

# **Sex Worker Health and Rights: Where is the Funding?**

**June 2006**

**Sexual Health and Rights Project**



**OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE**

# **Sex Worker Health and Rights: Where is the Funding?**

**Sexual Health and Rights Project (SHARP)**

**June 2006**

## **Acknowledgements**

This report was authored by Julie Dorf, an independent consultant. The Open Society Institute wishes to thank all of the people who gave their time and shared their knowledge for the research and reading of the findings, including Sam Avrett, Melissa Ditmore, Julia Greenberg, Alice Miller, Juhu Thukral, and Petra Timmermans.

Contact:  
Sexual Health and Rights Project  
Open Society Institute  
400 W. 59<sup>th</sup> St.  
New York, NY 10036  
212-548-0600  
[www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/sharp](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/sharp)

Sue Simon, Project Director, [ssimon@sorosny.org](mailto:ssimon@sorosny.org)  
Rachel Thomas, Project Associate, [rthomas@sorosny.org](mailto:rthomas@sorosny.org)

*Say you work the highway. A police truck approaches. You are grabbed and forced inside. Of course, they [the police] curse you all the way... Then they bring you to ROVD [a police station operated by the District Department for Interior Affairs], right into the hands of the superior at the antidrugs and prostitution department. It's important to behave yourself, as otherwise you will probably be beaten. The police make you write why you were on the highway "prostituting yourself." They maintain you should admit in writing that you are a prostitute. Sometimes this is when you can try and bribe the officer with an offer of free sex...After you have given a written admission, they can either let you go but keep your passport, or bring you to the STI clinic for compulsory tests. In the STI clinic, if you test positive for one thing or another, you can end up staying there for up to 30 days, and you have to pay for treatment...The police will not touch you for at least three days on the highway, because the STI clinic will not take you again in such a short period of time.*

--A sex worker from Tashkent, Uzbekistan<sup>1</sup>

*A few times they've [the police] taken my money and put me in the tank. I got kicked a couple of times, but that was out West. They were not very respectful.*

--A sex worker from Iqualuit, Canada<sup>2</sup>

*Abuses of sex workers are systemic and widespread, directly violating numerous articles of the UN Declaration for Human Rights. For example, Article 9, which guarantees against arbitrary arrest, detention or exile, is violated by police in the state of Kerala, India, who randomly arrest prostitutes, beat them, and detain them while leaving the brothel owners and clients untouched.*

--Amelia Wu, Vice-President of Programs, Global Fund for Women<sup>3</sup>

## **Introduction**

These are but a few examples of the wide range of human rights abuses sex workers face in all regions of the world, frequently as a result of the laws, policies, and practices of governments and state actors. Officials charged with enforcing prostitution laws routinely extort bribes, confessions, testimony, and other "favors" from sex workers. Such problems are exacerbated when police and security forces are required to meet quotas for arrests and criminal convictions. Sex workers often receive harsh punishments such as incarceration and flogging for committing prostitution-related offenses inscribed in national legislation. In the worst cases, police officers beat, detain, rape, and torture sex workers and face little or no accountability for their actions because sex workers are relatively powerless and socially marginalized.

---

<sup>1</sup> Central and Eastern European Harm Reduction Network, *Sex Work, HIV/AIDS, and Human Rights in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia* (July 2005).

<sup>2</sup> Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, *Sex, Work, Rights: Reforming Canadian Criminal Laws on Prostitution* (July 2005).

<sup>3</sup> Global Fund for Women Vice-President of Programs, Amelia Wu, speaking at a conference in Cambodia organized by the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), 2002.

Police brutality may force sex workers into hiding, effectively excluding them from basic health and social care services. It is not uncommon for police to confiscate condoms from sex workers, including in those areas hard hit by HIV/AIDS, and use them as evidence of illegal prostitution. Well intentioned efforts to “rescue” women and men in the sex industry can compound human rights abuses against them, allowing officials to detain sex workers arbitrarily in the course of brothel raids or forcibly evict them from their homes and communities. Sex workers also face a wide range of abuse within health care settings, such as forced testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, pressure to terminate pregnancy, verbal harassment from health care providers, unauthorized vaccine trials, and denial of basic health services.<sup>4</sup>

In many countries, government policies focus on eliminating sex work by applying criminal laws rather than by adopting pragmatic “harm reduction” interventions that attempt to mitigate harms linked to sex work or by responding with reforms to create environments for sex worker rights promotion. A comprehensive, rights-based approach to protecting sex workers’ health and human rights must confront the harms that emanate from society’s response to sex work, not simply from sex work itself. Such an approach must concentrate on bringing the voices of people in sex work into the mix, so that their experience can inform reform. And such an approach must respect the basic right of all persons to participate in determining the public policies and structures that affect them.

While the severity of health and human rights violations against sex workers is certainly the worst news of this report, the good news is that from the accounts of the donors interviewed, it appears that there are a growing number of sex worker organizations and allied NGOs emerging to deal with the range of health and human rights issues faced by sex workers and that many of them are having great success. Unfortunately, the availability and provision of funds has not kept pace with the growth of these organizations. Funding for such organizations is severely lacking, as is evidenced by the information described in this report. The five most active foundations funding sex worker health and rights in 2005 gave less than U.S. \$1million, a small amount compared to the millions of dollars needed for this sector.

This report was commissioned to gauge the extent of existing funding for sex worker health and rights organizations (SWHROs)<sup>5</sup> and to examine the implications for the funding—or donor—community as well as for groups around the world that work on sex worker rights and health issues. The purpose of this report is to stimulate more constructive thought and conversation about the pressing needs of sex workers and ultimately to promote greater, and better thought-out, funding for these important and brave groups. This report is not an exhaustive look at the substantive issues related to sex work, nor does it report the findings of interviews with an exhaustive set of informants. It is, rather, an overview of trends and implications, a snapshot of the funding landscape intended to inform both the philanthropic community and grassroots audiences.

---

<sup>4</sup> The additional human rights violations against women and children impressed into sex work are also grave and widespread. This report, however, deals with funding for the health and human rights of the adult sex workers who are *not* forced into the industry.

<sup>5</sup> The term SWHRO includes organizations that are led by sex workers as well as organizations, like health or women’s NGOs, which work with sex worker populations on rights and health issues but are not necessarily made up exclusively of sex workers themselves.

The information for the report was compiled from interviews and questionnaires received from numerous donors and SWHROs. The interviewees were from entities large and small, located in the Northern and Southern hemispheres, serving populations locally, regionally, and globally. The organizations contacted were primarily grantees of the donors that are most actively funding sex worker health and rights. These donors and SWHROs have a wide range of approaches to sex worker health and rights. The issues involved are complex, and are manifested differently in different locations. This report attempts to compile the information gathered, and despite the lack of uniformity of approaches, point to the need for donors to apply a human rights framework in both the delivery of services and advocacy on behalf of sex workers and their rights and health.

## **I. Global Context**

There is little solid, comparative research about the numbers and characteristics of persons who sell sex in particular regions of the globe and across regions, which is indicative of the amount of work that needs to be done on this area. It appears, however, that global, market-driven dislocations and economic uncertainties have an impact on the structure and composition of sex work sectors. In some areas of the world, the number of people entering the sex work industry is increasing. The economic transitions in former Communist countries, for example, have created a larger number of low-income people, particularly in the poorest of the former Soviet republics in Asia, and this has increased the number of people involved in sex work. In other Asian countries hit hard by structural adjustment policies, there have been increases in unemployment, poverty, and all types of “black market” activities including sex work. Factors such as post-conflict migration and increased militarism also seem to influence the numbers of individuals entering the sex work industry. Moreover, race, ethnicity, citizenship, age, and gender clearly play a role in who moves and is moved into the most insecure sectors, including those forms of sex work that can be most readily exploited. Once involved in these sectors, people engaged in sex work often face violence and stigmatization, which contribute to the difficulty they experience in leaving or pursuing other earning and survival strategies.

Discussions with donors surveyed for this study indicate that there has been a significant increase in the number of NGOs supporting sex workers in most regions, although the characteristics of these NGOs vary widely. The Global Fund for Women, for example, believes that the spread of HIV has drawn attention to, and has increased the visibility of, high-risk, marginalized groups, including sex workers.

Hundreds, and perhaps even thousands, of grassroots organizations and NGOs work with or provide services for sex workers throughout the world. SWHROs can range from informal, all-volunteer organizations to large entities

### **SEX WORKER HEALTH AND RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS (SWHROs)**

Sex worker health and rights organizations include organizations that are sex worker-led and organized, as well as other organizations that work with sex worker populations on rights and health issues. Not all regions and countries have produced autonomous, sex worker-led SWHROs because vast differences among the people involved in sex work themselves and government and other structural constraints inhibit the development of such organizations. Nonetheless, it is crucial for donors to pay attention to questions of representation and self-representation as well as to the differences of power that may arise between people in sex work and their allies.

that own property and run businesses. Most of these organizations work in local communities and have relatively small budgets and limited capacity. The services and activities these groups provide include: microcredit loan programs, education and vocational training, health education and services, emotional and social support groups, legal support and human rights training, shelter and emergency services, antiviolenace prevention, policy work, and advocacy. Some sex worker groups focus upon improving the conditions of the workplace, and some are attempting to join labor unions or to collectivize. But, since every country has a different set of circumstances, including the legal status of working in the sex trade, these groups' positions on policy questions, and particularly questions of decriminalization, legalization, or self-regulation of sex work, vary.

Most of SWHROs examined for this report offer a range of different activities, including antitrafficking work. A closer look at a few of these SWHROs is instructive:

- Lady Mermaid, in Kampala, Uganda, advocates for the rights of sex workers who are caught in the legal system and for their ability to negotiate safer sex on the job. They also actively work to prevent children from entering into sex work.
- Mahila Ekata Sangathan (translated as Women's Unity Organization) in Katmandu, Nepal, offers workshops and training to make sex workers more aware of their rights. It operates a counseling center and a health center to educate sex workers about HIV/AIDS and safer sex. And it advocates energetically for legalization of sex work and proper wage laws, as well as efforts to stop and prevent trafficking of women and girls.
- The Urban Justice Center's Sex Workers Project (SWP) in New York, USA, focuses on providing legal services, legal training, documentation, and policy advocacy for sex workers. Using a harm reduction and human rights model, SWP protects the rights and safety of sex workers who by choice or because of circumstances or coercion remain in the industry. SWP also works to stem trafficking in persons by legally representing its victims and by participating in local and national coalitions against trafficking.

## **II. Where Do Sex Worker Programs and Organizations Obtain Funding?**

Donors involved in HIV/AIDS prevention provide most of the funding for organizations that serve sex workers, whether or not these organizations are run by sex workers themselves. Such donors include large multilateral agencies, national and local bodies, bilateral aid agencies, private and public foundations, and, depending on the country, business and corporate donors. The next largest source of funding flows from donors involved in antitrafficking work of various sorts. Other types of private foundations and some individual donors fund sex worker groups in different program areas that include harm reduction, women's rights, criminal justice reform, migration, human rights, labor rights, antipoverty, reproductive health and rights, education and training, and transgender issues.

HIV-prevention and antitrafficking donors revealed that they often "stumbled" into funding sex worker rights and health efforts. The Global Fund for Women began funding antitrafficking work in 1988, but learned over time that there were severe rights violations being committed by both government agencies and even NGOs as they tried to "save" people from prostitution; the discovery of these rights violations forced the Global

Fund for Women to adjust its approach to a rights-based one, which includes funding many SWHROs. Many HIV/AIDS donors, including governmental funders, also learned over time that the more effective HIV/AIDS-prevention programs were the ones where sex workers were empowered, respected, and safe. According to one WHO report:

The understandable preoccupation with HIV/AIDS has sidelined many other problems relating to sex work. HIV/AIDS intervention programmes correctly identify workers' powerlessness as an important factor in transmission of the disease because it makes them less able to negotiate the terms of the sex act and client condom usage. Reports throughout the region consistently state that sex workers' ability to negotiate condom usage is limited. Many programmes seek to empower women and hence, by extension, to tackle a whole range of problems. Yet for many women involved in the trade, avoiding the threat of AIDS does not appear high on their list of priorities when they are faced with more immediate concerns such as debt, violence, ill-health and social exclusion for themselves and their children.<sup>6</sup>

The map below is not meant to be a comprehensive listing of all possible funders, but a guide to some of the most significant funders in this area.

## FUNDING SOURCES FOR SEX WORKER HEALTH AND RIGHTS



<sup>6</sup> World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific, *Sex Work in Asia* (2001).

The following section is a sector-by-sector<sup>7</sup> overview of funding for sex worker health and rights programs.

### National and local governments

National and local financial support to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS among sex workers often flows from ministries of health or other health departments to HIV/AIDS service organizations either directly or through an NGO funding intermediary in a particular country, state, or city. Some national funding originates from multilateral or bilateral agencies, private foundations, or even corporations, and is then distributed through or coordinated by national, local, or municipal government entities.

- The Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations utilizes local AIDS councils to distribute federal Health Department funding, which is the main source of funds for sex worker groups in Australia.
- Sex worker groups in the United States report receiving federal funds through the Ryan-White Act as well as local funds for health services to sex workers.
- In India, many groups working with sex workers report receiving state-level government money.
- In Latin America, SWHROs are known to receive some funds from their own ministries of health and, because of migrating populations, from ministries of health in neighboring countries.

Obtaining government funding is often difficult. One SWHRO reported that changes in personnel inside ministries of health make it hard to maintain the contacts necessary to access funding. Many SWHROs simply cannot navigate the complicated, and often political, processes required to gain funding.

In some countries the illegal nature of sex work is the most formidable barrier to receiving government funding. Consequently, governmental funding for advocacy against governmental policies may be simply impossible or undesirable because of the inherent conflict.

Other barriers include:

- Trust—One grantee put it quite simply: “The target communities do not trust the Ministry of Health or any other government agency.”
- Enforcement of Laws—Even in Hungary, which recently decriminalized sex work, the government has yet to establish “tolerance zones” where sex work is allowable and, as a result, sex workers are still routinely arrested or fined.
- Funder Restrictions/Conditions—A successful sex worker organization in Australia, the Scarlet Alliance, reports that they changed their organizational structure from one of organizational membership to individual membership because, “it is not unusual for a government health department funding a sex worker project to restrict its recipient from doing advocacy work, and we did not want to be a collective of muzzled organizations.”<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> These sectors are imperfect categories organized for this report, and they sometimes overlap.

<sup>8</sup> *International Union Rights*, Volume 12, Issue 4 (2005): 12.

Only the organizers and educators in the individual country can assess the nuances of their situation and know when local government money is a viable option for support. These complications also underscore how important private funding—disconnected from governmental sources—is for sex worker health and rights programs.

### Multilateral agencies

Many nations of the world, including most of the rich nations of the Northern Hemisphere, give money to a variety of multilateral organizations to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS. The largest of these organizations is now the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). A recent study of GFATM's grants and grant-making process shows that this organization funds many groups that are active with sex workers in many regions of the world. But most sex worker-run organizations did not report receiving funding from GFATM. And even with the number of grants for sex worker-focused projects made by the GFATM, the study found:

The level of resources being directed toward these communities remains small in most countries, and visibility of these communities remains weak. In part, survey respondents and key informants reported that this is the result of a national political climate of discrimination and stigma directed toward sex workers, MSM and LGBT individuals and communities—and, indeed, their criminalization... Moreover, even in those cases where sex worker, MSM and LGBT individuals and communities are benefiting from GFATM resources, the path for receiving these benefits may be cumbersome, politically charged and complex. Many organizations indicated the need for more assistance to get access to GFATM resources because of the complexity of the process and the formality and extensive requirements of the application.<sup>9</sup>

Some grantees of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria also receive money from the European Union, and in particular its PHARE program. PHARE aims to help pre-accession countries in Eastern and Central Europe prepare to join the EU, and supports certain civil society, nongovernmental organizations. NGOs that work with sex workers also receive a small number of grants and loans from other multilateral agencies, including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Bank, and the International Labor Organization (ILO) [see funder map above].

### Bilateral aid organizations

Bilateral aid organizations are entities that distribute government money from one country to another. Some nations fund NGOs directly through their embassies, as well. Many of these aid agencies have been funding HIV prevention for sex worker populations, and even more of these agencies fund gender issues and antitrafficking NGOs. Some very successful examples of funding have occurred for sex worker programs through bilateral funding. For example, DFID, NORAD, and ODA were early funders of India's Durbar Coordination of Women (DMSC), which piloted the "Sonagachi" method of peer educators for HIV prevention with sex worker

---

<sup>9</sup> Susanna Fried, *Deciphering Strategies and Devising Solutions*, a 2006 report for OSI's SHARP program.

empowerment and rights. DMSC now runs 45 health clinics for brothels, street-based sex workers and their partners, 28 literacy centers, and many other services.

It is important to note, that among the bilateral and multilateral development agencies (as well as within other large foundations), there has been a movement to “mainstream” gender issues, and give less to women’s rights organizations. A recent report assessing funding for women’s rights work, *Where is the Money for Women’s Rights?*, critiques this tendency and documents the negative impact on women’s NGOs around the world.<sup>10</sup>

It is also critical to note that the largest bilateral aid organization, USAID, places significant restrictions on their funding. These restrictions reflect the conservative political agenda of the current administration. In addition to the long-standing “global gag rule” (which limits funding to family planning NGOs that include abortion as part of their family planning options), USAID also promotes “abstinence-only” policies within their HIV/AIDS prevention programs.

Lastly, and most relevant for sex worker programs, is the additional policy of USAID to limit funds only to NGOs that officially oppose prostitution and sex trafficking. USAID field officers have been officially warned that: “organizations advocating prostitution as an employment choice or which advocate or support the legalization of prostitution are not appropriate partners for USAID antitrafficking grants and contracts, or sub-grants and sub-contractors.”<sup>11</sup> The Open Society Institute recently won a lawsuit against USAID based on freedom of speech about the requirement of U.S.-based NGOs to sign the “anti-prostitution pledge.” While this victory is extremely important, and should be used to cast doubt on the legitimacy of the restriction overseas, it does not impact NGOs outside of the United States, nor is it yet clear if the U.S. government will continue to apply it to U.S.-based NGOs not listed as plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

### Private and public foundations

Based upon interviews with the Funders Network on Population, Reproductive Health and Rights; Funders Concerned About AIDS; and Funders for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) issues, it appears that very few private foundations are interested in funding sex worker issues. Even foundations that had funded important health and rights programs for sex workers in the past, e.g., the John D. and Katherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, were not optimistic that their programs would continue to fund these types of programs in the future because of changing thematic or geographic priorities inside their institution. Most foundations, including the largest funders of reproductive rights and health programs, such as the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Oak Foundation, the Buffett Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation, do not fund sex worker rights and health programs.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID), *Where is the Money for Women’s Rights?* (February 2006).

<sup>11</sup> Melissa Ditmore, “New U.S. Funding Policies on Trafficking Affect Sex Work and HIV-Prevention Efforts World Wide,” *SIECUS Report*, Volume 33, Number 2 (Spring 2005).

<sup>12</sup> It is interesting to note that some funders who have or had SWHROs in their dockets still replied to the author of this report claiming that they do not fund in this area.

Only one private foundation—the Open Society Institute (OSI)—has acknowledged that their funding will likely increase in the area of sexual health and rights for sex workers. “I see this area of funding going up at OSI, in connection with HIV prevention and in response to the antiprostitution drive of the Bush Administration,” said Françoise Girard, director of OSI’s Public Health Program. Soros foundations and OSI are somewhat unique, having funded a large number of sex worker organizations through foundation activities and OSI initiatives such as the International Harm Reduction Development Program, the Women’s Program, and the Sexual Health and Rights Program. Of all the other private foundations surveyed for this report, the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), which is an international development funder that supports grassroots organizations in developing countries, and OSI were by far the most involved in funding, and the most advanced in their strategic thinking about giving in this area.

But of the dockets reviewed for this report, the Ford Foundation had the largest grants for both sex worker organizations and allied NGOs in Asia, Africa, and in the United States. Some of this funding was for research and services, but it also included advocacy. The Ford Foundation’s directed funding in India to numerous organizations for advocacy work and for building networks of sex worker organizations is particularly noteworthy because no other donor surveyed gave grants as large over as long a time period for such work. The average Ford Foundation grant to SWHROs was over \$100,000, while average grants from OSI and AJWS were approximately \$30,000 and \$20,000, respectively.

According to AWID’s research on funding for women’s groups among foundations: “Funding is more readily available for work around HIV/AIDS and violence against women than it has been, while finding funding for work related to reproductive and sexual rights and non-HIV/AIDS health issues is harder.”<sup>13</sup> Many of the large private and public foundations surveyed for this report have programs that fund groups working to prevent the spread of HIV, and have at times funded sex worker programs through them. But the list of such donors is short.

Some large donors indicated that the relatively large size of their grants made it difficult to fund the smaller NGOs working with sex workers. One large private foundation indicated that it is able to fund sexual health and rights of sex workers by funding intermediaries such as the Global Fund for Women, Mama Cash, or American Jewish World Service for re-granting programs. Some larger donors indicated that they were funding sex worker health and rights indirectly by funding organizations that work on human rights more broadly, such as Human Rights Watch and the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission. One donor suggested funding networks and coalitions such as Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers or the International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe (ICRSE) as a possible mechanism to make larger grants that would benefit smaller member organizations. One sex worker-rights advocate challenged donors to consider making larger grants to small NGOs because “small grants lead to small accomplishments—literally trading water instead of making gains.”

---

<sup>13</sup> AWID, *Where is the Money for Women’s Rights?*: 105

### Women's foundations<sup>14</sup>

Of the donors surveyed for this report, Mama Cash in the Netherlands and the Global Fund for Women in the United States were by far the most active in funding the most number of SWHROs around the world. Other women's funds were also giving in this arena, including the new German women's fund, Filia, which recently funded the International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe (ICRSE); Her Fund in Hong Kong has funded two local sex worker organizations; and a government entity, the Status of Women–Canada has funded Canadian sex worker groups.

Although the women's foundation movement is still quite young, and many of these foundations around the world are not very large, they show promise for becoming an even more important source of small grant funding and technical support for SWHROs. The average grant size for SWHROs from the Global Fund for Women and Mama Cash was approximately \$10,000. For the most part, women's funds are thoughtfully constructing their funding guidelines, which center on women's empowerment. For example, the Global Fund for Women, which has been funding women's groups for over 15 years, has the following position on prostitution and human trafficking:

The Global Fund opposes all forms of human trafficking as they deny the most fundamental human rights of women and girls. However, it is essential not to confound trafficking with sex work. While sexually exploiting a woman against her will is a terrible violation of her human rights, many women choose to engage in sex work as a profession, and their right to do so safely must also be protected. Therefore, the Global Fund opposes the criminalization and stigmatization of sex work as these measures make sex workers more vulnerable to disease, exploitation, violence and fear.

Mama Cash, which was the first independent women's funding organization, has been funding sex worker rights organizations since 1983. Mama Cash funds both anti-trafficking groups as well as sex worker organizations. Sex workers are specifically listed as one of Mama Cash's target groups, and Mama Cash funds women's rights initiatives that have difficulty obtaining funds elsewhere because of their "controversial" or innovative approach.

The Global Fund for Women and Mama Cash fund a wide variety of groups that support the rights of sex workers. They distribute funding, including general operating support and project-specific support, in most regions of the world, except the United States. They also fund women's organizations that work with sex workers; antitrafficking organizations that use a respectful, rights-based approach to sex workers; and SWHROs that are run by sex workers and former sex workers.

### Individual donors and family foundations

Individual donors, donor-advised funds, and small family foundations are very difficult for small NGOs to access without some personal connection. But exceptions do exist, and groups may want to further explore this route whenever possible. Some SWHROs have

---

<sup>14</sup> Women's foundations are a subset of public and private foundations that is worth pulling out separately for this report.

had success raising small amounts from individual donors, particularly in the United States, where the culture of individual giving is relatively sophisticated. A sex worker group in Hong Kong holds an annual walk-a-thon, which raises important funds for that group from individuals. Other groups receive random donations from individuals and volunteers, but not as a sustaining source of income.

While these may be difficult for most NGOs to access, there are a growing number of small family foundations as well as donor-advised funds in the United States and in Europe. Over the next decade, these sources could become a very important means of supporting harder-to-fund causes, such as sex worker rights and health. AWID reports, “Some small family foundations are also stepping into areas that larger foundations are leaving, such as sexual and reproductive rights.”<sup>15</sup>

Other types of community or specialized foundations might be more interested in funding sex worker health and rights efforts such as: LGBT community foundations, progressive community foundations (such as the Third Wave Foundation), and political foundations (such as the German Green Party’s Heinrich Böll Foundation). In the United States, geographically based community foundations have been known to fund SWHROs; these include an LGBT community foundation in California, which funds a local agency to provide free health care to sex workers in San Francisco, including transgender sex workers.

#### Organized labor

There is a small but important movement of sex workers advocating to be included in service unions, particularly in Western Europe, Australia, India, and Argentina. Support from unions, including transnational unions, might prove to be a new source of financial support for organizations active in improving sex worker rights and health. Some unions support their own members’ campaigns to unionize. Some unions in wealthier nations use “solidarity funds” to help campaigns in other countries. There are also a growing number of sex worker collectives and unions that have dues structures. For example, DMSC has its own credit union.

#### In-kind support

For groups that are working on HIV/AIDS prevention among sex workers, in-kind support can sometimes be crucial and can come from other cooperating NGOs, businesses, and even the government. In-kind items such as condoms, lubricants, and literature are essentials for any prevention program.

One SWHRO in Latin America, which receives no financial support, relies entirely on volunteerism and the in-kind support of a religious NGO’s space, services, and technical support. Since many SWHROs have minuscule budgets, in-kind support is essential to their existence.

#### Corporations and other local support

While major corporations are currently an unlikely source of income for sex worker health and rights efforts, the research for this project uncovered many one-off examples of local corporate support (both financial and in-kind goods or services) for various

---

<sup>15</sup> AWID, *Where is the Money for Women’s Rights?*: 58.

organizations working with sex workers or for sex worker organizations themselves. These local examples in different parts of the world give some promise that this may be a viable option for certain groups to obtain crucial goods and services, and especially safer sex materials. For example:

- A U.S.-based group that provides legal services found financial support from law firms.
- In Hong Kong, the Jockeys' Association has a philanthropic arm that has been supportive of the HIV prevention services of local SWHROs.
- In India, Hindustan Latex Limited provided animated films about female condoms for an NGO working with sex workers.
- In Scotland, NHS Lothian, a national health care provider, supports a sex worker health initiative.

Finally, there are always particular fundraising opportunities unique to a specific country or municipality. For example:

- In Hungary, there is an income tax option that allows individuals to give 1 percent of their taxes in donations to NGOs. A Hungarian organization that serves sex workers managed to get listed as a qualifying NGO and now receives some annual support through this mechanism.
- A similar opportunity exists in the United States through workplace giving to the United Way and the Combined Federated Campaign. The paperwork to qualify may be cumbersome, but can provide a small annual stream of income that is not project-based.
- Another novel fundraising example comes from India, where a local NGO working exclusively with sex workers and truck drivers sells herbal products and T-Shirts to raise funds for their outreach workers.

### **III. Recommendations for Donors**

#### **1. Take a rights-based approach to funding sex worker health and rights programs.**

A program officer interviewed for this report noted, “Our board wouldn’t understand if we came to them saying we wanted to fund ‘sex worker issues,’ but they understand human rights, and gender equity. And they are most motivated by antitrafficking as a human rights violation.” The examples of the policies of the Global Fund for Women and the American Jewish World Service (see appendix C of this report) can be useful to help donors navigate the sometimes thorny and sensitive discussions that can occur with staff and trustees of private foundations and public institutions. These examples show that it is feasible to construct a funding program that does not necessitate making a judgment about sex work, but simply focuses on the forces that can drive people into the sex work industry or on making the conditions of sex workers’ lives safer.

A human rights approach means that the intervention seeks to protect, prevent, and empower, usually by reference to a common standard of state accountability. At a minimum, a rights-based approach should function to:

- put a stop to an abuse;
- change the conditions that give rise to the abuse—which is to say, to intervene in the structures of power;

- increase the accountability between states and the people affected; first for ending the abuse and second for creating conditions for greater justice.

Many organizations use the term “rights-based” to call attention to the fact that they are concerned with stopping violations or using formal human rights standards in monitoring schemes. These steps are part but do not encompass all of rights-based work. The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network provides an important reminder about the involvement of sex workers in the matters that pertain to them: “The participation of sex workers is essential to ensuring that such laws and policies protect their health and human rights. It is a matter of ethics, of respect for human rights, and of pragmatism.”<sup>16</sup>

Donors should look for where sex worker initiatives fit into their existing program areas and priorities. Proposals from groups active in sex worker health and rights could easily fit into a broad variety of funding areas, including support for women, poverty eradication, immigration, human rights, HIV/AIDS, violence prevention, harm reduction, labor rights, children’s rights, gender, and/or lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.

## **2. Learn from current progressive public health thinking.**

A review of the current thinking of rights-based public health practitioners has many lessons for donors (see appendix D). The World Health Organization, among others, is concerned that when sex workers are viewed only as transmitters of disease to others rather than as human beings suffering from poor health or disease, it increases the marginalization and stigma they face. This in turn drives sex workers further underground and undermines the success of the public health strategy. The World Health Organization suggests designing programs that “cultivate respect for sex workers’ human rights and accord them basic dignity.”<sup>17</sup> A *Lancet* editorial from 2003 encouraged public health practitioners to address the *conditions*, not the *nature* of sex work, arguing for a holistic, rights-based approach to public health.<sup>18</sup>

## **3. Adopt a non-judgmental attitude about sex workers.**

Many donors and health advocates indicate that sex workers should not be perceived purely as victims to be assisted or as targets for public health interventions. Sex workers form a component of every society. They are individuals with needs and aspirations. They have the potential to make a real and valuable contribution to their communities. They have the same human rights as other citizens, and deserve to have these rights respected.

A number of program officers interviewed for this report indicated or mentioned a discomfort with the notion that funding for sex worker rights and health is equivalent to support for sex work itself. The American Jewish World Service notes, “... in an ideal world where over half of the world’s women are not living in extreme poverty (as they currently are), many fewer women would choose to engage in sex work.” Organized

---

<sup>16</sup> Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, *Sex, Work, Rights: Reforming Canadian Criminal Laws on Prostitution* (July 2005).

<sup>17</sup> WHO, *Sex Work Toolkit: Targeted HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care in Sex Work Settings* (Geneva) 2004.

<sup>18</sup> *The Lancet*, Vol 361 (June 7, 2003): 1981.

philanthropy is about creating that ideal world, creating the conditions where all work—not only sex work—is a product of choice, and respects the decision-making of women and men as equals.

It is crucial then, that program officers, directors, and trustees work through their own moral issues and cultural taboos about sex work; carefully analyze how to alleviate poverty, violence, HIV infection, forced-migration, and labor abuses; and work for the human rights of all people, without bringing ideology or judgment into funding guidelines or goals. Resources exist to guide donors as they work through these issues. Donors can also approach funding for sex worker rights and health in increments, while thinking through these very real debates and issues. For example, grants that help stop abuses against sex workers can be made, while a foundation considers whether it wants to support policies like decriminalization, which can prevent abuse.

#### **4. Focus on Real Situations on the Ground**

Donors report that grantees that work with sex workers directly are the best-positioned to work toward ending human rights abuses within the sex industry and should be considered partners in this effort (see lists in Appendix D). Many donors expressed concern that the ideologically motivated policies of the Bush Administration (e.g., its antiprostitution, antiabortion, and abstinence-only positions) negatively affect their grantees on the ground—individuals and organizations that are the best advocates for successful public health interventions, the most capable of assisting trafficked persons, and the most effective advocates for the human rights of sex workers. As Melissa Ditmore of the Network of Sex Work Projects writes, “The people who are hurt by the loss of funding are not policymakers, lobbyists, or activists; they are poor women far from the people who make these decisions, women whose voices and needs were not considered when these decisions were made.”<sup>19</sup>

A major study of HIV and sex workers by the Central and Eastern European Harm Reduction Network indicates to donors that the impact of conservative political ideology in the United States is severe and directly affects the overall national response to HIV/AIDS.<sup>20</sup> Many of those interviewed expressed frustration with ideology getting in the way of science and facts. One person interviewed for this report said, “Particularly in the context of the U.S.’s ‘global gag-rule’ on prostitution, funders in the U.S. and elsewhere need to look at who will pick up the slack!”

#### **5. Understand that antitrafficking and sex worker health and rights are not mutually exclusive funding areas.**

This report has mentioned numerous donors that successfully design their funding priorities to assist both antitrafficking efforts and sex worker health and rights. Many of the grantees examined for this report provide services and advocate on both issues. Sex

---

<sup>19</sup> Ditmore, “New U.S. Funding Policies on Trafficking Affect Sex Work and HIV-Prevention Efforts World Wide,” 28.

<sup>20</sup> Central and Eastern European Harm Reduction Network, *Sex Work, HIV/AIDS and Human Rights in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia* (December 2005).

worker issues and trafficking are often conflated by both donors and activists. The issues should be treated distinctly, even if organizations work on both issues.

## **6. Don't be afraid to fund a group that works on legal and public-policy issues.**

The legal, law-enforcement, and public-policy environment—including criminal law, health law, and policing polices—are the key conditions that make sex workers vulnerable to violence and other human rights abuses. Donors may not want to take a position themselves on legalization or decriminalization of sex work, but they can still fund entities that do. A number of donors indicated that they want to support local solutions proposed by their grantees in terms of advocating for legal and policy frameworks that best support sex worker health and rights. Again, if the legal status of sex work is deemed too controversial, a donor can take an incremental approach to funding in this area and focus on preventing violence, providing education, or meeting other critical needs for sex workers.

## **7. Support capacity-building and general operating expenses.**

This was the sentiment of many of the groups, and some of the funders who informed the research for this report. Long-term funding partnerships, with multiyear grants and technical assistance provided to sex worker organizations, will make the greatest improvements in sex worker health and rights work.

## **8. Share information with other donors.**

There exists relatively little overlap among donors funding grantees active in sex worker issues, even among donors with similar programmatic goals, such as the American Jewish World Service, Mama Cash, the Open Society Institute, and the Global Fund for Women. This might indicate that international donors are not yet funding many worthy groups and they might benefit if the other donors shared their information. Increased information-sharing about grantees might also help to alleviate situations when there are gaps or disruptions in funding. The sexual rights subgroup of the International Human Rights Funders Group (listed in Appendix D) has been recently formed to help facilitate information-sharing.

## **9. Consider using intermediaries with expertise in this area.**

These include funding intermediaries like the Global Fund for Women, Mama Cash, and the American Jewish World Service, which provide SWHROs with smaller-sized grants and technical assistance. Not all donors can become experts in this field.

## **10. Beware of “raid and rescue” organizations.**

All of the donors most involved in supporting sex worker health and rights expressed serious words of caution about the “raid and rescue” approach of NGOs that do not appropriately address the rights and needs of the sex workers themselves. The Bill and

Melinda Gates Foundation recently granted \$5 million to the International Justice Mission (IJM) to fight sex trafficking. IJM believes that, “Only *rescue* from their illegal captivity will fully ensure that current victims are protected from HIV/AIDS.”<sup>21</sup> One sex worker advocate was particularly concerned that donors may not understand the difference between using a rights-based approach and using human rights language to talk about the crimes of trafficking.

The American Jewish World Service recently codified this concern in its guidelines:

[AJWS funds] organizations that address the root causes that drive people into sex work and make them vulnerable to trafficking. AJWS believes that these programs are more effective than ‘Raid and Rescue,’ a strategy employed by governments or NGOs to ‘raid’ brothels and forcibly ‘rescue’ the sex workers. Often ‘rescue’ results in arrests and deportation, leaving sex workers just as poor and desperate, but now with additional stigma as they have been exposed to their families and communities.<sup>22</sup>

## V. Implications and Strategies for SWHROs

Many resources for fund-seekers are available for SWHROs, some of which are listed in Appendix D. Since this report is attempting to be useful to both funders and fund-seekers, the following are some strategies for navigating the philanthropic world.

### 1. Be creative and bold—you’re trail blazing.

Many sex worker rights organizations are not well equipped to raise funds, and, as a result, focus their efforts on service and advocacy activities. There are a few thriving sex worker organizations to point to, such as Empower, DMSC, and Scarlet Alliance. And there are even more examples of resourceful and exciting groups that are finding funds from some surprising places, even if they are still quite under-funded.

- Don’t be afraid to request funds for the work that you really do and want to do.
- The creativity and cutting-edge spirit of SWHROs may be exactly what inspires a donor to take a chance on the group.
- Don’t be put off if you don’t see any other sex worker rights organizations on the lists of past grantees. You may be the first SWHRO a donor funds, which means you may need to educate that donor about how your work fits into their program priorities.

Funding can be infectious. Donors like to be in partnership with one another when investing in an organization. Getting the first few donors on board can be difficult, but often others will join.

---

<sup>21</sup> International Justice Mission press release, March 14, 2006.

<sup>22</sup> American Jewish World Service, *Funding Guidelines for HIV Prevention and Care Programs for Sex Worker Organizations and Anti-Trafficking Initiatives*, Appendix C (May 2006).

## **2. Try both local and international sources and keep trying.**

Review Appendix B of this report and find donors that might be interested in funding your activities. Contact them before submitting a proposal. Ask questions about funding priorities. Assess the donors' interest in your work. Figure out what the donor is attempting to accomplish and show how your work fits into the donor's goals.

Donors like to see diverse funding sources, so make sure that you list all of your sources, even if they do not provide a lot of money. Having local donors and funding sources is particularly important to international funders; and international funders can sometimes help an organization establish the credibility it needs to attract funding from local donors. Do not become discouraged by rejection—keep trying. It can sometimes take a few times before the funder will say yes.

## **3. Make a strong case, focus on what you can accomplish.**

It is important to try to impress a donor with how much a group can accomplish, particularly on a small budget. But it is also important to set realistic goals and show a “fundable” program. One donor that does not provide funding for sex worker health and rights indicated that it only funds “winnable” issues and assumed that the odds were too stacked against sex worker issues to be winnable. Showing a potential donor a track record of progress on the very difficult issues surrounding sex worker health and rights can overcome this erroneous assumption.

## **4. Keep in touch with your donors, and ask them to identify and provide contacts with other donors.**

Ask your existing donors to identify and provide introductions to other donors that might be interested in funding your work. The more invested in your success a donor is, the more likely the donor will continue to fund you. Stay in touch with your current donors. Periodically update them about your work.

## **5. Monitor the sex worker rights movement for new opportunities.**

Local and regional networks of SWHROs and NGOs are important sources of information and trends. For example, the growing movement to unionize sex workers might offer important opportunities for your group to organize and obtain funding. Wherever there is promise of support for the health and rights of sex workers, you want to be the first to know. For example, if microbicide gels become available and are completely safe for sex workers to use, it is likely that pharmaceutical companies or large NGOs will be seeking partner organizations to disseminate this product.

## **Conclusion**

This report surveyed philanthropic and governmental institutions that support the rights and health of sex workers or programs that provide services to sex workers. Overall, the amount of funding for this population is minuscule. Organizations and groups that work with sex

workers are small and severely underfunded. The vast majority of financial support for non-governmental organizations that primarily work with or are led by sex workers comes in the form of funding for HIV prevention. The next largest source of funding is from private and public entities working to end human trafficking and forced labor. What is largely missing from the landscape are consistent sources of *rights-based* funding that seek not only to change the conditions that make for the growing prevalence of sex work itself but also to end the abhorrent human rights abuses faced by people who perform sex work.

The organizations and individuals surveyed for this report consistently pointed to the need for a rights-based approach to efforts aimed at improving sex worker rights and health and the funding that supports it. Such support does exist. But donors are too few and the funds they provide are too small. Funding flowing into a wide variety of important program areas—including harm reduction, women’s rights, criminal justice reform, migration, human rights, labor rights, antipoverty, reproductive health and rights, education and training, and transgender issues—can and should be directed in a steady stream toward sex worker rights and health.

The philanthropic sector should take a leadership role in supporting effective policies and programs for the health and rights of sex workers during the coming decade.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix A: What Sex Worker Organizations Have to Say about Funding

Listed here are a few of the interesting comments about raising money from staff members at sex worker organizations. From a researcher perspective, it is worth noting that there was significant concern, verging on paranoia, on the part of these interviewees about who I was, and why I was interested in an organization's funding sources. Given the current U.S. government's antiprostitution policy, this is an understandable response, but it also seemed to exemplify the additional challenges and wounds that sex worker organizations have from being on the social margins.

“Our greatest need is secure and stable funding.”

“Their highest priority is the ability to adequately take care of themselves and their dependents. There is a lack of education and skills necessary to seek employment in alternative areas. Our main challenges are funding and security.”

“Most SWO lack the language to fill out the applications!”

“We find it more difficult to raise funds around sex work issues without further exploiting the population by the use of their stories and experiences. We refuse to market sex work issues in that way.”

“Our group sometimes feels just as marginalized as the sex workers we serve. It is difficult to foster relationships and mentor stability with active sex workers, when all the women in our group are women in and from the sex industry. We make personal sacrifices to work as advocates and have very little stability ourselves. This keeps those of us who have exited the sex industry a paycheck away from returning. Most of my time as coordinator is spent 'rallying the troops' to keep members motivated to continue our fight for justice in spite of great obstacles. The rest of the time I spend either coordinating short-term initiatives, looking for funding our reporting on funding received. Like other groups, we would greatly benefit from core funding.”

“It seems to me to be easier to get money if we were not based in the United States.”

“The community needs financial support and organizing development. The main challenge of our work is how to set up relationship with funders and financial support organizations.”

“We need a huge attitudinal change—even within the women's movement—in order to see these women as having rights. Even women's funds don't feel like they can be bold enough to fund LGBT and sex workers.”

“The community needs recognition by society, legal protection, and nondiscriminatory environment. We need resources, especially financial support”

“The hardest funding to get is in the policy change arena.”

“There is an increasing sense of pressure, emanating from United States policy, to take an overtly antiprostitution position.”

## Appendix B: Funder Information

The following is a list of funders who are known to fund sex worker organizations or NGOs that work for sex worker rights or health services, or groups that have given indications that they could fund in this area. It is advisable to check the websites for the most updated contact and funding information. In some cases, where there are multiple offices for a foundation, the website will suffice for contact information. The funder descriptions are intentionally left in the funders' own language.

### **WOMEN'S FOUNDATIONS**

#### **Filia.die Frauenstiftung**

[www.filia-frauenstiftung.de/](http://www.filia-frauenstiftung.de/)

Am Felde 2

D-22765 Hamburg, Germany

Tel: +49 (0) 40 / 333 100 14

Fax: +49 (0) 40 /333 101 56

[info@filia-frauenstiftung.de](mailto:info@filia-frauenstiftung.de)

- Filia has the vision of a just and diverse world, based on respect for human dignity, where women play a decisive role. Filia utilises her means to empower women and enable them to safeguard their rights. Filia supports projects that contribute to improved chances for women and girls, allowing them to shape their own lives. Filia is especially committed to women subjected to discrimination not only because of their gender, but also due to their colour of skin, their origin or their sexual orientation. In the interest of women, filia will exert influence in the process of social change and employs resources nationally and internationally toward our goals. Filia's main emphasis is placed on Central and Eastern Europe for allocation of grants. 50% of grants are made in this region, 25% are allocated in Germany and 25% in less developed countries.

#### **Global Fund for Women**

[www.globalfundforwomen.org](http://www.globalfundforwomen.org)

1375 Sutter Street, Suite 400

San Francisco, CA 94109, USA

Tel: +1 (415) 202-7640

Fax: +1 (415) 202-8604

- The Global Fund for Women supports women's groups that advance the human rights of women and girls. They strengthen women's groups based outside the United States by providing small, flexible, and timely grants ranging from \$500 to \$20,000 for operating and project expenses. They value local expertise and believe that women themselves know best how to determine their needs and propose solutions for lasting change. Their funding areas include:
  - Building Peace & Ending Gender-Based Violence
  - Advancing Health and Sexual & Reproductive Rights
  - Expanding Civic & Political Participation
  - Ensuring Economic & Environmental Justice
  - Increasing Access to Education

## -Fostering Social Change Philanthropy

As mentioned in the body of the report, the Global Fund for Women funds sex worker rights advocacy and decriminalization work, along with rights-based anti-trafficking work.

### **Mama Cash**

www.mamacash.nl  
Eerste Helmersstraat 17 III  
P.O. Box 15686  
1001 ND AMSTERDAM  
The Netherlands  
Tel: (+31) 20 - 689 36 34  
Fax: (+31) 20 - 683 46 47  
info@mamacash.nl

- Mama Cash works for social transformation and the advancement of women's rights worldwide. She strives for a peaceful and just world where women are free to make their own choices and secure their human rights. Mama Cash has been supporting sex workers rights since its foundation in 1983. Sex workers who organise for their rights have throughout the years been one of the focus groups, in all regions (and in our grantmaking particularly in Europe; Asia and Latin America). Sex workers organise to change their rights and improve their lives fit with our guiding mission: a group with little access to resources, in a risky position, doing groundbreaking work to improve their lives.
- Mama Cash believes that women all over the world know best how to achieve social and structural change. With great courage, solidarity, and creativity, women throughout the world are striving to improve their own lives and those of other women. Mama Cash supports their work, particularly groundbreaking women's rights initiatives. She provides both seed and development grants to help establish and strengthen women's rights groups and initiatives, especially those that, because of their controversial or innovative approach, have difficulty obtaining funds from other sources. Mama Cash supports newly established, innovative women's rights groups in the following regions: Europe, including Former Soviet Union; Asia and the Pacific; Latin America and the Caribbean; the Middle East and Maghreb (or northern Africa); and Africa.

### **Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice**

www.astraeafoundation.org  
116 East 16th Street, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10003 USA  
Tel: +1.212.529.8021  
Fax: +1.212.982.3321  
info@astraeafoundation.org

- The Astraea Foundation works for social, racial, and economic justice in the U. S. and internationally. Their grantmaking helps lesbians and allied communities challenge oppression and claim their human rights. Most grants are for LGBTI social change and movement-building organizations based in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, the

Pacific Islands, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Republics, the Middle East, Africa, and the United States.

## **LARGE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS**

### **Open Society Institute/Soros Foundations Network**

[www.soros.org](http://www.soros.org)

- OSI's NY-based Sexual Health and Rights Program (SHARP) is both an operational program and a grantmaking program that provides a targeted approach to meeting the needs of socially marginalized populations related to sexual health and rights. Specifically, SHARP seeks to address sexual health concerns and rights violations associated with high-risk sexual practices and identification with a marginalized group (self-identified or perceived). Existing HIV/AIDS epidemics linked to high-risk sexual practices or the violation of sexual rights and the potential emergence of new HIV/AIDS epidemics among socially marginalized populations are of greatest concern. SHARP target groups include sex workers; men who have sex with men; gay, lesbian, transsexual and transgender persons; Roma community members; injecting drug users; and people living with HIV/AIDS. SHARP has a broad geographic mandate, and is presently undertaking activities in West and Southern Africa, Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the former Soviet Union (fSU), and Southeast Asia (SEA). Other local Soros Foundations throughout the world have specific priorities and programs.

### **Ford Foundation**

[www.fordfound.org](http://www.fordfound.org)

- The Ford Foundation is a resource for innovative people and institutions worldwide. Their goals are to: strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement Ford has offices throughout the world—each with its own set of priorities and goals. The grantmaking in the Asia region has shown the most support for SWOs.

### **Sigrid Rausing Trust**

[www.sigrid-rausing-trust.org/](http://www.sigrid-rausing-trust.org/)

Eardley House, 4 Uxbridge Street

London, W8 7SY, UK

Tel: +44 207 908 9870

Fax: +44 207 908 9879

[info@srtrust.org](mailto:info@srtrust.org)

- The Sigrid Rausing Trust takes as its guiding framework the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948. The preamble of the Declaration begins with these words: "Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." The five funding categories are all human rights orientated, and aim to form a coherent framework for the work of the Trust: Human Rights, Women's Rights, Minority Rights, Environmental Justice, Social and Economic

Rights. Most of the work of the Trust is in the field of international human rights. The Trustees are interested in lasting social change, and in forming long-term partnerships with the organisations the Trust supports.

### **Levi Strauss Foundation**

[www.levistrauss.com](http://www.levistrauss.com)

- The charitable arm of Levi Strauss & Co., the foundation's grantgiving ranges from "funding an organization that provides girls in underdeveloped regions of Pakistan access to education to providing resources for Mujeres en Desarrollo, a nonprofit organization in the Dominican Republic that motivates young people to change risky behavior by informing them about HIV/AIDS."

### **International HIV/AIDS Alliance**

[www.aidsalliance.org](http://www.aidsalliance.org)

- The International HIV/AIDS Alliance is an initiative of people, organisations and communities working towards a shared vision by supporting effective community responses to HIV and AIDS. The Alliance believes that those at the forefront of the HIV/AIDS response need to have the resources to take on the challenges that the epidemic presents.

## **SMALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FOUNDATIONS**<sup>23</sup>

### **American Jewish World Service**

[www.ajws.org](http://www.ajws.org)

45 West 36th Street, 10th Floor

New York, NY 10018-7904 USA

Tel +1 212.736.2597 or toll free 800.889.7146

Fax +1 212.736.3463

- American Jewish World Service (AJWS) is an international development organization motivated by Judaism's imperative to pursue justice. AJWS is dedicated to alleviating poverty, hunger and disease among the people of the developing world regardless of race, religion or nationality. Through grants to grassroots organizations, volunteer service, advocacy and education, AJWS fosters civil society, sustainable development and human rights for all people, while promoting the values and responsibilities of global citizenship within the Jewish community. See Appendix C below for more information.

---

<sup>23</sup> The definitions of private and public foundations varies from country to country. Since many of these foundations are based in the United States, it is important to note that "public foundation" in the U.S. does not mean government money, it means that the money is raised from the public.

### **Elton John AIDS Foundation**

[www.ejaf.org](http://www.ejaf.org)

The foundation has offices in North America and the United Kingdom.

- The mission of EJAF is to provide funding for educational programs targeted at HIV/AIDS prevention and/or the elimination of prejudice and discrimination against HIV/AIDS-affected individuals, and for programs that provide services to people living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS.

### **Third Wave Foundation**

[www.thirdwavefoundation.org](http://www.thirdwavefoundation.org)

511 W 25th St. Suite 301

New York, NY 10001 USA

Tel: +1-212-675-0700

Fax: +1 212-255-6653

[info@thirdwavefoundation.org](mailto:info@thirdwavefoundation.org)

- The Third Wave Foundation is a feminist, activist foundation working nationally to support young women and transgender youth ages 15 to 30. Through financial resources, public education, and relationship building, Third Wave helps support and strengthen young women, transgender youth and their allies working for gender, racial, social, and economic justice.

### **Overbrook Foundation**

[www.overbrook.org](http://www.overbrook.org)

122 East 42nd Street, Suite 2500

New York, NY 10168 USA

Tel: +1 (212) 661-8710

Fax: +1 (212) 661-8664

- The Foundation supports projects both domestically and internationally (with a particular international focus in Latin America and South Africa). Generally speaking, the Foundation's domestic programs support policy development, advocacy, coalition building, research, legal and other strategies likely to impact large classes of people or shape issues important to the Foundation's mission. In its international funding, the Foundation also supports organizations providing direct services. The Overbrook Foundation strives to improve the lives of people by supporting projects that protect human and civil rights, advance the self sufficiency and well being of individuals and their communities and conserve the natural environment.

### **Sparkplug Foundation**

www.sparkplugfoundation.org  
info@sparkplugfoundation.org  
Park West Finance Station  
PO Box 20956  
New York, NY 10025 USA  
Tel/Fax: +1 (877) 866-8285

- The Sparkplug Foundation supports projects primarily in three areas of focus: music, education and grassroots organizing. Within grassroots organizing, Sparkplug encourages individuals and grassroots groups to develop and enact activist strategies for addressing institutional injustices, and for envisioning and building a reasoned, just society. In all areas of focus, Sparkplug is interested in making one-time grants for activities which create sustainable organizing and communities. While recognizing the importance of developing individual cultures, Sparkplug favors projects that promote diversity.

### **Heinrich Böll Foundation (the Green Political Foundation)**

www.boell.de  
Heinrich Böll Foundation  
Hackesche Höfe  
10178 Berlin GERMANY  
Fon: +30/285 34-0  
Fax: +30/285 34-109  
e-mail: info@boell.de

- The Foundation promotes a vision of a democratic society open to immigrants and places particular importance on attaining gender democracy - signifying a relationship between the sexes characterised by freedom from dependence and dominance. These collective tasks are significant aspects of both the Foundation's internal structure and public activities. The Foundation's activities strive to promote respect among people of different nationalities, different cultural or sexual identities, and differing political opinions.

### **International Women's Development Agency**

www.iwda.org.au/  
PO Box 64  
Flinders Lane  
Vic 8009 Australia  
Tel: 03 9650 5574  
From overseas, dial 613 9650 5574  
Fax: 03 9654 9877  
From overseas, dial 613 9654 9877  
iwda@iwda.org.au

- International Women's Development Agency is an Australian based non-government organisation which undertakes projects in partnership with women from around the

world, giving priority to working with women who suffer poverty and oppression. Program areas are: increasing women's skills, livelihood, health, violence, and environmental management. They consider requests for assistance from Asia-Pacific based grass-roots women's organisations.

### **Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights**

[www.urgentactionfund.org](http://www.urgentactionfund.org)

PO Box 1287

Boulder, CO 80306 USA

Tel: +1-303-442-2388

Fax: +1- 303-442-2370

[urgentact@urgentactionfund.org](mailto:urgentact@urgentactionfund.org)

[info@urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke](mailto:info@urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke)

or

PO Box 53841-00200

Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 20 2731095

Fax: +254 20 2731094

- Urgent Action Fund grants are intended to enable short-term interventions in the course of long-term strategies for advancing women's human rights. There are no geographic restrictions for UAF grants, although they focus efforts in areas of armed conflict, escalating violence, and political volatility. All proposals must demonstrate the following criteria: Strategic—the action is related to a pre-determined plan to create structural change that will advance women's human rights; unanticipated and time urgent—the situation or opportunity is unanticipated and action must happen quickly to be effective; sustainable—the group is able to carry out the proposed action effectively, and can secure funding for future work related to the strategy; supported—the group has the support of others involved in women's human rights or related fields, locally or globally. They fund in three categories: intervention in situations of armed conflict, protection of women's human rights defenders, and precedent setting legal or legislative action.

### **BILATERAL AID OR DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)**

[www.acdi-cida.gc.ca](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca)

200 Promenade du Portage

Gatineau, Quebec

K1A 0G4 Canada

Tel +1- (819) 997-5006

Toll free: 1-800-230-6349

Fax: +1 (819) 953-6088

[info@acdi-cida.gc.ca](mailto:info@acdi-cida.gc.ca)

### **Catholic Organization for Relief and Development (CordAid)**

www.cordaid.nl

Postbus 16440

2500 BK The Hague

The Netherlands

Tel: +31-70 3136 300

Fax: +31-70 3136 301

**cordaid@cordaid.nl**

- Cordaid's primary areas of cooperation are direct poverty eradication, civil society building, and lobbying and advocacy.

### **Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)**

www.um.dk

Asiatisk Plads 2

DK-1448

København K, Denmark

Tel: + 45 33 92 00 00

Fax: +45 32 54 05 33

um@um.dk

- Reducing poverty in developing countries is central to Danish development cooperation priorities. A number of crosscutting themes are built into DANIDA's development assistance: women's participation in development, the environment, promotion of democracy and observation of human rights. These crosscutting themes are integrated into DANIDA's development activities more generally. Countries in which DANIDA currently works are: Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Tanzania, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

### **Department for International Development (DFID)**

www.dfid.gov.uk

1 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HE

United Kingdom

Tel +44 (0) 1355 84 3132 (from outside the UK)

Fax +44 (0) 1355 84 3632

enquiry@dfid.gov.uk

- DFID's work forms part of a global promise to: halve the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger; ensure that all children receive primary education; promote sexual equality and give women a stronger voice; reduce child death rates; improve the health of mothers; combat HIV & AIDS, malaria and other diseases; make sure the environment is protected; and build a global partnership for those working in development. Together, these form the United Nations' eight 'Millennium Development Goals', with a 2015 deadline. Each of these Goals has its own, measurable, targets.
- DFID works in partnership with governments, civil society, the private sector and others. It also works with multilateral institutions, including the World Bank, United Nations

agencies, and the European Commission. DFID works directly in over 150 countries worldwide, with a budget of nearly £4 billion in 2004. Its headquarters are in London and East Kilbride, near Glasgow.

### **International Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (HIVOS)**

www.hivos.nl  
Raamweg 16  
The Hague, 2596 HL  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-70-3636907  
Fax: +31-70-3617447  
hivos@tool.nl

- Hivos is a non-governmental organisation, rooted in The Netherlands and guided by humanist values, that wants to contribute to a free, fair and sustainable world where citizens, women and men, have equal access to resources, opportunities and markets and can participate actively and equally in decision-making processes that determine their lives, their society and their future.
- Hivos' basic commitment is to poor and marginalised people—and their organisations—in countries of the global South and East, and Eastern Europe. A sustainable improvement of their situation is the ultimate benchmark for the work and efforts of Hivos. The empowerment of women in order to achieve gender equality is a primary directive in Hivos' policy.

### **FINNIDA**

<http://global.finland.fi/>  
Katajanokanlaituri 3, 00160 Helsinki 16, FINLAND  
Tel: +358 9 1341 6426  
Fax: +358 9 1341 6428

- The Department for International Development Co-operation forms part of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The operations are divided into three functional divisions: (i) bilateral, (ii) multilateral and (iii) policy and co-ordination functions. The Department has field representatives in all 10 cooperation countries. Their activities concern, among others, co-ordination of long term, water-related projects.

### **Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA)**

[www.mofa.go.jp](http://www.mofa.go.jp)

## **The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)**

www.norad.no

Postboks 8034 Dep

0030 Oslo, Norway

Tel: +22 24 20 30

Fax: +22 24 20 31

postmottak@norad.no

- The purpose of Norwegian development cooperation is to contribute towards lasting improvements in economic, social and political conditions for the populations of developing countries, with particular emphasis on ensuring that development aid benefits the poorest people. Their main partner countries are:
  - In Africa: Tanzania, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia and Malawi.
  - In Asia: Bangladesh and Nepal.
- Other partner countries are:
  - In Africa: Angola, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria and South-Africa.
  - In Asia: Afghanistan, Indonesia, China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, East-Timor, and the Palestinian territories.
  - In Latin America: Guatemala and Nicaragua.

## **Oxfam-NOVIB**

www.novib.nl

Postbus 30919

2500 GX The Hague

The Netherlands

Tel +31-70 342 1621

Fax +31-70 361 4461

- Oxfam Novib works with a rights based approach. To Novib, poverty is in fact the same as a lack of rights. There are five rights to which anyone in the world should be able to appeal to. Within these five rights Oxfam Novib focuses primarily on the following themes in 60 countries:
  - Income and trade (right to a sustainable existence)
  - Education for girls (right to basic social services)
  - Living in safety (right to life and safety)
  - Social and political participation (right to social and political participation)
  - Rights and security for women (right to identity).

## **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**

www.sdc.admin.ch/

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Eigerstrasse 73

CH - 3003 Bern Switzerland

info@deza.admin.ch

- The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is part of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Its mandate is based on the Federal Law on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid enacted on 19 March 19, 1976, and on a federal decree of March 24, 1995, on cooperation with the countries of Eastern Europe.

## **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

**[www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)**

Information Center

U.S. Agency for International Development

Ronald Reagan Building

Washington, D.C. 20523-1000 USA

Tel +1 (202) 712-4810

Fax +1 (202) 216-3524

- USAID is an independent agency that provides economic, development and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States. The Mission Directory on the website has instructions on how to contact USAID offices worldwide.

## **MULTILATERAL AGENCIES**

### **Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria**

[www.theglobalfund.org](http://www.theglobalfund.org)

### **UNAIDS**

[www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)

### **EuropeAid Cooperation Office**

[www.ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/index\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/index_en.htm)

- The European Commission's EuropeAid Co-operation Office also has a number of programs that theoretically could support a sex worker program including: Gender (but with a focus on mainstreaming), Democracy & Human Rights, Health, Microfinance, and Migration.

## **Appendix C: American Jewish World Service Funding Guidelines**

### **American Jewish World Service Funding Guidelines for HIV Prevention and Care Programs for Sex Worker Organizations and Anti-Trafficking Initiatives**

**May 4, 2006**

AJWS is committed to funding grassroots organizations carrying out HIV prevention and care programs in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Our grantees, and the findings of such organizations as the World Health Organization and UNAIDS, have taught us that in order to make effective progress fighting the global AIDS pandemic, AJWS must support organizations that promote sex workers as agents of HIV prevention and women's empowerment. We must also support the efforts of community-based organizations to engage in anti-trafficking initiatives.

AJWS will consider proposals from organizations undertaking the following programs:

#### **Organizations Working with Sex Workers that:**

- Run HIV programs for sex workers and their families that include prevention education and awareness (including condom distribution), home-based care for sex workers living with HIV/AIDS, programs facilitating access to voluntary counseling, anti-retroviral treatment, and medicines for opportunistic infections and antistigma work.
- Work to protect the human rights of sex workers, especially the rights to health care, and freedom from violence.
- Expose sex workers to a range of options for employment as potential alternatives to sex work.
- Carry out advocacy and awareness campaigns to bring the voices of sex workers to bear on national and international policy debates related to HIV prevention and care, and legal protection for individual sex workers against abuses of their rights.

#### **Organizations Undertaking Anti-Trafficking Initiatives that:**

- Run antitrafficking programs for people at risk of being trafficked.
- Provide assistance to people who have been trafficked (temporary shelter, counseling, legal aid, vocational training, etc.), as well as rehabilitation and reintegration services for trafficking victims who have returned home.
- Organize undocumented workers, including victims of trafficking, to advocate for their rights under national law.
- Carry out advocacy and awareness campaigns to bring the voices of trafficked persons and their advocates to bear on national and international policy debates related to the prevention of trafficking.

## **Guiding Principles**

- AJWS believes that full participation of sex workers in local and national strategies to prevent the transmission of HIV is critical for the success of these programs.
- AJWS differentiates between sex work and trafficking, but believes both to be fueled by extreme poverty, gender inequality, lack of economic opportunity, conflict, and natural disasters.
- AJWS believes trafficking in persons is a gross violation of human rights and recognizes that while large numbers of people are trafficked into sex work against their will, significant numbers of human beings are trafficked for labor exploitation and other reasons (as brides, for organs, for human sacrifice, for domestic labor, etc).
- AJWS believes that in an ideal world where over half of the world's women are not living in extreme poverty (as they currently are), many fewer women would choose to engage in sex work.
- AJWS acknowledges the existence of millions of sex workers who are routinely denied their human rights and access to legal services. These sex workers are exploited by their managers (pimps, brothel owners), police, and clients; are often the victims of violence and rape; and deserve legal protection.
- AJWS believes child prostitution is equivalent to child sexual abuse and child labor, and that children can never be understood to have voluntarily entered into sex work.
- AJWS acknowledges that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people in the developing world are often driven into sex work because stigma and discrimination reduces their employment opportunities, and that full participation of LGBT communities in HIV prevention and care strategies, when possible, is critical for the success of these strategies.

## **ADDENDUM TO FUNDING GUIDELINES FOR HIV PREVENTION AND CARE PROGRAMS FOR SEX WORKER ORGANIZATIONS AND ANTI-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVES**

### **Additional Background**

#### **AJWS Does Not Conflate Trafficking and Sex Work**

Trafficking involves the use of force, deception, coercion, and debt bondage for the commercial exploitation of people. Whether or not one believes that prostitution is inherently exploitative, it is true that many people choose to enter the sex industry of their own free will. In addition, trafficking occurs in many industries in the form of forced labor and slavery.

#### **The “Ending Demand” Debate**

AJWS believes focusing on ending demand for sex work will have little impact on reducing trafficking or protecting the rights of sex workers. Trafficking is driven by poverty, race, and gender inequality, and a focus on demand will never address these root causes.

According to sex workers' organizations around the world, including many AJWS grantees, the state and its agents (mostly the police) are the prime violators of the sex workers' human rights, not clients. Sex workers are more vulnerable to violence in environments where sex work is stigmatized and criminalized and sex workers are not encouraged to seek legal protection. When demand is criminalized, trusted and known clients go underground and sex workers become more vulnerable as they are forced to service unknown clients.

### **Raid and Rescue**

As stated above, AJWS seeks to fund organizations that address the root causes that drive people into sex work and make them vulnerable to trafficking. AJWS believes that these programs are more effective than "Raid and Rescue," a strategy employed by governments or NGOs to "raid" brothels and forcibly "rescue" the sex workers. Often "rescue" results in arrests and deportation, leaving sex workers just as poor and desperate, but now with additional stigma as they have been exposed to their families and communities. Governments and "rescue" advocates often only offer fragmented rehabilitation services, such as counseling (often religious-based 12 step programs) and substance abuse programs.

### **Legalization of Prostitution**

Because AJWS operates in a variety of African, Asian, and Latin American countries, and provides services to clients from multiple cultures and backgrounds (even within individual countries), our public advocacy positions must not contradict local solutions and priorities. Our role is to support communities to devise locally-appropriate solutions and approaches to the challenges they face. Laws on prostitution differ in the countries where AJWS operates, and AJWS does not act to change the laws of foreign nations.

Taking a position for, or against, legalization would compromise our ability to be responsive and restrict our participation in dialogue about significant matters of public health that may relate to prostitution. For example, we often study the efficacy of our work and the work of partner organizations in the field in order to determine what approaches work best at preventing HIV so that we and others can replicate those models.

### **Background on AJWS Advocacy Efforts Related to US Policy on Prostitution and Trafficking**

Signed in 2003, the US Global AIDS Act stipulates that the policy of the US should be to "eradicate prostitution and other sexual victimization," and asserts, correctly, that the sex industry and trafficking are factors promoting the spread of AIDS.

Since 2003, the US government has required all domestic and foreign organizations receiving US government funds to sign an "anti-prostitution pledge" (AAPD 05-04). The pledge requires grant recipients to adopt an organizational policy "opposing" prostitution. USAID provides no guidance as to what opposing prostitution means, and has refused to review policies that have been drafted by organizations (such as the Open Society Institute).

In 2004, AJWS received a grant from the CORE Initiative, a USAID-funded consortium supporting faith-based and community organizations addressing HIV at the grassroots level. Our grant agreement included the prostitution pledge. Before signing, we requested the pledge be removed. When USAID refused, we signed and attached a cover letter stating that AJWS has no position on prostitution. We also registered our concern about the growing number of conditions being attached to US funding that impose religious and moral ideologies on grant recipients.

Within six months of receiving these funds, the CORE Initiative came under attack by members of the House of Representatives, accusing the leadership of the partner organizations (CARE, International HIV/AIDS Alliance, and International Center for Research on Women) of promoting prostitution and drug use based upon their support for interventions with sex workers and needle exchange programs. At the request of the CORE Initiative, AJWS wrote a letter of support to the Congress on its behalf. Shortly thereafter, we learned that Congress was evaluating the CORE Initiative and American officials would visit the five Kenyan sub-grantees we had supported with CORE Initiative funding. Two of these groups have budgets of less than \$40,000 and had never hosted donors or evaluators other than AJWS staff. AJWS and its sub-grantees were never informed of the results of this evaluation.

In 2005, DKT International, an organization that markets condoms with 70% of its funding from USAID, and the Open Society Institute, an organization with programs for sex workers in the former Soviet Union, brought lawsuits against USAID in DC district court in an effort to remove the pledge as a requirement for domestic organizations receiving HIV/AIDS funding. The lawsuits contend that the pledge violates free speech and pressures USAID grantees to stigmatize the very populations they are funded to empower, thereby significantly weakening the effectiveness of their HIV/AIDS programs. Attorneys representing DKT and OSI asked AJWS to submit affidavits in support of the lawsuits. The AJWS affidavit is attached. Both cases are awaiting hearings.

AJWS' Director of International Programs is a member of a coalition of organizations monitoring the impact of the pledge on NGOs and CBOs in developing countries. The coalition includes the Open Society Institute, the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), the Urban Justice Center, the Overbrook Foundation, Global Rights, Human Rights Watch, and Wellspring Advisors. AJWS' role in this coalition has been to bring the stories and experiences of our grantees and collegial organizations in Africa, Asia and the Americas to advocacy organizations working on the Capitol Hill.

## **Appendix D: Further Resources**

This is a sampling of resources for funders and for organizations working on sex worker health and rights. It is intended to help with possible next steps. It is not meant to be exhaustive, but to be a useful guide to further information.

### **1. Relevant Funder Affinity Groups**

#### **Funders Concerned About AIDS**

[www.fcaaaids.org](http://www.fcaaaids.org)

#### **Funders for LGBT Issues**

[www.lgbtfunders.org](http://www.lgbtfunders.org)

#### **Funders Network on Population, Reproductive Health and Rights**

[www.fundersnet.org](http://www.fundersnet.org)

#### **International Human Rights Funders Group**

[www.ihrfg.org](http://www.ihrfg.org)

- This group has an active subgroup of funders interested in sexual rights.

### **2. Additional Fundraising Resources**

#### **The Fund for Peace**

[www.fundforpeace.org](http://www.fundforpeace.org)

- The Fund for Peace had many resources for NGOs, including publications such as: *Human Rights Institution Building: A Handbook on Establishing and Sustaining Human Rights Organizations* and *Generating Local Resources: Case Histories and Methods for Supporting Human Rights Organizations In-Country*.

#### **ForeignAID.com Donor Directory Online**

[www.ForeignAID.com](http://www.ForeignAID.com)

- A subscription-based online donor directory helping non-profits in the United States, Europe, and in developing countries to identify international corporations, foundations, and other grant-makers that are committed to making social investments in Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, and Central and Eastern Europe.

#### **Foundation Center**

[www.foundationcenter.org](http://www.foundationcenter.org)

- A resource center for U.S. grant seekers with information on virtually every grant-making foundation in the country.

**Grassroots Fundraising Journal**

[www.grassrootsfundraising.org](http://www.grassrootsfundraising.org)

**Human Rights Internet's 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1999) International Directory of Funding Organizations and Human Rights Awards.**

[www.hri.ca](http://www.hri.ca)

**3. Rights-Oriented Organizations/Websites for Sex Worker Issues**

**Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers**

<http://apnsw.org/apnsw.htm>

**Best Practices Policy Project**

[www.bestpracticespolicy.org/index.html](http://www.bestpracticespolicy.org/index.html)

**EMPOWER Foundation, Thailand**

<http://empowerfoundation.org>

**Humanitarian Action Foundation, Russia**

[www.humanitarianaction.org/index\\_eng.php3](http://www.humanitarianaction.org/index_eng.php3)

**Hungarian Civil Liberties Union**

[www.hclu.org](http://www.hclu.org)

**International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe (ICRSE)**

[www.sexworkeurope.org](http://www.sexworkeurope.org)

**International La Strada Association**

[www.lastradainternational.org](http://www.lastradainternational.org)

- This site provides information specific to Europe and Former Soviet Union States.

**Network of Sex Work Projects**

[www.nwsp.org](http://www.nwsp.org)

- This site provides information on global issues related to sex work, particularly relevant for organizing and advocacy.

**Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Worker Association**

[www.scarletalliance.org.au/who](http://www.scarletalliance.org.au/who)

**Sex Worker Education and Advocacy Taskforce (SWEAT), South Africa**

[www.sweat.org.za/](http://www.sweat.org.za/)

**TAMPEP**

[www.tampep.com/index.html](http://www.tampep.com/index.html)

- This site provides information specific to Europe.

### **The Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)**

www.genderhealth.org

- This site is particularly useful for information on the impact of US international policy.

### **The Centre for Feminist Legal Research**

www.cflr.org

- This site provides information related to women's rights and sex work in India.

### **The Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center**

www.sexworkersproject.org

- This site provides information on legal training and advocacy for sex workers in the United States.

## **5. Articles and Reports**

An extensive body of articles and reports will be available on CD-ROM from OSI's SHARP program. To get a copy, please contact Rachel Thomas at the Open Society Institute, 400 W. 59th Street, New York, NY 10019, USA, Tel: +1 212-548-0337; Fax: +1-646-557-2548; Email: rthomas@sorosny.org.

### ***General articles on human rights and their applications to people in sex work***

- Seeshu, Meena and Joanne Csete, "Still underground: searching for progress in realizing the human rights of women in prostitution." *HIV/AIDS Policy and Law Review*, Vol. 9, No. 3, December 2004: 8-14.

### ***Documentation of violations against people in sex work in the context of HIV/AIDS***

- Central and Eastern European Harm Reduction Network (2005). *Sex work, HIV/AIDS, and Human Rights in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia*. Available at: <http://www.ceehrn.org/>
- Human Rights Watch (2006). *Rhetoric and Risk: Human Rights Abuses Impeding Ukraine's Fight against HIV/AIDS*. Available at: [http://www.hrw.org/doc/?t=hivaids\\_pub&document\\_limit=20,20](http://www.hrw.org/doc/?t=hivaids_pub&document_limit=20,20)
- Human Rights Watch (2003). *Ravaging the Vulnerable: Abuses against Persons at High Risk of HIV Infection in Bangladesh*. Available at: [http://www.hrw.org/doc/?t=hivaids\\_pub&document\\_limit=20,20](http://www.hrw.org/doc/?t=hivaids_pub&document_limit=20,20)
- Human Rights Watch (2002). *Epidemic of Abuse: Police Harassment of HIV/AIDS Outreach Workers in India*. Available at: [http://www.hrw.org/doc/?t=hivaids\\_pub&document\\_limit=20,20](http://www.hrw.org/doc/?t=hivaids_pub&document_limit=20,20)
- Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center (2005). *Behind Closed Doors: An Analysis on Indoor Sex Work in New York City*. Available at: <http://www.sexworkersproject.org/reports/BehindClosedDoors.html>

- Sex Workers Project at the Urban Justice Center (2005). *Revolving door: An analysis of street-based sex work in New York City*. Available at: <http://www.sexworkersproject.org/reports/RevolvingDoor.html>

***Implications of antitrafficking policy and practice for sex work***

- Kulick, D. (2003). Sex in the new Europe: The criminalization of clients and Swedish fear of penetration. *Anthropological Theory*, 3(2), 199-218.
- Busza, J. (2004). Sex work and migration: The dangers of oversimplification – A case study of Vietnamese women in Cambodia. *Health and Human Rights: An International Journal*, 7, 231-249.
- Cheng, S. (2004). Interrogating the absence of HIV/AIDS interventions for migrant sex workers in South Korea. *Health and Human Rights: An International Journal*, 7, 193-204.
- Cohen, S. (2005). Ominous convergence: Sex trafficking, prostitution, and international family planning. *The Guttmacher Report on Public Policy*, 8(1), 12-14. Available at: [www.guttmacher.org](http://www.guttmacher.org)
- Girard, F. (2004). *Global implications of US domestic and international policies on sexuality*. International Working Group for Sexuality and Social Policy Working Papers no.1.
- International Labour Organization (2003). *Trafficking in Human Beings: New Approaches to Combating the Problem*. Available at: [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD\\_BLOB?Var\\_DocumentID=1871](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.DOWNLOAD_BLOB?Var_DocumentID=1871)
- Jordan, A. (2002). *The annotated guide to the complete UN trafficking protocol*. International Human Rights Group. Available at: [http://www.globalrights.org/site/DocServer/Annotated\\_Protocol.pdf?docID=2723](http://www.globalrights.org/site/DocServer/Annotated_Protocol.pdf?docID=2723)
- EMPOWER (2003). A report by EMPOWER Chiang Mai on the human rights violations women are subjected to when “rescued” by antitrafficking groups who employ methods using deception, force and coercion.
- *Resources on human trafficking: Treaties, laws, reports, and articles*. Available at [www.globalrights.org](http://www.globalrights.org)  
-This list provides an extensive overview of the diverse aspects of trafficking into all labor sectors; the section on International Labour Organization documents is particularly useful.

***Health and human rights based methodologies and intervention approaches to sex workers and sex work, in the context of HIV/AIDS work/ harm reduction)***

- UNAIDS (2000). *Innovative approaches to HIV prevention: Selected case studies*. UNAIDS Best Practices Collection. Available at: [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)
- WHO Best Practices Sex Work Toolkit: Targeted HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care in Sex Work Settings. Available at: <http://who.arvkit.net/sw/en/index.jsp>
- UNAIDS (2000). *Female sex worker HIV prevention projects: Lessons learnt from Papua New Guinea, India and Bangladesh*. UNAIDS Best Practices Collection. Available at: [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)
- UNAIDS (2002). *Sex Work and HIV/AIDS: UNAIDS Technical Update*. Available at: [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org).
- MAP Report (2005). *Sex Work and HIV/AIDS in Asia*. Available at: [www.mapnetwork.org/reports.shtml](http://www.mapnetwork.org/reports.shtml)
- Amin, A. (2004). *Risk, Morality and Blame: A Critical Analysis of Government and US Donor Responses to HIV Infections among Sex Workers in India*. Takoma Park, MD: Center for Health and Gender Equity. Available at: [www.genderhealth.org](http://www.genderhealth.org).
- Berkman, A., Garcia, J., Munoz-Laboy-M., Paiva, V., and R. Parker (2005). A critical analysis of the Brazilian response to HIV/AIDS: Lessons learned for controlling and mitigating the epidemic in developing countries. *American Journal of Public Health*, 95(7), 1162-1172.  
-This article is reprinted with permission from the American Public Health Association.
- Jana, S., Basu, I., Rotheram-Borus, M.J., and P.A. Newman (2004). The Sonagachi project: A sustainable community intervention program. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 16(5), 405-414.
- Jana, S., Rojanapithayakorn, W., and R. Steen (2006). Harm reduction for sex workers. *The Lancet*, 367(9513), 814.
- Kerrigan, D., et al. (2004). *Combining community approaches and government policy to prevent HIV infection in the Dominican Republic*. Horizons Program: Population Council. Available at: [www.popcouncil.org/horizons/pubsarea/pubsprevvulpop.html](http://www.popcouncil.org/horizons/pubsarea/pubsprevvulpop.html)
- Loff, B., Overs, C., and P. Longo (2003). Can health programmes lead to mistreatment of sex workers? *The Lancet*, 361 (9373), 1982-1983.
- Wolffers, I., and N. van Bellen. (2003). Public health and the human rights of sex workers. *The Lancet*, 361, 1981.

### ***Comparative legal framework analyses***

- A provisional framework for analyzing laws and policies that affect sex workers. Law and Policy Project, Columbia University (2005). Available at [www.bestpracticespolicy.org](http://www.bestpracticespolicy.org)
- \*Harcourt, C., Egger, S., & Donovan, B. (2005). Sex work and the law. *Sexual Health*, 2, 121-128.
- Ministry of Justice and the Police (2004). *Purchasing sexual services in Sweden and the Netherlands: A report by a Working Group on the legal regulation of the purchase of sexual services.*

### ***Migration***

- **Network of Sex Work Projects**  
[www.nswp.org/](http://www.nswp.org/)  
-Website has relevant legislation and conventions regarding migration and sex work.
- **December 18**  
[www.december18.net/web/general/start.php](http://www.december18.net/web/general/start.php)  
-This is an online organization that seeks to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers.
- Agustin, L. (2004). A migrant world of services. *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, 10(3), 377-396.

### ***Law reform***

- Scarlet Alliance and Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations. *A Guide to Best Practice: Occupational Health and Safety in the Australian Sex Industry.* Available at: [www.scarletalliance.org.au/pub/](http://www.scarletalliance.org.au/pub/)
- Scarlet Alliance and Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations (1999). *Unjust and Counter-productive: The Failure of Governments to Protect Sex Workers from Discrimination.* Available at: [www.scarletalliance.org.au/pub/](http://www.scarletalliance.org.au/pub/)
- Ministry of Justice (2005). *The Sex Industry in New Zealand: A Literature Review.* Available at: [www.justice.govt.nz/pubs/reports/2005/sex-industry-in-nz-literature-review/index.html](http://www.justice.govt.nz/pubs/reports/2005/sex-industry-in-nz-literature-review/index.html)
- Sex worker Education and Advocacy Taskforce (SWEAT), South Africa. *Why You Should Support Decriminalization Even If You Are against Sex Work.* Available at: [www.sweat.org.za/](http://www.sweat.org.za/)

- Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network (2005). *Sex, Work, Rights: Reforming Canadian Criminal Laws on Prostitution*. Available at: [www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/reports.htm#sexwork](http://www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/reports.htm#sexwork)

#### ***USAID prostitution pledge litigation-related documents***

- NGO letter to President Bush (May 2005)
- Schleifer, R. (2005). Challenges filed to US anti-AIDS law anti-prostitution pledge requirement. *HIV/AIDS Policy and Law Review*. Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.
- “OSI Sues USAID over Dangerous Public Health Policy” (September 23, 2005). Press release. Available at: [www.soros.org](http://www.soros.org)
- “Federal Court holds ‘Anti-Prostitution Pledge Requirement’ Violates First Amendment.” Press release. Available at: [www.brennancenter.org/presscenter/releases\\_2006/pressrelease\\_2006\\_0509.html](http://www.brennancenter.org/presscenter/releases_2006/pressrelease_2006_0509.html)
- Amicus Brief: *OSI/AOSI v. USAID* Available at: [www.genderhealth.org/loyaltyoath.php](http://www.genderhealth.org/loyaltyoath.php)
- The Brennan Center [www.brennancenter.org](http://www.brennancenter.org)  
-The Brennan Center attorneys litigated the OSI/AOSI/Pathfinder case and their website has additional resources about the lawsuit.

#### ***Books***

- Kempadoo, K., with Sanghera, J., and B. Pattanaik (2005) *Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered: New Perspectives on Migration, Sex Work, and Human Rights*. Boulder, London: Paradigm Publishers.