

Celebrating the Life of Andrew Paul Hunter

The Early Years

In sharing some memories of Andrew's childhood his father, Stan wrote:
"I usually called him Andy, he was such a sweet, gentle little boy and never changed. I recall saying to him some time back "Andy you know I am upset with you", he said why Dad and my answer was "you know I never smacked you, you never gave me the opportunity" We both laughed.

When Andy was at Kindergarten he played in Dollies corner. He was a very good Student. All subjects were marked very high with Japanese and Sport marked Sound. He would rather read a book than play sport. His general knowledge was amazing."



Andrew, you gave me this beautiful note when you left Melbourne for Queensland in 1977. You were only 9 years old at the time. I have always kept this note close and feel that it is now time to return it to you. As you said in your note, I can't believe that you have gone away and I am certain that we will again be seeing each other another day. All my love, Mum.



Activism is not issue-specific.
It's a moral posture that, steady state, propels you forward, from one hard hour to the next.
Believing that you can do something to make things better, you do something, rather than nothing.
And Andrew did this ...
You assume responsibility for the privilege of your abilities.
You do whatever you can.
You reach beyond yourself in your imagination, and in your wish for understanding, and for change.
You admit the limitations of individual perspectives.
You trust somebody else.
You do not turn away.
And Andrew always lived this.

Julian Hows, UK



He was my mentor, guide, my guardian angel , who helped Laxmi, polished her and out of all supported her all the time. 'Andrew' - the space which you have created in my life won't filled. I am missing you and grieving and my grief couldn't be put down in words or....

Andrew your activism your way of approach and above all you will be missed. May god bless you and your soul rest in peace I am saying this with a heavy heart, because for me you are still here in my thoughts,and in my mind forever. This is the worst Christmas for me and will always be.

Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, India

Andrew's passing is not just my loss but he leaves a great big hole in the hearts and minds of the global network of sex workers. Andrew was a friend and mentor to many and had devoted his entire adult life to social justice and championing the rights and giving voice to some of the most marginalised and vulnerable sex workers in the world. He made you feel proud to be a sex worker and an activist."

Julie Bates, Australia

"When faced with injustice he would eloquently put people in their place - he campaigned for Sex Workers, HIV & Transgender, Gay Rights, plus Drug Users Rights, from the podium with Hilary Clinton in Washington USA, to the Sex Workers/Heroin Addicts on the streets of St.Kilda in Melbourne Australia, or the streets of Thailand, Cambodia, India, Canada, Scotland, even Brazil - Andrew gave his all never holding back he was a beautiful sensitive man with a great sense of humour and an ability to rattle off information about anything and everything without being arrogant or overbearing - many a time he cleaned up the mess of many an incompetent fool who went in with an unpractical theory & an overly professional mentality"

Diane Mcalpine, Australia

The Activist

Andrew grew up to be a remarkable man, who many of us had the pleasure and privilege of knowing and loving. He was a brilliant activist who campaigned tirelessly for more than 25 years around issues that affect sex workers, people living with HIV, drug users, transgender men and women, and gay men.

Andrew worked for the Prostitute's Collective of Victoria (PCV) coordinating the male sex worker project and setting up the first community run needle exchange in Australia. He was one of the founding members of Scarlet Alliance and worked as Coordinator of the Queensland Intravenous Aids Association (QUIVAA). It was in 1994 that Andrew attended the International AIDS Conference in Yokohama where the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW) was founded by sex workers from the region. Later, he worked with young homeless people in Brisbane's inner city as HIV Project officer, often adopting a mediation role between young people and authority figures.

Andrew has the honour of having failed one of Sheila Jeffrey's courses in Revolutionary Women's Studies at Melbourne University when he wrote a history of the PCV which, it is reported, she had promptly thrown in the bin. Andrew was a pioneering leader within the sex worker rights movement and a relentless HIV and AIDS treatment advocate and activist who had studied Human Rights and Bioethics at Monash University in Australia.

Most recently Andrew was working with APNSW and was the President of the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP), he was also on the Board of Women's Network for Unity in Cambodia where he was involved with the management of the Community Legal Service, a sex worker run legal service. Andrew was also an active member of the Communities Delegation to the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and a member of the Global Fund Human Rights Reference Group, driving forward the campaign to have the human rights of sex workers the world over recognised and for sex workers to be at the forefront of HIV policy discussions, design, implementation and evaluation. He was instrumental in ensuring that major international agencies such as the Global Fund and the United Nations take seriously the interests and concerns of sex workers and others who are ignored by or excluded from society and in doing so ensure that these groups' human rights are respected and upheld.

Andrew was a visionary leader who challenged and debunked commonly held misperceptions, prejudices and assumptions about sex workers, drug users and other marginalised communities. He mentored activists, developing and inspiring new advocates and leaders not only in his own region but globally. Even in his absence he will continue to inspire and strengthen the sex worker rights movement.



APNSW wins HIV and Human Rights Award 2008