Sex Work and HIV in Europe

International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe

EU CSF HIV 03/06/2021

SEX WORK AND HIV IN EUROPE

WHICH WAY FORWARD FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP?



- * OPENING WORDS BY DR TLALENG MOFOKENG, UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON HEALTH
- * EMILY CHRISTIE, SENIOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND LAW ADVISER, UNAIDS
- * PRESENTATION OF ICRSE REPORT 'SEX WORK AND HIV IN EUROPE: ONE STEP FORWARD, TWO STEPS BACK.'
- * LILA MILIKJ, STAR-STAR, NORTH MACEDONIA
- *** LYA JAWAD, TRANS UNITED EUROPE, THE NETHERLANDS**
- * KATE MCGREW, FROM SEX WORKERS ALLIANCE IRELAND
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Co-hosted by International Committee on Rights of Sex Workers in Europe and EU Civil Society Forum HIV/Aids

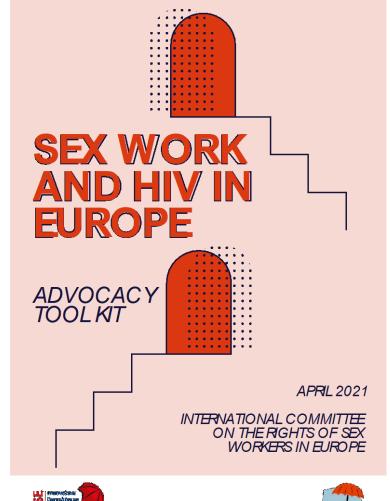




Why this resouce?

European Red Umbrella Academy: Sex Work and HIV Training Programme **Collaboration EATG**

Current context in Europe







Part 1:

- Data and evidence
- Impact of criminalization and other legal oppression
- Stigma, discrimination and violence
- Impact of precarity

RESOURCE 1: BRIEFING PAPER

One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

Critical overview of the European context and the impact of repressive laws and policies on sex workers' vulnerabilities to HIV

Migrant sex workers' vulnerabilities

- Between 3.9 and 4.9 million undocumented migrants live in the European Union and the European Economic Area.
- An estimated 44 percent of all new HIV infections is recorded among migrants, many of whom contracted HIV after arriving in their respective destination countries.
- The proportion of migrants among all newly-recorded HIV cases vary greatly between countries, with Sweden, for instance, recording 75 percent of new cases among migrants.
- Very limited data exists regarding HIV prevalence among migrant sex workers. In countries where such statistics exist, migrant sex workers face higher levels of HIV prevalence. Portugal, for instance, had an HIV prevalence rate among undocumented female migrant sex workers of 13.6 percent, compared to 8 percent among domestic sex workers.

Impact of criminalisation of clients (France)

- The figures for new infections are unequivocal and worrisome. In the entire Île-de-France Nord COREVIH (Regional Coordinating Committee Combating HIV infection) area, where the organisation Acceptess-T is based, HIV tests have revealed a significant increase in the number of trans people testing positive.
- Newly tested trans people represented 0.1 percent of cases in 2015, 0.3 percent in 2016, and 7.4 percent in 2017. Thanks to Acceptess-T's work in the field, we know that most of these people are also engaged in sex work. Data from the annual report of the French non-profit organisation AIDES also show this high prevalence.



Sex workers who face repressive policing are more likely to experience violence, poorer health and well-being



3x Three times more likely to experience sexual and/or physical violence



2x Twice as likely to have HIV and/or another STI



1.5 times more likely to engage in sex without a condom with clients



- Evidence from public health research also highlight critical need for decriminalisation and community empowerement
- LSHTM, 2018:
- > 40 quantitative and 94 qualitative studies
- > 1990 and 9 May 2018
- > 33 countries.

Examples of repressive policing includes arrest & imprisonment

Part 2 and 3: Community leadership

RESOURCE 2: TECHNICAL PAPER

Community-led services and meaningful participation

RESOURCE 3

Case Study of Community-led Services

Umbrella Lane (Scotland), STAR-STAR (Macedonia), and Sex Work Polska (Poland) STAR STAR, North Macedo SexWorkPolska, Poland Umbrella Lane, Scotland

Part 4:

- Governments and legislators:
- Decriminalise sex work. Sex workers, clients and nonexploitative third parties must be decriminalised.
- Eliminate the unjust application of laws and regulations used against sex workers.
- Implement a firewall between immigration authorities and health services
- Address and combat violence against sex workers in partnership with sex worker-led organisations.
- Recognise sex work as work and support the selforganisation and unionisation of sex workers.
- Meaningfully involve sex workers and their organisations in the development of laws and policies that impact them.
- Include sex workers and their organisations in the development of HIV/AIDS national action plans.
- Financially support sex worker-led organisations and community-led services.
- Support implementation of UNAIDS strategy

RESOURCE 4

Sex Work & HIV in Europe - Community Recommendations

Sex worker lives under the law: A community engaged study of access to health and justice in Ireland.

Commissioned by HIV Ireland and funded through Open Society Foundations (OSF).

Kathryn McGarry Paul Ryan













PRÉVENTION

BIEN VIVRE

AIDES EN ACTION

LOI PROSTITUTION DE 2016 : LA COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME EXAMINERA 261 REQUÊTES ÉMANANT DE TRAVAILLEUSES-EURS DU SEXE

COMMUNIQUÉ

























