

# The Global Working Group on Sex Work and HIV Policy

c/o NSWP  
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Michel Sidibé  
Executive Director of UNAIDS  
UNAIDS Secretariat  
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Dear Mr Sidibé,

We are writing on behalf of the Global Working Group on HIV and Sex Work Policy, initiated by the Global Network of Sex Work Projects, to acknowledge publication of the revised Guidance Note on HIV and Sex Work. We are pleased to see that an effort has been made to address some of the concerns raised in response to the first draft and we note that this version is improved as a result.

We continue to have reservations about certain elements of the document, and some of it requires further clarification and explanation. We would be most pleased if a constructive conversation about content and ways forward could be held in an environment that is friendly and safe for sex workers and sex worker advocates', rather than in a more open or public fora. We know that you are committed to moving forward in a more collaborative manner and feel that this would be a good beginning for a strong relationship with you.

To that end we would ask that UNAIDS convene a meeting of up to ten people as discussed with Vince Chrisostomo, from 7 Sisters, at the civil society meeting in Bangkok earlier this week. The meeting should include sex worker advocates', selected by the Global Working Group, and UN staff who have been involved in working on the Guidance Note. At the meeting we could discuss ways in which the global and regional networks of sex work projects can help ensure that the implementation of the Guidance Note benefits sex workers of all genders in all regions and countries of the world, and leads to optimal use of HIV resources to achieve universal access to prevention, treatment and care. At the meeting we might also address any remaining concerns of both the UN and sex workers networks. Importantly we will be able to plan a process that will ensure the

meaningful participation and involvement of global and regional networks of sex workers in UN processes in the future.

We look forward to working with you.

Best wishes  
Yours sincerely,

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On behalf of The Global Working Group on Sex Work and HIV Policy  
NSWP (Global Network of Sex Work Projects); ICASO (International Council of AIDS Service Organizations); ICW (International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS); PLRI (Paulo Longo Research Initiative); APNSW (Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers); ICRSE (International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe); TAMPEP; Open Society Institute – Public Health Program; Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network; Friederike Strack, Davida; Katarína Jirešová, OZ ODYSEUS; Joanne Csete, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University; Bebe Loff, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University; Zonibel Woods.

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