

Sex Workers in Canada Decry New Law Proposal

After months of speculation, the Canadian government announced its plans in June for new legislation around sex work.

Last December when the Supreme Court of Canada struck down three of the country's most harmful prostitution laws (the communication, bawdy house, and living on the avails laws) in the *Canada v. Bedford Case*, the government was given up to one year to come up with a response. There has been much conjecture around what the proposed legislation would look like, with many sex worker advocates fearing a new set of laws influenced by the so-called Nordic Model.

As Justice Minister Peter MacKay tabled the 120-page proposal, inauspiciously titled *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*, it seemed those fears would be realised. The legislation clearly draws heavily upon the sex purchase law introduced in Sweden in 1998 -- by criminalising the purchase of sexual services and the material benefit from sexual services -- but goes even further by criminalising advertising sexual services online and communicating for the purpose of selling sexual services in public places, or in any other places where people under 18 can reasonably be expected to be present.

In a press release from NSWP member, *Maggie's Toronto Sex Workers Action Project*, along with sex workers and other experts, question the legitimacy of the federal government [online](#)

[consultation around prostitution in Canada.](#)

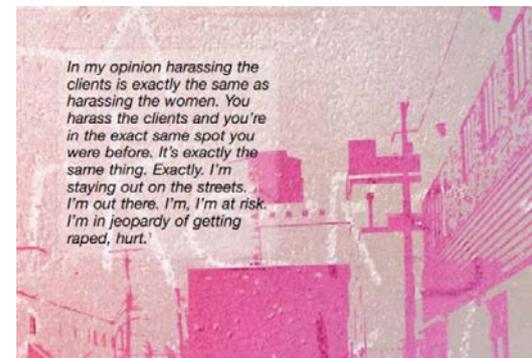
“The online consultation allowed for people to complete the form multiple times. The numbers could easily be skewed to support the Conservative government’s agenda to introduce legislation that would criminalize sex work.” – Jean McDonald, Executive Director, Maggie’s – Toronto Sex Workers’ Action Project.

Sex workers were not consulted in meaningful ways. Vanessa D’Allesio, current sex worker and member of Maggie’s Board of Directors adds, “I wouldn’t be asked to comment on employment standards in the fishing industry, so it begs the question as to why non-sex workers are considered the best source of information to inform legislation on the sex industry.” “Asking the average citizen to comment on a highly stigmatized and misunderstood industry does not reflect the opinions or needs of the people directly affected by these laws – sex workers,” adds Jeff Kingsley, current sex worker in Toronto.

The press release continues: “The consultation questions were biased. “They lead people to want to criminalize clients or third parties, without an understanding of the impact of these types of laws on sex workers,” says Hope Bloomington, current sex worker in Toronto. Emily van der Meulen, Assistant Professor

in the Department of Criminology at Ryerson University adds, “Laws should not be built on public opinion or moral arguments. Laws should be based on evidence, which is what the court considered when making its judgement in favour of decriminalization.” The Supreme Court of Canada was clear that the laws criminalizing consensual sex work activities increased harm and vulnerability. New laws will simply re-create this situation and will surely be deemed unconstitutional by future courts. Decriminalization is the only system that will protect sex workers, by ensuring access to labour, legal and human rights.’

Pivot Legal Society (members of the **Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform**) have also released a study on the human rights impact of criminalising sex workers’ clients.



© **Pivot Legal Society**

Pivot collaborated with Sex Workers United Against Violence (a peer-based organisation of active and former sex workers who live or work in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver) in this project that,

through interviews, looked at the experience of Vancouver sex workers working in the Downtown Eastside and Kingsway areas of Vancouver. Choosing Vancouver as the site of research was no accident. In January 2013, Vancouver police adopted a new policy that is similar to the Nordic Model in that emphasises undercover stings to target the clients of sex workers.

The report, called **My Work Should Not Cost Me My Life: The Case Against Criminalizing the Purchase of Sex in Canada**, found evidence that the introduction of Nordic Model-style legislation would not be in the best interests for Canadian sex workers. Evidence gathered shows that law enforcement targeted at clients does not decrease prostitution, and that, rather than arresting clients for trying to purchase sexual services, sex workers want their clients arrested only when they are violent, abusive or exploitive. The report also found that when police target clients of sex workers, the health and safety of sex workers is compromised by having to move their work to more dangerous, less visible and isolated areas of the city, and through having less time to negotiate and screen clients (because under the threat of arrest, transactions need to be carried out swiftly) and a lack of access to police protection.

A constitutional analysis of the findings by Pivot's legal team came to the conclusion that a law that prohibits the purchase of sex, if enacted in Canada, would violate sex workers' right to security of the person, as protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The full report is available to [download here](#).

Fellow Alliance members, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network **released a statement**, calling the proposed legislation "a terrible step backwards, which would worsen working conditions for sex workers and render hollow the positive court decision in *Bedford*."

NSWP member group **POWER**, based in Ottawa, released **this statement**:

"Frankly, this response is heartbreaking," said Emily Symons, Chair of POWER's Board of Directors.

"The Minister had an opportunity to work with sex workers and other concerned parties to develop a solution that supports the safety and human rights of sex workers. Instead, he has chosen to import an approach that will reproduce the harms of the current prostitution laws and won't stand up to a constitutional challenge. The Supreme Court of Canada made a clear, unanimous statement that the health, safety and lives of sex workers must be prioritized. It is deeply disappointing that the Government of Canada does not share these priorities."

On June 14, sex workers together with their allies, families and friends for the Red Umbrella March for Sex Worker Solidarity to build the fight against **Bill C-36**. This event showed public support for sex workers in their courageous fight against the Harper government's new unjust prostitution laws. See the [press release from Triple-X](#) here. You can read a full report of the march here and see the photos on [Triple-X Twitter feed](#).

IAC 2014 – Melbourne

NSWP member, **Scarlet Alliance** will be hosting a two day Sex Worker Pre-Conference meeting on the 18th and 19th of July, 2014 will be held in Melbourne near the **AIDS 2014 conference** venue. For full details of the sessions planned and lots of advice for those travelling to the conference, pre-conference or Global Village please follow the link.

There will be interactive skills building sessions, small group workshops exploring key themes and priorities for sex workers as well as local, regional and international presentations on critical components of the HIV and sex work response, new evidence and emerging themes.

Updates from of the IAC will appear on the NSWP website.

Red Umbrella Fund Call for applications (2014)



Red Umbrella is launching the **third call for applications**, the first ever to provide two-year-grants to sex worker-led organisations and networks worldwide.

The **Red Umbrella Fund** is the first global fund guided by and for sex workers. "We believe that change will only be achieved through strong, collaborative movements of sex workers advocating for their rights, with the support of their allies. Sex workers themselves are the best positioned to know what is needed for them, and best placed to do something about it. The Red Umbrella Fund exists to mobilise resources to help strengthen and sustain the movement in achieving human rights for sex workers."

To find out if your group is eligible for funding from the Red Umbrella Fund, please read the [application guidelines](#).

If you meet the criteria, please download the [application form 2014](#).

Send your completed application form to:

applications@redumbrellafund.org

DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS: 3 August 2014 (23:59 CEST)

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Cliquez ici pour [Français](#)

Celebrating Sex Worker Rights Days

International Sex Worker Rights Day (3rd March)

Lagos



©WOPI

NSWP member, **Women in Power Initiative (WOPI)**, the first Community Based Organisation in Nigeria led a march in Lagos marking the 14th **International Sex Worker Rights Day** (3rd March). The programme mobilised over 50 sex workers, civil society organisations working with the female sex worker community and the media.

Sex workers marched to the Shomolu Local Government (LG) secretariat demanding a safer work environment for sex workers. A community position paper demanding an end to police harassments and other forms of violence against sex workers were presented to the Secretariat of the Shomolu LG. The position paper also called for the reform of the law that criminalises sex work, noted that

sex work is work and reiterated that sex workers rights are human rights.

The laws that criminalise sex work allow the Nigerian police to harass and abuse sex workers resulting in violence against sex workers being a common occurrence. The purchase of sex is also criminalised in Nigeria but as is the norm, it is the sex worker who bears the burden of criminalisation as sex workers are the targets for police harassment.

Sex Worker Day. The protest was aimed at calling on authorities to recognise the arbitrariness of the police operation in the city of Niteroi and advocating for the regulation of the profession. The **Brazilian Prostitution Observatory** also published a note regarding the intimidating, **violent, and criminalising attitudes of the police** in relation to the episode.

Since sex work is not a crime under Brazilian law, as it is a profession recognised by the Ministry of Labour since 2002, the raid was justified by basing it on the “bad structural conditions and conservation of the installations” of the building. However, the police only closed the four floors where sex workers lived and worked, leaving the remaining six floors undisturbed. Full story [here](#).

Australia

On June 5, 2014, the **South Australian Sex Industry Network** held **a protest** at the entrance to the South Australian House of Parliament. The protest was a call to amend South Australia’s outdated sex work laws, which criminalise many aspects of sex work. Over the past two years, sex worker activists have been relentlessly advocating for a change to South Australia’s outdated sex industry legislation, with the aim of replicating a model of decriminalisation, similar to that implemented in New Zealand. Following the Parliament House rally, South Australian sex workers held a circus themed International Sex Workers’ Day celebration on 6 June, 2014.

On 2 June, 2014, **the Sex Worker’s Outreach Project, New South Wales** (SWOP NSW), held their annual Hookers and Strippers Ball as an International Sex Workers’ Day party at one of Sydney’s most historically queer friendly venues, the Imperial Hotel. SWOP’s Sex Workers’ Day ball was themed “sex worker autonomy”, in lieu of the recognition of over 20 years of advocacy NSW sex workers have undertaken to secede from SWOP being a “project” of the **AIDS Council of New South Wales (ACON)**, and a sex worker-led organisation in its own right: on 1 July, 2014, SWOP NSW will become an autonomous sex worker organisation.

International Sex Worker Day (2nd June)

International Sex Worker Day, was marked by many sex worker groups and allies again this year.

Brazil

After several street protests against police illegal actions against sex workers in the city of Niteroi, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 31 May 2014 the sex worker-led NGO **Dauida**, member of NSWP, organised a **Daspu** catwalk protest in front of the building where sex workers were arrested on 23 May 2014.

The catwalk protest was part of several events happening in Brazil during the **Put a Stop to It**, a national event in celebration of the **International**

Singapore

On 6 June, 2014, the Singaporean sex worker network, **Project X**, showcased an exhibition, **“Yet Still We Dance”**, which featured a wide variety of art projects created by sex workers from within the South Asian region. The pieces, which interpreted the experiences of being a sex worker within the region, explored themes such as mandatory detention, police corruption, migration, access to universal health care, HIV, community building, gender bias, the criminalization of sex work, and the myriad of cultural and social norms which impact on sex workers through stigma and discrimination.

South Asian sex worker networks who participated in the exhibition were from countries including Thailand, Singapore, Myanmar/Burma, Vietnam, Malaysia, Timor Leste, the Philippines, Cambodia and Laos. Such is the popularity of the exhibition, this is the third time the program has been displayed; **it was initially launched in Bangkok in 2013**, followed by a second showing as part of the ASEAN People’s Forum in Yangon, Myanmar, March, 2014.

Global



The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA) also released a statement to mark the day.

‘GCWA and its membership stand in solidarity with sex workers in their continued demand for the recognition of fundamental labour, social and economic and human rights.’

‘In the context of HIV, the rights and empowerment of sex workers are integral to the response. Female sex workers are 13.5 times more likely to be living with HIV than other women, and subsequently feel the amplified effects of criminalisation, stigma, discrimination, violence and harmful cultural norms that still surround HIV. Such counter-productive attitudes and practices towards sex work are culturally embedded and institutionalised by the continued criminalisation of sex work in much of the world.’

‘The GCWA calls on its membership and its allies to incite a collective shift away from the socially entrenched discrimination of sex workers.’

‘The GCWA calls for transformative laws which protect sex workers, and urges its membership to uphold the basic vocational and human rights of sex workers on June 2, and always.’

You can read the full statement on the [GCWA website](http://www.gcwa.org).

Other headlines

Police Seize sex workers and gay men in Tajikistan

Amnesty International has called on Tajikistan to immediately cease a campaign of harassment and violence against people accused of “moral crimes”. Police have seized more than 500 sex workers and a number of men suspected of ‘homosexual behaviour’ since 6 June.

In a series of midnight sweeps in the capital, Dushanbe, police picked up those they suspected of sex work or other “moral crimes” – including a pregnant woman and three men suspected of being gay. They were bundled into police vans and several reported being beaten by police.

“These midnight raids, disguised as a campaign to ensure public morality, are in truth an exercise in discrimination and ill-treatment,” said Denis Krivosheev, Amnesty International’s Deputy Director for Europe and Central Asia.

“Reports of police beatings, threats, sexual violence and invasive forced medical procedures suggest the Ministry of Internal Affairs needs to address the abuses allegedly meted out by officers as a matter of urgency.”

Local rights groups say police detained around 70 people during the latest raid, on 10 June. Most were released without charge about 36 hours later. However, the fate of a further 30 who were not released is as yet unknown. Officers forced detainees to have blood tests, and those suspected of being sex workers to undergo smear tests, physically restraining anyone who objected. Several said the officers had sexually humiliated them but did not want to give further details.

Amnesty International has received several reports of police in Tajikistan raping sex workers taken into custody, demanding sex in

exchange for their release. Several of those detained where subjected to forced testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, in violation of their human rights to privacy, bodily integrity and freedom from ill-treatment. All those detained were fingerprinted, photographed and filmed. Police did not follow the protocol for registering detainees.

Sweden – Court approves discrimination against ‘asian-looking women’ to ‘prevent prostitution’

A pub called Harry’s Bar in Vaxjo in south central Sweden had a policy where they refused entry to “Asian-looking women”. This policy was put in place on the grounds that the pub were trying to prevent prostitution from taking place on their premises as the pub owner had been informed by the police that prostitution was taking place in the area and that Asian women were involved.

A group of Asian women (who were not sex workers) and who had been refused entry to this particular pub in 2012 pursued a claim for race discrimination against the pub owner and six members of the security staff. Talking about the experience one of the women, Merlita Malmstrom, said “it was a traumatic experience. No one should be treated the way they treated us.”

The original case was heard by the Vaxjo District Court in 2013 and the court found that the prevention of prostitution, a ‘criminal activity’, was a ‘legitimate reason’ to refuse entry to the women. Some of the women pursued an appeal and the decision of the Appeal Court was released a few weeks ago. Sadly, the Appeal Court upheld the decision of the lower court finding again that no discrimination had taken place.

Wendy Lyon, blogging at Feminist Ire, analyses the decision:

“First, of course, there’s the blatantly racist nature of the policy, now formally endorsed and legitimated by a Swedish judiciary which sees nothing wrong with singling out women of colour for whore stigma... The second thing is that this decision exposes the lie that the Swedish law is not about targeting sex workers. Of course it is. They may not be targeted for prosecution, but the Swedish authorities are more than happy to go after them with any other means at their disposal.”

This decision from the Swedish courts is highly disturbing. Not only does it condone the racial profiling of women of colour but it also gives services in Sweden the green light to discriminate against sex workers. While the women in this case were not sex workers the courts have stated that preventing prostitution is a ‘legitimate reason’ for permitting discrimination that would ordinarily be unlawful. That means that any discrimination against people who do actually sell sex can be justified on the same grounds and discrimination against sex workers will go unpunished. This confirms what we already know – that the Swedish approach to sex work hurts most those it is supposedly designed to protect.

Somaly Mam steps down!

Somaly Mam, president of the *Somaly Mam Foundation (SMF)* has resigned amid intense scrutiny following a recent article in Newsweek magazine. The article alleges that Mam fabricated much of her own survivor story as well as coerced two of ‘her [rescued] girls’ to relay fabricated accounts of graphic violence and sexual slavery for publicity purposes.

The SMF released a **statement** shortly after the Newsweek cover article broke on 21 May.

An independent, third party investigation into the claims made against Somaly Mam was launched by the senior management of SMF in March this year. According to a **statement on the resignation of Mam**, it was the result of the investigation that prompted SMF’s management to accept Mam’s resignation which she submitted to SMF in the days immediately after the Newsweek article was published. The statement also referred to one of the rescued girls, Long Pros, who had her survivor story fabricated by Mam, and said that: “we are permanently removing Ms. Pros from any affiliation with the organization or our grant partner, but will help her to transition into the next phase of her life.”

Apart from the alleged fabrication of large parts of her own survivor story and that of at least two of ‘her [rescued] girls’, Mam has also faced **serious criticism for effectively trapping the women** her foundation has saved in the low-paid and dangerous garment industry of Cambodia. This isn’t the only perverse effect of Mam’s human rights crusade for victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Cambodia. One journalist who has spent years researching and working in Cambodia notes that much of the shift in US policy priorities from counterterrorism to anti-human trafficking over the last decade or so can be traced back to Mam.

The irony of course is that Mam’s anti-trafficking efforts have led to policies and legislation implemented to supposedly liberate women from sexual exploitation but in fact has often led to **brutal crackdowns on sex work establishments**. The rehabilitation and reintegration programmes that anti-trafficking NGOs (including those run by Mam) manage, train women in the garment trade for work in the garment factories in Cambodia. Wages are two-thirds below the poverty line and working conditions are exploitative in the garment industry. Consequently, the rehabilitation and reintegration programmes confine women to exploitative labour conditions in the Cambodian garment industry.

UNDP and UNFPA Meeting of Experts: Global Commission on HIV & the Law

(Reproduced from [Global Commission on HIV and the Law website](#))

UNDP and UNFPA convened a meeting of experts on 24-26 April 2014 in New York to examine strategies to reflect on the recommendations of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law related to sex work. The participants were composed of experts from sex work communities, human rights and HIV, women's rights, anti-trafficking groups, academia, and donors and individuals from UN agencies working on sex work-related issues. Informed by the various disciplines and multiple perspectives of participants, the discussions aimed to reflect on the Commission's recommendations and to deliberate on ways forward in advancing the best rights-based policy frameworks on the issue of sex work and HIV as well as the evidence available and required to inform robust and rational policy.

As found by UNAIDS in its 2013 Global Report female sex workers bear a severe and disproportionate HIV burden – they are 13.5 times more likely to be living with HIV than other women. As the report noted, sex workers experience barriers to HIV prevention services with their health needs mostly unmet by public health facilities. These issues were also discussed in the Commission's report, which called for enabling human rights environments as a way to improve positive health outcomes for key populations including sex workers.

Using the findings and recommendations of the Commission as a basis, the meeting sought to identify strategies, evidence and arguments to advance complex issues of human rights, health, gender and development pertaining to sex work. The meeting also convened a dialogue with UN agencies and donors to identify opportunities and challenges for advancing sex workers human rights in the context of broader development goals.

Academics Study Sex Work Policies Across Europe

A large scale study into sex work policies and legal regulation across the EU is underway.

The action called **“Comparing European Prostitution Policies: Understanding Scales and Cultures of Governance (ProsPol)”** is being co-ordinated by **COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)**. The study involves researchers and scientists from 22 different European countries and its main objective “is to exchange, enhance and compare knowledge about prostitution policies across Europe”.

The action, which began in April 2013, is due to take place over the course of 4 years at a total cost of 56 million Euros. The Action's Memorandum of Understanding outlines the benefits of the programme:

“The most important benefit is the creation of a network of experts from different regions and specialisms who will come together to share knowledge and develop future approaches towards understanding prostitution policy in context. The most immediate benefit will be a website which will disseminate findings from the Workgroup meetings and conferences in the form of extensive reports and podcasts. The Website's Forum for Discussion will provide an interactive space to further foster exchanges and discussion. The Action will make important contributions to academic scholarship and public understanding of the operations and regulations of sex markets across time and space.”

International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe (ICRSE) are participants in the ProsPol action and are there to ensure the voices of sex workers are heard and included in the

discussions. ICRSE are members of the Prostitution Policies and Politics Working Group and were represented at the last meeting in Athens.

Following on from the **ICRSE campaign** against the recent **European Parliament report on 'sexual exploitation and prostitution'** introduced by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality ICRSE Co-ordinator, Luca Stevenson, was invited to be part of a panel discussion on sex work policy interventions. He spoke about the lack of evidence-based policy-making on sex work both at the national level and across the EU. He shared the panel with Daniela Danna who was involved in compiling a report on prostitution laws in the European Union. Daniela was eventually forced to withdraw from this project due to pressure from the abolitionist factions within the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. Daniela's report and comments on her experiences can be found [here](#).

ICRSE will be involved in the ProsPol action throughout its 4 year term and will be in attendance at the next meeting, which will take place in Spain. Given that the action is in its very early stages it remains to be seen what the benefit will be for sex workers in Europe. We can only hope that it will lead to a reduction in ideologically driven laws and policies and facilitate more evidence based policy-making that prioritises the rights and safety of sex workers.

Much more news is available on our [website](#) and on our [Twitter](#)

Publications & Resources

NSWP website refresh!

As part of an ongoing refresh of our website and communications strategy you will notice several new features on our website, with more improvements to come.

NSWP now have Regional Correspondents reporting news stories from each of our five regions on a regular basis. You will find even more news stories about local action, and stories of national, regional and global importance appearing on our front page and in full on the **Latest News** tab.

Also accessed through the 'Media' tab on the front page are two new useful features:

- **Members Media Guide** - a tool that NSWP member groups can use to develop capacity within their organisations to communicate both internally and externally
- **Members Media Resources** - featuring media releases and tools developed by our member organisations

These will be fully populated and updated within the coming weeks and months, as well as a new 'Resources for Journalists' feature also accessible from our 'Media' tab on the front page.

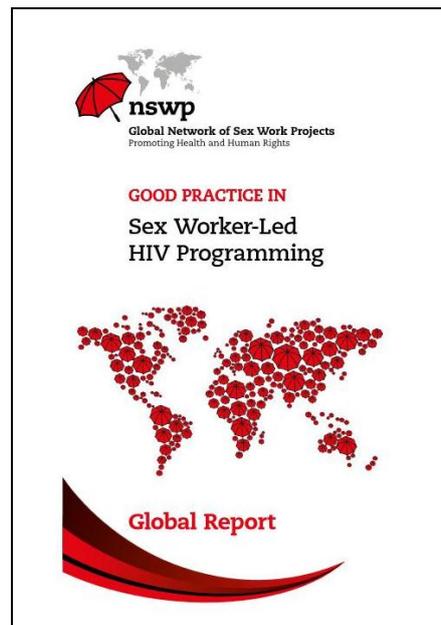
In another new development there will also be a regular 'Featured Member' highlighted on the front page on the website. This feature will spotlight and celebrate the history, achievements and vital work being done by our many sex worker-led member organisations. You can read all about our first featured member, **Maggie's, The Toronto Sex Workers Project** now.

We are also updating our **Timeline** - a History of the NSWP and the Sex Worker Rights Movement feature, with renewed vigour. If you or your organisation have information about important historical events about the sex worker rights movement or significant milestones you think should be featured here please do

get in touch with us by emailing: communications@nswp.org.

We are constantly updating the site and more new features, such as profiling Sex Worker Leaders will appear soon. Please do try to find the time to explore all the features of our **website**.

Good Practice in Sex Worker-Led HIV Programming



NSWP implemented a global project to identify and document best practices undertaken by sex workers in carrying out programmes related to sex work and HIV; to identify and document issues of sex workers and their access to HIV-related treatment and the impact of free trade on this access; and to identify and document the impact of programmes relating to HIV directed at sex workers which fail to include a human rights-based approach.

The five regional reports document twenty good practice examples of sex worker-led HIV

programming in twenty countries. The Global Report combines the good practice examples identified in the Regional Reports to illustrate the success of sex worker-led HIV programming around the world.

To date less than 1% of global funding for HIV prevention has been spent on HIV and sex work (UNAIDS, 2009), yet concerns about HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are among those invoked to justify laws and policies which contribute to the multiple human rights violations suffered by sex workers worldwide. Paradoxically, these violations serve to put sex workers' lives at risk, including with regard to their sexual health. The barriers to health faced by sex workers are manifold, ranging from police confiscation of their condoms for use as evidence against them, to hate crimes against sex workers encouraged by widespread stigma which paints them as 'vectors of disease', and health care services which may be overly expensive, disrespectful of confidentiality, inaccessible to undocumented migrants, or conditional upon a commitment to leave the sex industry.

Around the world, sex worker-led organisations are succeeding, some against great odds, in delivering HIV programming which takes into account the complexities of sex work and recognises the essential need for direct consultation with, and the active involvement of, the intended beneficiaries of services. Their pragmatic approach is typically characterised by a non-judgemental attitude, an intersectional analysis of oppression, and a firm commitment to the demand "nothing about us without us". In taking this approach, they have gained the trust of the sex workers they serve and have seen genuine improvements in their holistic health, including decreased rates of HIV and other STIs and access to appropriate treatment for HIV-positive sex workers. Some of the organisations profiled in this report have made significant headway in making local health care and social service providers, along with law enforcement officers, aware of the sometimes complex issues affecting sex workers, resulting in more effective and welcoming services. Despite these

successes, the organisations themselves often operate on a shoestring budget and in an unfavourable political climate which sees widespread stigma and hostility towards sex workers and other marginalised groups.

The objective of the global project was two-fold:

- 1 to document the experiences of sex workers, through examples of best practices that serve to share the development of politically influential tools; to strengthen sex workers' group efforts to become effectively involved in the development of policies and programmes that help to amplify their voices both at regional and international levels; and
- 2 to document the access of sex workers to treatment, as well as the impact of HIV programmes which fail to include a human rights-based approach, such as highly coercive or mandatory HIV programmes, as well as the lack of access to affordable and effective treatment for HIV and STIs.

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You can download the Global Report and both Global Briefing Papers below, in a range of languages.

Global Report - Good Practice in Sex Worker-Led HIV Programming
English, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish

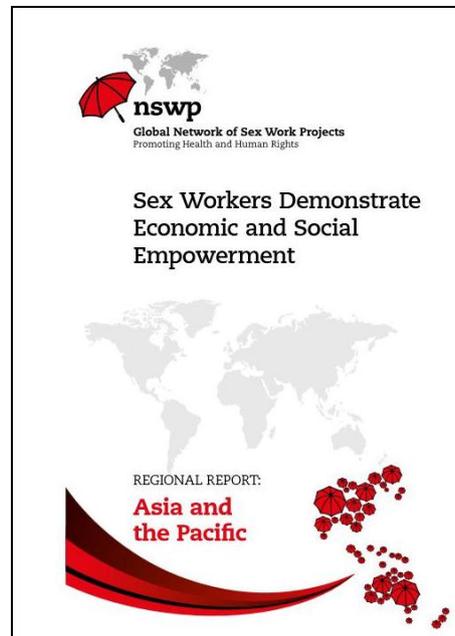
Global Briefing Papers
Sex workers' access to HIV treatment around the world
English, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish

Impact of non-rights based HIV programming for sex workers around the world
English, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish

You can also download the regional reports below:

Regional Reports:
Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America & Caribbean

Sex Workers Demonstrate Economic and Social Empowerment



NSWP received funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the development of advocacy tools around rights-based economic empowerment for sex workers. The first year of this *three-year project* was coordinated by the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW.)

Over the last 20 years, with the catalyst of HIV decimating our ranks, India and Southeast Asia have been home to some of the most progressive sex worker-led networks in the world. We advocate and struggle for self-determination and equal rights in work and life, as documented here.

For this project, NSWP worked with APNSW members to:

- develop background material for advocacy tools that will strengthen regional networks and member organisations' work; campaign for the rights of sex

workers of all genders; and amplify the voices of sex workers globally;

- document good practice examples of sex worker-led economic empowerment projects (described in the case studies) to inform the development of advocacy tools that will help sex worker-led groups' ability to engage effectively with policy makers and programmers;
- document the lived experiences of sex workers and the impact of programmes that focus on 'rehabilitation', that require sex workers to exit sex work (see the **accompanying Briefing Paper**).

The regional report focuses in detail on two key good practice studies: **the Usha banking cooperative** originating in the Sonagachi sex work area of Kolkata, India, and the informal school and community legal services at **WNU** in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. These are followed by seven other studies (**AMA, VAMP, OPSI, Melati Support Group, SWING, Can Do Bar and APNSW**) and field research with sex workers and NGOs across the region.

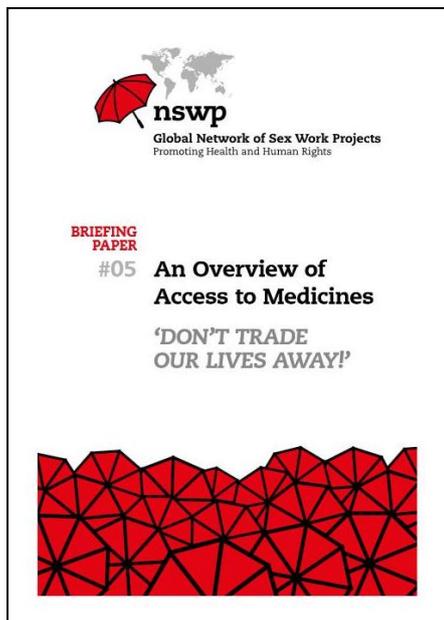
You can download the first two papers in this series of advocacy tools around rights-based economic empowerment of sex workers below:

(only available in English)

Asia Pacific Regional Report: Sex Workers Demonstrate Economic and Social Empowerment

Briefing Paper: Overcoming Practices that Limit Sex Worker Agency in the Asia Pacific Region

NSWP Briefing Paper – Access to Medicines

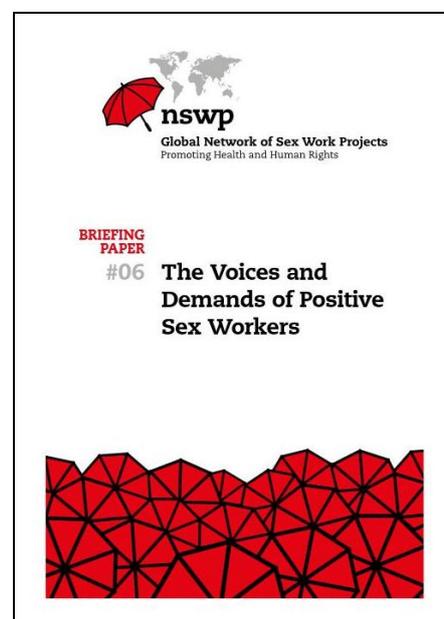


One of the initial advocacy priorities identified by NSWP+ (a platform for positive sex workers and others committed to equal rights for sex workers living with HIV) was treatment access and joining the campaign against trade related restrictions and patents used by large pharmaceutical companies to make huge profits from essential medicines. Sex workers identified the need for accessible information on the trade frameworks that impact upon access to medicines for people living with HIV.

This paper provides an overview of those trade frameworks and is designed specifically for sex workers and groups who wish to have a basic background in these issues in order to join the global campaign for access to medicines. These trade frameworks impact significantly on both the availability and affordability of treatment for many long-term, chronic conditions,

including cancer and HIV/AIDS. This paper lays out the basics of trade-related matters and outlines how they potentially result in the lack of affordable and accessible medicines for people living with HIV. The impact of these trade rules has the potential to be devastating, and although sex workers already share a feeling of being 'last in line for treatment' sex workers wish to be included in the fight against trade-related barriers to universal access to health care.

NSWP Briefing Paper – The Voices and Demands of Positive Sex Workers



HIV prevention efforts are being scaled up globally, to target sex workers as a key affected population in the HIV response. The voices and experiences of sex workers living with HIV are too often rendered invisible: this means that the additional needs and rights of sex workers living with HIV are often overlooked in forums that support the rights of general populations

of people living with HIV. This paper sets out the demands of positive sex workers articulated by sex workers themselves.

NSWP committed to address this invisibility as an annual priority in 2012. Accordingly, initial consultation was carried out during the 'Sex Worker Freedom Festival (SWFF): The Alternative IAC2012 Event For Sex Workers and Allies' in Kolkata, India, and was sustained throughout the year through face-to-face meetings, Skype conversations, and continued communication through setting up and maintaining a global advisory group of sex workers living with HIV. During the SWFF, a space was created for and by positive sex workers to meet every day and participate in group workshops on a range of topics that were selected due to their impact on sex workers living with HIV. During these sessions, the sense of frustration and anger among positive sex workers increased in relation to issues such as abusive testing practices; mandatory registration of sex workers living with HIV; the lack of safe, non-judgmental spaces for accessing care and support; inequitable access to treatment and required diagnostics; forced/coercive sterilisation and termination of pregnancies; increased stigma when HIV positive and continuing to work as a sex worker, and the number of preventable deaths of sex workers and others living with HIV due to the impact of trade-related matters and the growing monopoly of Intellectual Property Rights.

Download the [briefing paper here](#).

Research for Sex Work 14: Sex Work is Work! Call for Abstracts

Research for Sex Work is seeking contributions for its 14th edition, themed 'Sex work is work'. This theme reflects one of NSWP's core values: the acceptance of sex work as legitimate work.

This value reflects the importance of labour rights as an important step in upholding the human rights of sex workers as individuals and as members of the workforce.

Research for Sex Work is an international journal, produced by NSWP, which incorporates research results, experiences and reports on the subject of sex work within a human rights framework.

We welcome three writing formats: research results, project or programme descriptions, and think pieces.

The journal aims to cover all geographical regions, and we do give priority to submissions from sex worker individuals and groups.

Authors who should consider contributing are sex worker groups, support organisations, HIV prevention projects, NGOs, universities and research institutions.

Submissions must be in English, and the text will be edited and peer reviewed before being published. The maximum length for an abstract is 300 words, with articles limited to 1200.

To submit an article or ask a question, write to our editor Heather at R4SW.Editor@nswp.org. Abstracts are due 31 July 2014 23:59 GMT.

Finished articles will be due **26th of August**. Authors will need to be accessible by email to answer questions and make corrections throughout September and October.

We also encourage authors to submit high-resolution photos to which you own the rights to accompany your article.

For a history of the journal and to see earlier editions, click [here](#).

Report of Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women: Mission to India

Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad (VAMP) and SANGRAM, two sex workers' rights organisations and NSWP members based in Sangli, India have praised the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women's report which calls on the Indian Government to:

- Review the legislation that criminalises sex work, and
- To protect the human rights of sex workers

The "**Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences, Mission to India**" was submitted by the Human Rights Council for consideration to the UN General Assembly on 1 April 2014 and was based on the India mission undertaken by the Special Rapporteur in April 2013.

Importantly, the Special Rapporteur, Rashida Manjoo, has underscored the need to address the violence faced within sex work from state and non-state actors and the lack of avenues for legal redress.

Her report notes that sex workers in India are "exposed to a range of abuse including physical attacks, and harassment by clients, family members, the community and State authorities". It further states that "sex workers are forcibly detained and rehabilitated and consistently lack legal protection"; and that they "face challenges in gaining access to essential health services, including for treatment for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases".

Calling for the **separation of efforts to combat trafficking from sex work** the report reiterates that conflating sex work with trafficking has led to assistance that is not targeted for their specific needs. It has also led to coercive rehabilitation measures by the State.

"In her discussions with interlocutors, the Special Rapporteur noted a tendency to conflate sex work with trafficking in persons and when sex workers are identified as victims of trafficking, the assistance that is provided to them is not targeted to their specific needs."

The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government review the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 that de facto criminalises sex work and to ensure that measures to address trafficking in persons do not overshadow the need for effective measures to protect the human rights of sex workers.

The observations in the report emerge from a sustained effort by VAMP (Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad), the collective of sex workers in Sangli and the National Network of Sex Workers, India to draw attention to the violence faced by sex workers in India. The Network members submitted detailed case studies of violence and rights violations occurring in all spheres prior to the Special Rapporteur's visit. During the India visit, VAMP members and SANGRAM deposited in Delhi and Mumbai and gave recommendations including review of laws and policies that criminalised sex work, shutting down detention centres for sex workers, separating adult and child trafficking amongst others.

You can download the Special Rapporteur's report [here](#) and the summary written by VAMP and SANGRAM can be downloaded [here](#).

Collateral Damage: Sex Workers and the Anti-Trafficking Campaigns

This [video trailer](#) offers an introduction to a longer work, an historical review of a 19th century anti-trafficking campaigns, demonstrating the way the historic "White Slavery" moral panic and current anti-trafficking campaigns have been largely responsible for prostitution prohibitionism, racial discrimination, and xenophobic immigration legislation.

For the longer segments (as the documentary is a work-in-progress) and further information go [here](#).

Written and Directed by Carol Leigh, the project promotional material states: 'Anti-trafficking is a sacred cow, but behind this humanitarian concern is a century-old movement that historically reflects xenophobia, discrimination and prostitution abolitionism. This short trailer introduces a basic discussion of human rights in the context of anti-trafficking. The full preview, available for screening, is Part 1, an historical review of a 19th century anti-trafficking campaigns and a survey of trafficking portrayals in the media.'

"When I first heard about the resurgence of the white slavery/trafficking framework, I knew that I had to show how this moral panic has historically resulted in discriminatory immigration policies, increased criminalization of people of color and sex workers, and little recourse for individuals who are victims of forced labor."

The segment/preview will screen at the **Kansai Queer Film Festival**. Additional segments comprise the feature length work which includes portrayal of contemporary facets of the impact of anti-trafficking on sex workers, highlighting United States colonialism and domestic discrimination.

Carol Leigh said:

"This work is dedicated in Loving Memory to Andrew Hunter, who held my (virtual) hand through this process, encouraged me and provided an abundance of information and material."

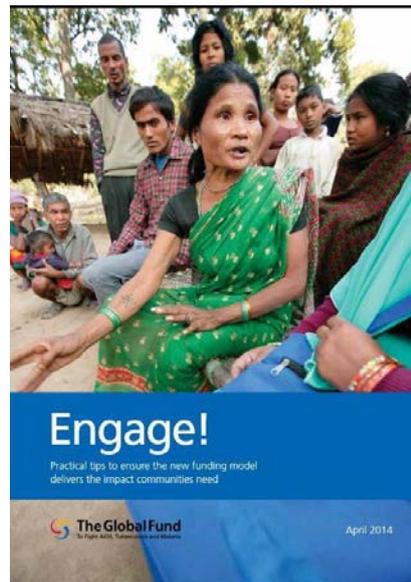
Healthcare needs of Sex Workers in NYC

Persist Health Project based in New York City has developed a useful guide for service providers seeking to shape their services to the needs of sex workers.

In NYC, where selling sex is illegal, sex workers have limited ability to safely and voluntarily receive health and social services. To best shape their vision for a clinic space and assess the current health access of sex workers in NYC, Persist Health Project conducted a series of focus groups in the spring of 2013.

You can download the document [here](#).

Global Fund – New Funding Model



The Global Fund is rolling out a new approach to funding programmes. The goal is to ensure efforts to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria have the greatest possible impact. This updated approach is known as the "new funding model." You can get more background information about the new funding model [here](#).

One feature of the new funding model is expanded space for the meaningful involvement of civil society, communities and key populations in designing, monitoring

and implementing programs that affect their lives.

Civil society organisations, communities and key populations can take action now to make sure they play an active role in shaping funding requests to the Global Fund.

This guide provides advice on how civil society organisations, communities, and key populations can get involved in the process.

ICASO have also produced this **resource book** giving organisations more practical guidance and the NFM.

International Civil Society have put out **this call** to colleagues to be fierce advocates in the Country Dialogue and Concept Note development processes for a 'full expression of demand.' Full expression of demand means that all health needs and critical enablers related to the HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria prevention, treatment, care and support are addressed and fully costed, including the needs of the most vulnerable communities such as key populations, people living with HIV, women and children.



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The Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) advocates for the health and human rights of sex workers. We work to uphold the voices of sex workers globally and to connect regional networks advocating for the rights of female, male and transgender sex workers.

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