



72nd Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

18 February – 8 March 2019

**Excerpts from the Concluding Observations on the 4th periodic report of Botswana:
relevant to and potentially impacting sex workers, collated by NSWP.**

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend, without delay, section 9 of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act to remove fines as a possible sentence for the crime of trafficking in persons and ensure that traffickers are adequately punished;

(b) Conduct a comprehensive study on the extent and forms of trafficking in women and girls in the State party;

(c) Effectively implement the national action plan to combat trafficking in persons for the period 2017–2020 and provide information on its results in its next periodic report;

(d) Strengthen the capacity and resources of existing shelters for victims of trafficking and improve access to victim protection services, including counselling and legal services, for victims of trafficking;

(e) Take measures to protect vulnerable groups, including women living in poverty, unemployed women, rural women and women with disabilities, from trafficking, including by carrying out awareness-raising campaigns among them on available, accessible services and job opportunities, and increase the early detection capacity of law enforcement personnel to promptly identify victims of trafficking and to facilitate the referral of victims to the appropriate services;

(f) Enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation to prevent trafficking by exchanging information and harmonizing legal procedures to prosecute traffickers, in particular with neighbouring States and other relevant States in the Southern African Development Community.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Intensify measures to reduce the disproportionately high prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women, including migrant women in prostitution, ensure access for women in prostitution to health services and combat their stigmatization and social ostracism;

(b) Provide assistance, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for women and girls who are exploited in prostitution and provide information on the impact of economic empowerment programmes and poverty reduction programmes in increasing income-generating opportunities for women who wish to leave prostitution;

(c) Adopt targeted measures to prevent women and girls in vulnerable situations, including girls who drop out of school, from entering into prostitution.