## **Universal Health** Coverage (UHC):





**Images by Molly Hankinson** 



UHC refers to the global goal of providing all people with the healthcare they need without creating undué financial burdens on the individual.



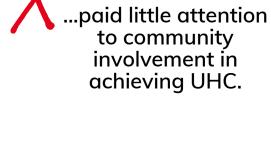
In ratifying the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) United Nations member states committed themselves to achieving UHC by 2030.

While some countries already have comprehensive public health systems, many still have poor health provision and access to services, particularly for criminalised key populations such as sex workers.

The UN General Assembly agreed the Political Declaration on UHC in 2019, including provisions on equity and non-discrimination, ensuring that "no one is left behind."

## However, the Declaration...

criminalised key populations or recognise the impact of criminalisation on sex workers including on their access to health care.











## Implications of UHC for sex workers

discriminate against sex workers.



consulted with or engaged in UHC development in their countries.

NSWP research showed that sex workers were not adequately



While many sex workers agreed with the concept of UHC in principle, they struggled to envisage how it could improve their

access to health care without further stigmatisation.

Healthcare systems continue to exclude, stigmatise and

social determinants of health are addressed. UHC must take a human rights-based approach, ensuring equitable access to health services, and meaningfully involvement of sex workers. Criminalised key populations need UN agencies, governments, and civil society to uphold the Political Declaration's call "to reach the furthest behind first."

UHC will not be achieved unless the legal, political, and



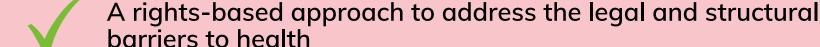
## International human rights and health

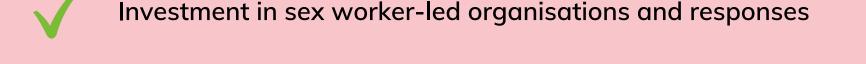
**Recommendations:** 

A commitment to the decriminalisation of sex work

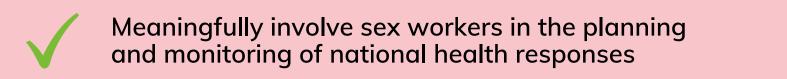
including HIV, within UHC

**Include in all UHC frameworks:** 

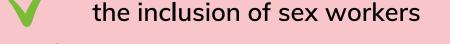




Inclusion of sexual and reproductive health and rights,



Sex worker-led organisations Increase understanding of UHC and advocate for



Become involved in national planning processes on UHC and ensure sex workers are meaningfully involved in these forums

> Join forces with other civil society groups that advocate for health equity and rights, and ensure that sex workers' voices and demands are included in UHC processes.

