



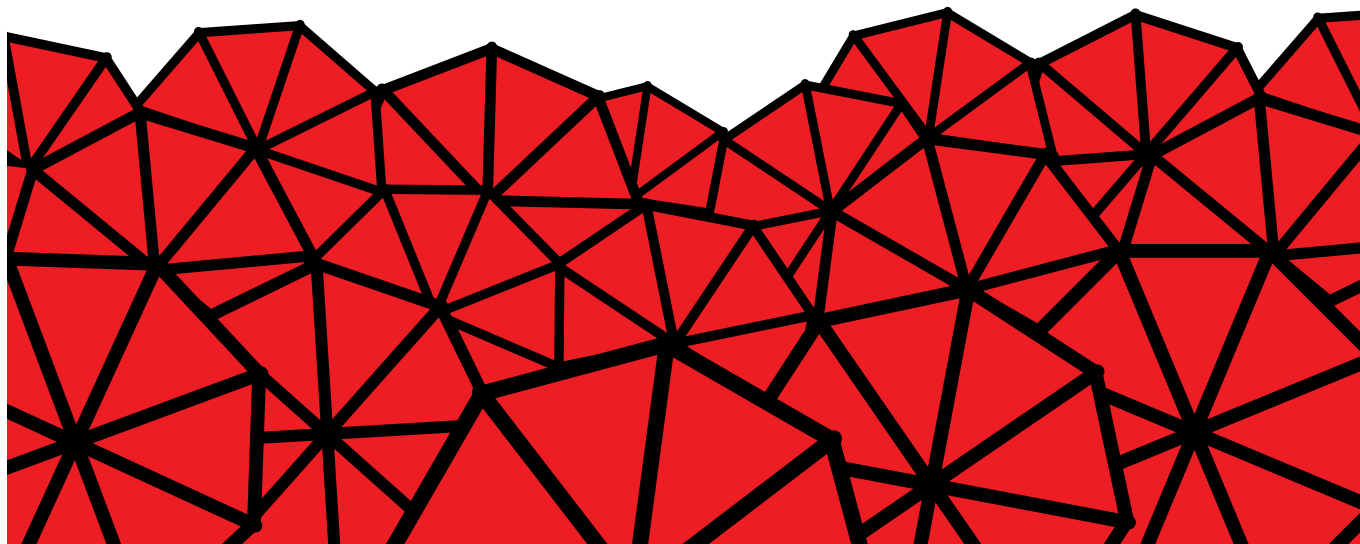
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Global Network of Sex Work Projects
Promoting Health and Human Rights

**BRIEFING
PAPER**

**#04 New prevention
technologies and
their implications
for sex workers:**

a summary



New prevention technologies and their implications for sex workers:

a summary

This paper describes the new HIV prevention tools on the horizon – microbicides, PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), vaccines, and ‘treatment for prevention’ – and how they work. Based on interviews with leaders in sex worker organisations and points raised in the available literature, it then summarises the foreseeable positive and negative implications that these tools may have for sex workers.

The issues identified here highlight the critical need for sex worker organisations and their leadership to be involved in shaping how the research to develop these new tools is done. This involvement is critical to ensuring that sex workers’ ethical concerns are addressed, that communities are well informed about the research, and that the products developed will meet sex workers’ needs by being safe for frequent use, non-intrusive, affordable, etc.

Sex workers deserve a place at tables where the policy-making and planning is being done that will guide the introduction and rollout of new prevention tools. Without this involvement, there is no assurance that the potential positive impacts identified in this paper will be realised and that the negative impacts will be reduced as far

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as possible. History teaches us that failure to involve sex workers as research and planning partners can defeat such or diminish HIV prevention efforts. Conversely, countries like Brazil and South Africa, that have recognised sex workers as important partners in HIV prevention programming, have realised the value of including their voices within their country’s HIV policy-making bodies.

Based on global experience, there is every reason to believe that sex workers’ unique contributions, needs, and risks will be largely ignored if sex workers do not insist on such

participation. The article concludes with some next steps that sex workers and allies can take now to help shape the future of HIV prevention. Appended is an update on the status of research to develop each of the new prevention tools.