

# UNAIDS Advisory Group on HIV and Sex Work

The UNAIDS Advisory Group on HIV and Sex Work  
is co-chaired by the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) and UNAIDS.

## UNAIDS Advisory Group on HIV and Sex Work 2010 Report

### Activities of the Advisory Group in 2010

The second full meeting of the Advisory Group took place in June 2010, in Geneva. The three-day meeting covered a wide range of topics including: discussions on ILO's 'Recommendation 200 concerning HIV and the World of Work'; The Global Fund's Round 10 process; the development of the 'Commission on AIDS and the Law'; as well as consultation on both 'Joint Action for Results: UNAIDS Outcome Framework 2009-2011'; and WHO's 'Guidance for the Prevention and Treatment of HIV and other STI's for sex workers'.

Subsequent to the Advisory Group meeting, the co-chairs co-ordinated a response to the Global Fund's Round 10 survey, requesting that the initial analytical work on sex work investments in Asia be further developed and the model extended to other regions, to secure strengthened investments in quality rights-based HIV programming for sex workers.

The co-chairs also wrote to Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS, regarding travel restrictions on sex workers entering the USA. The letter requested his personal intervention, in line with the commitments articulated in the Joint Outcome Framework.

Members of the Advisory Group also contributed to the Joint Action for Results: UNAIDS Outcome Framework draft business case for men who have sex with men, sex workers and transgender people outcome, as well as taking part in the final development stages of the UNGASS indicators.

Throughout 2010 the Advisory Group, and its four expert Working Groups, have concentrated on drafting further guidance, or statements of clarification, with respect to several issues raised in the 'UNAIDS Guidance Note on HIV and Sex Work 2009', where ambiguity in the document may have been an impediment to achieving universal access to HIV services for sex workers. Once completed, these papers will be annexed to the Guidance Note, within one single official document. The four Annexes topics are:

- Enabling legal and policy environments - the importance of addressing the criminalisation of sex work and repressive law enforcement practices as barriers to universal access;
- Reducing the demand for unprotected paid sex
- Differentiating sex work and trafficking; and
- Economic empowerment of sex workers.

### Future plans

The Advisory Group's work plan will include a communication strategy on HIV and sex work; dissemination, roll-out of the Guidance Note and its Annexes; monitoring its implementation and sharing good practice, including through country visits. The Advisory Group will also continue to provide further technical briefings on specific issues for UNAIDS and the Cosponsors.

## **2010 Survey**

A brief questionnaire was sent out to Advisory Group members in December 2010, asking for feedback on the utility and operation of the group, its Secretariat, communication and to make suggestions for future work.

In general, most people felt that the Advisory Group had performed well during 2010, however some useful suggestions for improvements were made in relation to the logistics and practicalities of the meetings which will be incorporated into the planning of future meetings, where possible.

Significantly, members of the Advisory Group have requested improved communication between meetings, to keep the momentum of the discussions going and to act as a driver for the workplan. Some members suggested;

- More regular email communication between meetings providing updates on progress and follow-up, allowing members to continue to function as a group all year round
- Quarterly conference calls organised between meetings

These suggestions are now being taken forward. A new 'Listserv' specifically for the Advisory Group has been created, allowing members to communicate with the whole group at once should they wish to do so. The Secretariat has identified providers of translation and interpreting services to help facilitate regular teleconference Advisory Group meetings, using Skype technology, in between full Advisory Group meetings – so that French and Spanish speaking representatives can be included in these discussions.

Proposed dates for both these teleconferences and the full 2011 UNAIDS Advisory Group meeting will be sent round to members shortly and at that time we welcome all suggestions for agenda items and special thematic issues that members would like to discuss during future Advisory Group teleconferences and meetings.