial support during 2015:

INCOME	£
Aids Fonds – Bridging the Gaps Programme	304,005
Aids Fonds – Stepping Up, Stepping Out Programme	52,788
Aids Fonds – Stepping Up, Stepping Out Programme (AMA)	29,288
HIVOS	7,902
Open Society Foundation – Sexual Health and Rights Program	76,963
UNFPA	49,591
Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (RCNF)	451,120
Global Fund – RCNF partnership	240,170
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£1,211,827</b>

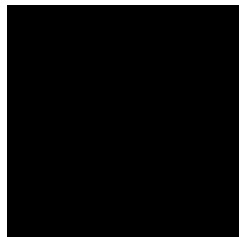
## Expenditure 2015

EXPENSES	£
Global Personnel (staff and global, regional and national consultants)	316,108
Global activities	318,345
Global operating costs	60,147
Capital costs	13,474
Regional Sex Worker-led Networks activities:	
Africa	175,816
Asia Pacific	126,975
Europe	81,874
Latin America	38,516
North America and the Caribbean	76,505
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£1,207,760</b>



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

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