

Sex Workers' Declaration at the 2008 International Aids Conference in Mexico

Participation in Conferences:

- Include sex workers in the plenary sessions at International Aids Conference and at all international and national forums on related issues.
- Feature presentations by sex workers at all international and national forums on related issues.
- Grant enough scholarships for sex workers from all regions to be represented.
- Include sex workers at all levels of planning and implementation of the International Aids Conferences, including on technical committees, for example the scholarship committee.

General Demands:

- Recognition of sex work as work.
- Recognize the diversity of our community in documents, materials and programs: we are female, male and trans sex workers.
- Guarantee the rights of sex workers in order to eliminate violence.
- An end to institutional violence. Justice and redress for crimes against sex workers.
- Acknowledge the right to migrate for sex workers.
- Distinguish clearly between trafficking in persons and sex work.
- Guarantee the meaningful participation of sex workers in the development of a response to HIV/AIDS.
- Develop programs which strengthen sex worker organizations.

Access to Health Services Free of Stigma and Discrimination:

- An end to mandatory HIV/STI testing and vaccination of sex workers, in all contexts including in detention.
- Guarantee integral quality health services for all genders, including gender-specific services.

Active and meaningful Involvement in All Decision-Making Spaces:

- Respect international conventions that guarantee our participation in decision-making. For example, include sex workers at the Country Coordination Mechanism of the Global Fund to decide and monitor the destinations of the funding around sex work.
- Include trans sex workers in programs based on our own identities and not as men who have sex with other men (MSM).

Funding for Organizations:

- Funding needs to be directly transferred to sex workers' organizations.
- Facilitate access to funding for sex worker organizations.

We don't want to be research objects but protagonists:

- Include sex workers in the design, implementation and evaluation of research on sex work. Share research results with sex worker organizations.
- Respect international conventions on research ethics when doing research on sex work.
- Strengthen sex worker organizations and networks through training on various issues such as administration, management and political leadership.
- Recognize sex work as a sexual right.

And last but not least, we would like to say:

We are not the problem, we are part of the solution.