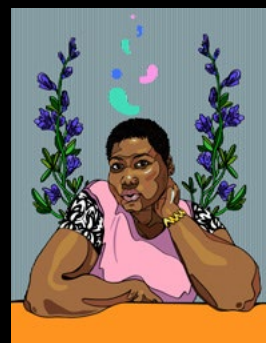




**nswp**

**Global Network of Sex Work Projects**  
Promoting Health and Human Rights



**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

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# About NSWP



**THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF SEX WORK PROJECTS (NSWP) is a membership organisation which exists to uphold the voices of sex workers, amplify the voices of sex worker-led organisations globally, and connect regional networks advocating for the rights of female, male, and transgender sex workers. It advocates for rights-based health and social services, freedom from abuse and discrimination, and self-determination for sex workers.**

NSWP members are sex worker-led organisations and networks from across the five NSWP regions: Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe – including Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, and North America and the Caribbean. Our organisational culture and rules ensure that we are led by sex workers and that sex workers are meaningfully involved at all levels within NSWP. To become a member of NSWP, sex worker-led organisations must endorse the NSWP Consensus Statement<sup>1</sup> and core values:

- Acceptance of sex work as work.
- Opposition to all forms of criminalisation and other legal oppression of sex work (including sex workers, clients, third parties<sup>2</sup>, families, partners and friends).
- Supporting self-organisation and self-determination of sex workers.

NSWP members are from diverse cultures and have different experiences and organisational histories. Most are independent sex worker-led organisations, some are informal groups of sex workers within larger organisations, and some are non-governmental organisations who support sex workers' rights. Some member organisations provide services, some focus on advocacy, and some on mobilising to reduce vulnerability. All work on human rights issues that affect the health and well-being of sex workers.

<sup>1</sup> NSWP, 2013, [NSWP Consensus Statement on Sex Work, Human Rights, and the Law](#)

<sup>2</sup> The term 'third parties' includes managers, brothel keepers, receptionists, maids, drivers, landlords, hotels who rent rooms to sex workers, and anyone else who is seen as facilitating sex work



NSWP advocacy focuses on the following issues and goals:

- **Human rights:** Sex workers' human rights are promoted and protected.
- **Health:** Sex workers have universal access to health services, including for HIV.
- **Labour:** Sex work is recognised as work.
- **Stigma and discrimination:** Sex workers live free from stigma and discrimination.
- **Criminalisation and legal oppression:** Sex workers do not face criminalisation or legal punishment.
- **Violence:** Sex workers live free from all types of violence.
- **Migration and trafficking:** Sex work is not conflated with trafficking and sex workers can move and migrate freely.
- **Economic empowerment:** Sex workers have free choice of employment and economic security.

## Board Members as of 31 Dec 2022

**PRESIDENT:** Phelister Abdalla (KESWA, Kenya)

**AFRICA:** Patrick Fotso (Alcondoms, Cameroon) and Pamela Chakuvinga (SISONKE, South Africa)

**ASIA PACIFIC:** Sherry Sherqueshaa (Project X, Singapore) and Yukiko Kaname (SWASH, Japan)

**EUROPE:** Nataliia Isaieva (Legalife-Ukraine, Ukraine) and Luca Stevenson (ESWA, The Netherlands)

**LATIN AMERICA:** Cynthia Navarrete Gil (APROASE, Mexico) and Chavica Moreira Rodríguez (Asociacion Horizontes Diversos, Ecuador)

**NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:** Shaunna-May Trotman (Guyana Sex Work Coalition, Guyana) and Ceyenne Doroshow (GLITSINC, USA).

*All Board members are sex workers, with members of the board who are openly living with HIV.*

## NSWP Secretariat as of 31 Dec 2022

### GLOBAL COORDINATOR:

Ruth Morgan Thomas

### OPERATIONS & PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT TEAM:

**Operations Manager:** Gillian Galbraith

**Operations and Membership Officer:** Manuela Nehrig

**Programme Officer:** Hannah Lewis

### POLICY, PROGRAMME & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM:

**Senior Policy Officer:** Neil McCulloch

**Policy Officers:** Anna Shapiro, Nadine Gloss

**Senior Programme Officer:** Mick Matthews

**Communications Officer:** Hannah Wright

# The View from 2022



**Sex workers organising globally continued to face many challenges as well as opportunities in 2022.**

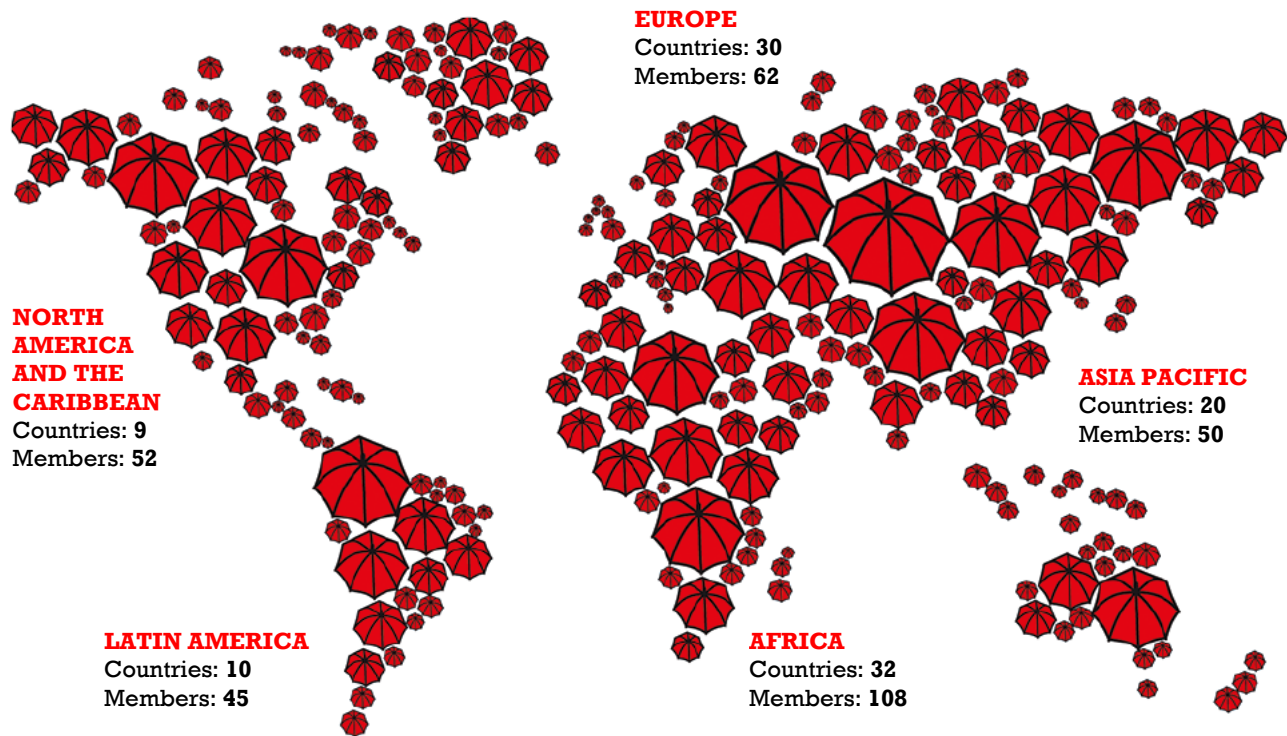
The NSWP Board approved the [Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#) and it was launched online in April 2022. NSWP began to implement various strategies as set out in the Plan:

- To convene and further build on NSWP achievements as the global network committed to the realisation of sex workers' human rights.
- To build capacity within sex worker-led networks and organisations and support emerging sex worker leaders.
- To promote rights and evidence-based policies and programmes affecting sex workers.

Despite challenges imposed by the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, NSWP and our members participated in international and national dialogues and spaces, to promote rights and evidence-based policies and programmes affecting sex workers, using the [NSWP Consensus Statement](#) as the foundation for all global advocacy. In addition to capacity building and technical support provided to regional networks, NSWP developed a range of advocacy tools, highlighted below, that bring the human rights of sex workers strongly into focus.

## NSWP Membership

In 2022, NSWP membership grew to 317 members in 101 countries, spread across the five NSWP regions.



# NSWP Highlights



## CEDAW 2022

### Technical Support for National Monitoring Systems

NSWP worked with four countries in southern Africa to provide technical support for engaging with the CEDAW country review process. Sisonke in South Africa, Tiyaane Vavassate in Mozambique, Zimbabwe Sex Workers Alliance and Sisonke Botswana received technical support for developing a national monitoring system to track their governments' response to the latest CEDAW concluding observations related to sex work published for each country.

The process of creating the national monitoring system was intended to support sex workers' rights organisations in holding their governments accountable for responding to CEDAW Concluding Observations that impact the human rights of sex workers. The data collected through the national monitoring systems will provide evidence to inform future shadow reports to the CEDAW Committee when each country's progress is reviewed, as well as support the organisations' national advocacy efforts towards the decriminalisation of sex work.

By the end of 2022, all four organisations had a framework for national monitoring in place that produced important findings related to gender-based violence, access to labour and social protections, and the impact of stigma, discrimination and anti-trafficking legislation on sex worker communities in southern Africa. The monitoring systems will continue to be implemented and enhanced in 2023 and beyond.

***"There is a great need to educate sex workers on the CEDAW Convention as it is quite evident from the data collected that sex workers are not aware of what it means and how it advances their rights."***

National Consultant, Botswana

### Sex Worker Delegation Presenting Thematic Briefing to CEDAW Committee 81st Session on the Impact of COVID-19 on Cis and Trans Women Sex Workers

NSWP presented a thematic briefing session to the CEDAW Committee organised and chaired by the Dutch CEDAW representative, Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen, who ensured the sex worker delegation were given adequate space, respect and opportunity to present.

The sex worker presenters shared the serious negative impacts of COVID-19 on sex worker communities in their countries, that had resulted in increased violence against sex workers, and an inability to access food, medicine, healthcare, housing and any available supports or social protections afforded to others during COVID.

A number of CEDAW Committee members publicly thanked delegation members and acknowledged that they now understood the extent of discrimination and violence against sex workers during COVID. This was an important achievement given the increasingly hostile and mobilised anti-rights agendas within these spaces.

***"The pandemic mainly highlighted problems that sex workers in Poland were already dealing with prior to the pandemic. The fact that all emergency relief and related social protections excluded sex workers illustrated how the system in Poland invisibilises sex workers, yet at the same time tries to surveil, control and punish them."***

Excerpt from the statement made by the delegate from Poland

## Sex Workers Speak Out

Funding for sex worker-led organisations is shrinking, as has the space for the voices of sex workers, resulting in sex workers having less influence in programmes, policies and other decisions that affect their lives. The Sex Workers Speak Out project was created to remedy this silencing of sex worker voices, giving sex workers the chance to speak out about sex work from their own expert perspectives.

At the end of 2021, the NSWP Secretariat began gathering videos – with funding from the Count Me In! Consortium and the Robert Carr Fund – with the aim of collecting 100 from around the world. Videos could be submitted in any language, with an English translation, and they were to focus on the themes of sex work and decent work; and sex work, sexual and reproductive health & rights (SRHR) and bodily autonomy. Sex workers were paid for their time to make the videos.

A dedicated webpage on the NSWP website was created to display the videos. The page was created with adaptability in mind so that the content is accessible on computer screens and also on smaller screens such as mobile phones and tablets. Each video has subtitles in the original language and in English where the original language is not English. As well as subtitles, each video has a transcript of the video content below it in English and a widget at the top of the page allows visitors to the website to translate these texts into 20 languages from around the world. All of these elements help to ensure that the Sex Workers Speak Out project is more accessible to people who speak different languages and have access to different technologies.

The video contributions came from sex workers associated with NSWP member organisations. The videos feature each sex worker speaking to camera,

in their own words. There is strong diversity in age, gender and language among the participants.

In total, NSWP received 23 videos from Africa, 21 videos from Asia and the Pacific, 21 videos from Europe, 16 videos from North America and the Caribbean, and 19 videos from Latin America.

The project was soft-launched on International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers on 17th December 2021 and then officially launched on International Sex Workers' Rights Day on 3rd March 2022.

Since its launch (to the end of December 2022), the Sex Workers Speak Out webpage has had 37,244 unique visitors. In this same time period, the 82 videos which had been added to the website received a total of 33,512 views from the webpage and directly on YouTube. The average length of time that viewers watched the videos was 31 seconds. Given that the videos were mostly around 60 seconds in length, this is a good average retention rate.



© SEX WORKERS SPEAK OUT VIDEO SLIDE WITH IMAGES BY MOLLY HANKINSON FOR NSWP



## Member's Survey

In 2022, NSWP conducted a member's survey and received 42 viable responses from member organisations across all five regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, North America and the Caribbean and Latin America<sup>3</sup>.

Questions ranged from participation in Global Fund processes to sex work-related legislation and policy. Of all the respondents, 67% were eligible for Global Fund funding, and 50% of those who had been involved in Global Fund processes had a positive experience.

Briefing papers were the most popular NSWP advocacy tool, with 40% of respondents reporting their use.

35% of members reported a decrease in advocacy funding for 2022, while 17% reported restrictions on their advocacy efforts due to anti-prostitution policy or anti-abortion policy clauses in their donor contracts. Half of the respondents reported no change in sex work-related legislation and policy in their countries, while 14% reported that sex work-related legislation and policy had gotten worse.

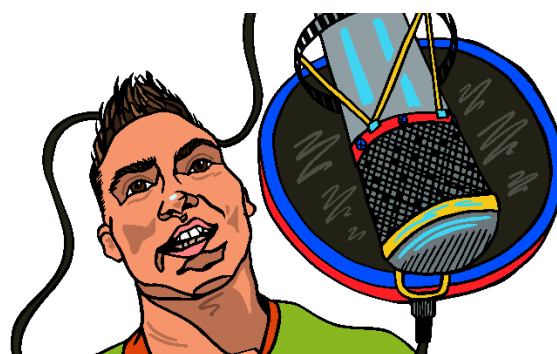
Members were asked how stigma and discrimination had changed in 2022. 29% of respondents reported that stigma and discrimination had improved, while 19% reported that it had remained the same and 19% reported that it had worsened. In addition, 50% of respondents had systems in place to document human rights abuses.

62% of respondents reported offering services to sex workers, while only 7% did not. Among those

who offered services, 52% reported developing or expanding services for sex workers in 2022. In terms of funding for sex worker-led service delivery, 19% reported a decrease, 10% reported an increase, and 12% were unsure. Additionally, 19% reported a decrease in access to services for sex workers from other providers, while 21% reported an increase, and 21% reported no change.

Finally, 38% of organisations across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, North America, and Latin America were involved in the development of, or monitored the implementation of, their countries' National Strategic Plans on HIV in 2022.

The survey provides some insights into the current situation for NSWP members globally. It highlights both positive and negative changes in sex work-related legislation and policy and stigma and discrimination experienced by sex workers. The findings highlight the need for increased funding for advocacy and access to services for sex workers, as well as greater involvement in the development and monitoring of National Strategic Plans on HIV.



© ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY HANKINSON FOR NSWP

<sup>3</sup> In Europe, organisations from Austria, Germany, Greece, Poland, Sweden, and Turkey; in North America and the Caribbean, organisations from Barbados and the United States; in Latin America, organisations from Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Mexico; in Africa, organisations

from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Uganda; and in Asia and the Pacific, organisations from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Nepal.

## International AIDS Conference 2022

AIDS 2022, the 24th International AIDS Conference, took place both in-person in the host city of Montreal and online from 29<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

The conference location and format posed several challenges and barriers for sex workers and other key populations. Many hopeful attendees were either denied visas or were still waiting for their visa to be approved by the time the conference began. Virtual attendance also presented a barrier with tickets ranging from 140 to 530 USD for low-income countries.

NSWP partnered with member organisation Stella, l'amie de Maimie to host the Sex Worker Networking Zone in the Global Village; an area of the conference that was free to attend. Stella produced a special issue of ConStellation, their annual magazine by and for sex workers, as a way to orient sex workers and allies to all sex work content at AIDS 2022.

Ahead of the conference, NSWP and Stella hosted a Sex Worker Pre-Conference as an opportunity for sex workers to gather, name priorities, and strategise for a week of activity and action at the conference. Attendees made placards and identified important events to attend during the conference.

In the main conference programme, members of the NSWP Secretariat and member organisations spoke at a variety of events. On Friday 29th July, WHO launched the new Consolidated guidelines on HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations. Ruth Morgan Thomas, NSWP's Global Coordinator, spoke at the launch, reminding people of the long way we have ahead of us towards decriminalisation with only New Zealand and two states in Australia having decriminalised sex work out of 193 countries.

Jules Kim, CEO of Scarlet Alliance, Australia, spoke at the session titled Save lives, decriminalize: Pathways to achieving the 10-10-10s, organised by UNAIDS. Speaking on decriminalisation, Jules said, "When laws are made without communities at the centre, they have unintended, negative consequences. Laws meant to protect sex workers often harm them."

NSWP co-organised a Satellite Event alongside MPact, INPUD and Love Alliance, titled 'Communities Leading the Way: The Importance of Key Population Community-Led Responses in HIV 2022'. During the event, speakers emphasised the need for community-led interventions and the importance of acknowledging key population communities as experts.

In the Global Village, NSWP and Stella ran a daily programme of events showcasing sex worker-led projects from around the world. Sessions were run live in the Sex Worker Networking Zone and were also streamed in from NSWP members who could not make it to the conference. To make the sessions as accessible as possible, some of these events were livestreamed for free and added to the NSWP website after the event.

These events included Yellow, Brown, Loud and Proud: Sex work and Sex Worker Organising in the Asia Pacific with Jules Kim from Scarlet Alliance; Red Umbrella Fund: How to strengthen the fund to strengthen the movement with Paul-Gilbert Colletaz from Red Umbrella Fund; and Herramientas para la vida (tools for life), with Centro de Apoyo a las Identidades Trans A.C. All the recorded sessions can be viewed on the NSWP website.

# NSWP Achievements



## Strengthened capacity within sex worker-led networks and organisations

### Technical Support

In 2022, NSWP continued to provide virtual technical support on strengthening capacity to five regional networks (APNSW, ASWA, CSWC, PLAPERTS and SWAN) and 6 GF country partners (FEMISS: South Sudan, WODA: Ghana, COVIE: Cote D'ivoire, Tais Plus: Kyrgyzstan, AMA: Myanmar and Friends Frangipani: Papua New Guinea), with financial support from [Global Fund CRG Strategic Initiative](#) and [Robert Carr Fund \(RCF\)](#). The NSWP Programme Management and Operations team had monthly calls with both regional networks and national partners. Technical support was also provided to Global Fund CRG Strategic Initiative national partners to enable them to continue working towards achieving the outcomes and desired changes described in their outcome statements, by the end of 2023.

**APNSW:** NSWP continued to provide technical support to APNSW's Management Committee and Secretariat to strengthen capacity around organisational development, financial management, budgeting, adjusting workplans and human resource management. The Senior Policy Officer provided technical support and advice on process in preparation for new Presidential election and restructured Management Committee elections to take place in 2023.

**ASWA:** NSWP continued to provide technical support to ASWA Secretariat to strengthen capacity around governance and organisational development, financial management, budgeting, managing exchange rates and human resource management. The Senior Policy Officer provided technical support, acting as returning officer, for ASWA elections and provided post-election advice on improvements. ASWA launched a novel approach

to knowledge and capacity sharing in 2022, named the Africa Leadership Sex Workers Academy (ALESWA). The impetus behind ALESWA was the need to expand the skills and knowledge of sex workers, thereby fostering a robust and resilient movement in Africa. The aim is to equip sex workers with new tools to adapt to the evolving landscape of work brought on by the emergence of COVID-19 and other challenges. The first ALESWA was held in November 2022, with two more planned in 2023.

**CSWC:** NSWP continued to provide technical support on onward granting, financial management, budgeting, managing exchange rates, sharing good practice and monthly financial reporting, and human resource management. The Senior Policy Officer provided technical support on good governance practices. Additionally, NSWP supported the implementation of a new monitoring and evaluation framework and monthly activity reports.

NSWP carried out a due diligence visit (postponed from July 2020) to CSWC in Guyana in late 2022 following concerns identified by NSWP. CSWC failed the due diligence process on financial management, human resource management and governance. CSWC refused offers of ongoing technical support to assist them to improve their implementation of processes and procedures. This meant that NSWP is no longer able to work with or fund CSWC. In addition, the Sex Worker Networks Consortium approved the removal of CSWC from the Consortium. Both NSWP and the Consortium remain committed to building capacity of national sex worker-led movements and organisations and negotiated with RCF to enable us to provide small national grants in 2023 to sex worker-led member organisations in the Caribbean.

**PLAPERTS:** NSWP provided technical support to PLAPERTS to strengthen capacity around governance and organisational development, and financial management. NSWP also provided technical support to PLAPERTS' regional coordinator

on a range of leadership and institutional strengthening issues.

NSWP conducted a follow up due diligence visit to PLAPERTS. PLAPERTS had implemented updates to governance procedures, putting into place transparent and accountable measures with the board. Financial procedures were checked and confirmed as in place, satisfactorily resolving all matters during the due diligence visit.

**SWAN:** NSWP continued to provide technical support to SWAN to strengthen their capacity around human resource management, governance, leadership and organisational development.

**ESWA:** NSWP provided virtual technical support on specific policy issues as requested.

**Regional networks** continued to provide technical support and work with sex worker-led organisations in their regions to strengthen their institutional capacity as well as their capacity to influence rights-affirming sex work policies and programmes at the local and national level within the five NSWP regions.

### **Sex Worker Networks Consortium**

The Sex Worker Networks Consortium received funding from the Robert Carr Fund (RCF) for 2022 to 2024. Over the 3-year grant, NSWP and regional sex worker-led networks will collaboratively consolidate knowledge across the sex workers' rights movement on the human rights that underpin social protection and the realisation of SRHR. This will be accomplished by documenting the lived experiences of sex workers through the development of a human rights documentation tool. Trained country teams of sex workers will use this tool to gather data, which will inform and strengthen the evidence base of national, regional, and global advocacy. The focus on social protection, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, is hoped to further build the case for the full decriminalisation of sex work

and its recognition as work. This would open-up labour rights and protection, including social protection and occupational health services.

### **Global Fund**

All six country partners received virtual technical support on a number of specific issues including CCM elections; problems with PR grant management; preparing for GC7 funding submissions; managing the CRG SI grant to achieve targets, as well as financial reporting, managing exchange rates and narrative reporting. In addition, technical support was provided to AMA, Myanmar on managing the programme throughout the military coup which continues to result in considerable civil unrest. The virtual technical support is more than simply responding to specific requests and is part of an ongoing dialogue with country partners, with guidance and advice as an integral part of the dialogue.

### **CEDAW**

NSWP worked with three countries in southern Africa to provide technical support for engaging with the CEDAW country review process. Sisonke in South Africa received support from NSWP to update and submit their shadow report to the 80th CEDAW session and to prepare a statement for the NGO hearing during the session. The report was updated to include a specific focus on the impact of COVID on rates of violence against sex workers in South Africa. Tiyane Vavassate in Mozambique and Sisonke Botswana received technical support for developing a national monitoring system to track their governments' response to the latest CEDAW Concluding Observations related to sex work published for each country. The process of drafting the national monitoring system is intended to support Tiyane Vavassate and Sisonke Botswana in holding their governments accountable for responding to CEDAW Concluding Observations that affirm the human rights of sex workers. The data



collected through the national monitoring systems will provide evidence to inform future shadow reports to the CEDAW Committee when each country's progress is reviewed.

## Engagement in International Policy and Programme Platforms

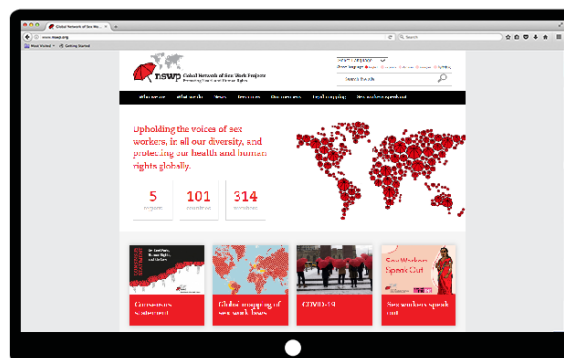
During 2022, NSWP representatives sat on the World Health Organization Civil Society Reference Group; The Global Fund Communities, Rights and Gender Advisory Group; the Global Fund Communities Delegation; Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC) Working Group; Interagency Working Group on Key Populations and the UNAIDS Steering Committee on HIV and Sex Work, which NSWP co-chairs.

Additional to those reported above, during 2022 NSWP and members participated in a variety of international policy platforms including: updating of WHO Consolidated Key Population Guidelines and membership of the Guideline Development Group and External Review Group; reviewing the WHO Consolidated Guidelines on Person-Centred HIV Strategic Information and membership of the Core Advisory Group and Technical Working Groups; attending the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meetings; participating in the GPC Key Population Community of Practice and the South-South Learning Network advisory groups and events.

In 2022, NSWP also co-hosted two events at CSW66. One side event was co-sponsored by the Kingdom of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CNV International, and the CMI Consortium: "Strengthening labour rights through cross-movement collaborations – trade unions, sex workers' organizations and feminist groups." In addition, NSWP co-hosted the parallel event, "Feminist Perspectives on Ensuring Sex Workers'

Access to Social Protection," together with the Sex Worker Inclusive Feminist Alliance (SWIFA).

## NSWP website and social media platforms



NSWP's website had 1,287,582 page views during 2022, a decrease of 5% from 2021 and was accessed by 901,863 users, 9.6% of whom were returning visitors, and representing a 4.44% decrease from 2021. 428,950 (46.2%) visitors entered the NSWP website via a search engine; 489,279 (52.7%) visitors entered by either directly typing the URL of the website into their browser or by clicking a link our analytics can't track; and 3,442 (0.4%) visitors entered via social media.

458,721 (35%) of all visits to the NSWP website in 2022 were to pages in our [Members' section](#). In 2022, the Communications Officer worked with member organisations to produce 9 featured members profiles for the NSWP website. Resources were accessed either directly or through browsing the [Resources section](#) of the website, 65,606 times (5% of all website hits). [News pages](#) were visited 90,095 times (6.9%) in 2022. The Communications Officer drafted 21 news stories for the website in 2022 – 1 from Africa, 3 from Asia Pacific, 3 from Europe, 1 from Latin America, 1 from North America

and the Caribbean, and 12 from a global perspective.

NSWP continued to publish the [Sex Work Digest](#), a quarterly newsletter, and used social media platforms to engage and share information with members and beyond in 2022. NSWP continued to use global and regional listservs to support information-sharing among members. NSWP maintained a private group on Facebook for sex workers and sex workers' rights advocates to discuss issues and organise around common causes. As of 31 December 2022, the group had 2,150 members. [The NSWP Facebook Page](#), created in July 2016 to communicate to NSWP members and external stakeholders, had 4,424 followers as of 31 December 2022 and the NSWP Twitter account, [@GlobalSexWork](#), has a wide reach with 27,135 followers as of 31 December 2021.

## NSWP publications

### Briefing Papers

#### **Briefing Paper: How Sex Work Laws are Implemented on the Ground and Their Impact on Sex Workers - A Study of Ten African Countries**

(October 2022): NSWP, as one of the global advocacy partners in the Love Alliance programme, commissioned national consultants from sex worker-led organisations (and a women's network in the case of Morocco) in ten African countries to better understand how the sex work laws in those countries are enforced and what impact this has on sex workers. This briefing paper reflects on the sex work laws in the region, exploring key themes that are consistent across all of the case studies, and includes an analysis and recommendations on the way forward to strengthen advocacy for decriminalisation in these countries and the region as a whole. A short summary of each national legal case study is included at the end of this paper.

#### **Briefing Paper: The Impacts of Anti-Rights Movements on Sex Workers** (November 2022):

This Briefing Paper outlines the main tactics used across the anti-rights movements and highlights their impacts on sex workers and sex worker-led organisations. It also explores how sex worker-led organisations have challenged anti-rights movements, including their strategies for overcoming barriers and the successes they've achieved. Finally, this paper provides recommendations for respecting and protecting sex workers' human rights.

[Briefing Paper](#) | [Community Guide](#)

#### **Global Briefing Paper: The Impact of COVID-19 on Sex Workers** (November 2022):

Sex workers all over the world were among the hardest hit communities at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to be impacted by this global public health crisis.

This global paper summarises the evidence emerging from the reports developed by Plataforma Latino Americana de Personas que Ejercen el Trabajo Sexual (PLAPERTS), the Caribbean Sex Work Coalition (CSWC), the African Sex Worker Alliance (ASWA), the Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SWAN) and the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW). It highlights the common issues faced by sex workers across the five regions, exposing the main challenges that they faced during the pandemic.

#### **Briefing Paper: Migration and Sex Work**

(December 2022): This Briefing Paper is intended for policy makers, those who design and implement programmes and work directly with sex workers, and as a tool for sex worker-led organisations to utilise in their advocacy for sex workers' rights. In a globalised economy in which labour migration is essential and yet fraught with increased restrictions and complications, this paper will analyse migrant

sex work within a labour framework. This is especially relevant now due to the rise of aggressive anti-migrant policies and discourse, especially in the global north.

[Briefing Paper](#) | [Community Guide](#)

### Smart Guides



**Smart Sex Worker's Guide to the Global Fund Strategy 2023–2028** (September 2022): The 2023–2028 Global Fund Strategy will guide Global Fund approaches, decision-making, and investment for the next 6 years in a 70-page document.

This Smart Guide tries to simplify two components of the Global Fund Strategy: The Strategy Framework, which provides a broad overview, and The Strategy Narrative, which is complex and goes into detail about how the Global Fund will implement the strategy.

**Smart Sex Worker's Guide to Community-led Responses to COVID-19** (November 2022): As governments failed to provide adequate assistance in their emergency responses and social protection mechanisms, sex worker-led organisations around the world stepped up to support their communities.

Community-led mutual aid funds were set up to provide sex workers with grants and vouchers, and many sex worker-led organisations continued to provide and expand services and support to sex workers by delivering ARVs and PREP directly to sex workers in their homes, along with food and hygiene packages. This Smart Guide will highlight best practices in sex worker-led responses to the COVID-19 pandemic that provide models for future health and humanitarian crises.

**The Smart Sex Worker's Guide to Social Protection** (December 2022): This Smart Guide examines structural barriers which impede sex workers' access to social protection measures, providing examples of how sex workers' human rights are violated. These findings are based on a community consultation conducted with NSWP members, as well as key informant interviews conducted with representatives of UN agencies. This guide also outlines the international human rights frameworks underpinning social protection and explains how they can be used by sex worker-led organisations to promote sex workers' human rights. Lastly, this Smart Guide explores good practices in promoting sex workers' access to social protection and offers recommendations for sex worker-led organisations, policymakers, and allies.

### Infographics

**Infographic: Sex Workers' Lack of Access to Justice** (February 2022): This infographic summarises the Briefing Paper on Sex Workers' Lack of Access to Justice. Sex workers around the world face a wide range of barriers to accessing justice, both as victims of crime and when charged with crimes. Since sex work is widely criminalised, most sex workers are denied access to the benefits and rights afforded to other workers under labour laws and face the risk of criminalisation, detention, deportation and legal sanction.

**Infographic: Universal Health Coverage (UHC): Putting the Last Mile First** (August 2022):

Universal Health Coverage speaks to the global goal of providing all people with the health care they need without creating undue financial burdens on the individual. This infographic is based on the Briefing Paper: Universal Health Coverage: Putting the Last Mile First. NSWP infographics are tools for sex workers' advocacy worldwide. They contain images created by Molly Hankinson.

**Infographic: Sex Worker Community-led Responses to COVID-19** (November 2022):

This infographic summarises the Smart Sex Worker's Guide to Community-led Responses to COVID-19. As governments failed to provide adequate assistance in their emergency responses and social protection mechanisms, sex worker-led organisations around the world stepped up to support their communities.

**Infographic: Economic Empowerment for Sex Workers** (December 2022): This infographic summarises the Briefing Paper: Economic Empowerment for Sex Workers. The criminalisation of sex work creates a range of barriers for sex workers when it comes to accessing their economic rights.

### Animated Videos

**Animation: Social Protection and Sex Work** (April, 2022): Sex workers worldwide are overwhelmingly excluded from social protection schemes and government emergency responses put in place for other workers. Criminalisation, stigma and discrimination, and the failure to recognise sex work as work compound sex workers' exclusion and foster economic insecurity. Sex work must be recognised as work and all aspects decriminalised to ensure that sex workers can access the same social protections, emergency financial support, and labour rights as all other workers.

**Animation: The Smart Sex Worker's Guide to SWIT** (December 2022):

The Sex Worker Implementation Tool (SWIT) offers practical guidance on effective HIV and STI programming for sex workers.

**Animation: Smart Sex Worker's Guide to Community-led Responses to COVID-19**

(December 2022): This animation summarises the Smart Sex Worker's Guide to Community-led Responses to COVID-19.

**Animation: The Impacts of Anti-Rights Movements on Sex Workers**

(December 2022): This animation is a summary of the NSWP Briefing Paper on The Impacts of Anti-Rights Movements on Sex Workers.

### Videos

**Global Fund Basics: Global Fund Strategy 2023-2028** (September 2022): This is the fourth set of videos in a series from NSWP called Global Fund Basics. This set of videos covers the new Global Fund Strategy 2023-2028.

**Global Fund Basics: Making Use of the Global Fund Strategy 2023-2028 in Advocacy** (December 2022): This is the fifth video in the Global Fund Basics series and it focuses on using the Global Fund Strategy 2023 - 2028 in advocacy work.

### Statements and Responses

**NSWP Open Letter to the Prime Minister, the Government of Spain, and the leaders of all political parties in the Congress of Deputies regarding the legislative proposals to amend the Spanish Penal Code** (September 2022): NSWP wrote an open letter to the Prime Minister, the Government of Spain, and the leaders of all political parties in the Congress of Deputies regarding the



legislative proposals to amend the Spanish Penal Code and introduce new provisions regarding sex work. NSWP's open letter pulls together the international evidence against the specific proposals made, and present the case for the decriminalisation of sex work.

### Submissions

NSWP made various submissions to UN Special Rapporteurs, member states, Human Rights Council and working groups, and UN agencies / multi-lateral donors, including:

#### UN General Assembly, Special Rapporteurs and Human Rights Council and Working Groups

**United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health: For a thematic report on "Violence and its impact on the right to health" for her report for the Human Rights Council 50<sup>th</sup> session** (January 2022)

**OHCHR online consultation with civil society: Challenges and Good Practices on Safeguarding Civic Space and the Essential Role of Civil Society in Recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic** (January 2022)

**Input to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for her report on "Human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS" for the Human Rights Council 50<sup>th</sup> session** (February 2022 – as part of SWIFA)

**Impact:** The High Commissioner's resulting report (item A/HRC/50/53) contained a number of important recommendations, including that States should:

- Repeal, rescind or amend laws and policies that create barriers or restrict access to health services or that discriminate, explicitly or in effect, against people living with HIV, particularly key populations, women, girls, and youth
- Targeted interventions for key and vulnerable populations be implemented, including:

(i) Providing or scaling up human rights-based, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services for key populations

(ii) Integrating key population-friendly services into all health facilities

- Take measures to close any funding gaps for key population needs in the HIV context, including increased and ring-fenced funding for interventions to meet their specific needs
- Allocate funds to community-led and community-based organisations to lead on activities to implement societal enablers, particularly those targeting key and vulnerable populations

**Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) 2022 High-level Segment on the theme "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."** (April 2022)

**United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association: For a thematic report on the exploration of the impact of social movements in achieving progress towards more equal and sustainable societies** (June 2022)

### Member States

**Submission to the European Commission's**

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**Evaluation of The EU Anti-Trafficking Directive  
(2011/36/EU) (March 2022)**

**NSWP open letter to the Prime Minister, the  
Government of Spain, and the leaders of all  
political parties in the Congress of Deputies  
regarding the legislative proposals to amend the  
Spanish Penal Code and introduce new  
provisions regarding sex work** (September 2022)

# NSWP and *Partnership Working*

## to Advance Sex Workers' Rights



### **NSWP continued to invest in partnerships to enhance the health and human rights of sex workers.**

In 2022, NSWP maintained strong alliances with other global networks of key populations, including MPact & INPUD, and strong working relationships with GNP+, ICW and ITPC to ensure the needs of sex workers are integrated into their work and to strengthen NSWP's work around sex workers living with HIV and treatment advocacy.

- **UNAIDS Steering Committee on HIV and Sex Work:** to influence and improve UN policy on HIV and sex work.
- **WHO HIV Civil Society Reference Group:** to influence and improve WHO guidelines and policy on HIV and sex work.
- **Global Fund Board – Communities Delegations:** to influence and improve rights-based approaches to HIV prevention and treatment programmes for key populations, including sex workers.
- **Global Fund Communities, Rights and Gender Advisory Group:** to influence and improve rights-based approaches to HIV prevention and treatment programmes for sex workers.
- **Sex Worker Inclusive Feminist Alliance (SWIFA):** to advance the acceptance of sex workers' rights within the women's movement.
- **IWRAW-Asia Pacific:** to increase sex worker-led organisations understanding of and engagement with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

# Looking Forward to 2023



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## **The following advocacy tools were developed in 2022 but will be published in 2023:**

- Smart Sex Worker's Guide to the WHO Consolidated Guidelines on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STI Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment and Care for Key Populations

## **The following advocacy tools will be developed in 2023:**

- Briefing Paper and Community Guide on Meeting the Needs and Priorities of Young Sex Workers
- Briefing Paper and Community Guide on Right to Housing and Unmet Needs of Sex Workers
- Policy Brief and Community Guide on Sex workers in Conflict Zones and Humanitarian Crises
- Smart Sex Worker's Guide to the Global Fund Strategy 2023-2028 to Support Advocacy Work
- Terminology Guide



# Financial Summary 2022



## Income 2022

NSWP would like to thank the following donors for their financial support during 2021:

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>
Aids Fonds – Hands Off .....	13,638
Robert Carr Fund for civil society networks (RCF) .....	555,912
Robert Carr Fund for civil society networks (EOF RCF) .....	555,912
The Global Fund .....	176,443
Open Society Foundations .....	516,656
Love Alliance .....	170,211
CREA/CMI .....	11,120
WHO .....	11,315
Miscellaneous .....	5,690
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b> .....	<b>£1,864,059</b>

## Expenditure 2022

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>£</b>
Global Personnel (staff and global, national and task consultants) .....	458,680
Global activities .....	186,107
Global operating costs .....	67,728
Capital costs .....	6,699
Regional Sex Worker-led Networks activities:	
Africa .....	215,019
Asia Pacific .....	187,289
Europe .....	158,947
Latin America .....	118,415
North America and Caribbean .....	73,388
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b> .....	<b>£1,472,272</b>



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