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Foreword

Dear SWAN Members,

This Manual does not aim to cover all the aspects of advocacy for sex workers’ rights. It is only the first in a series of similar publications that HCLU hopes to publish in the years to come. It combines some general tools and techniques of working with various media – print, TV, radio – with applied messages that concern the health and human rights of sex workers. It is envisioned as a tool to use in our advocacy and media relations seminar this year in Budapest, and for the future use once you return back to your homes.

I would like to thank several organizations and individuals for their help and contribution in preparing it. First of all to the Open Society Institute’s Sexual Rights and Health Program (SHARP) and Sue Simon, who provided financial support and countless suggestions and networking assistance; to Anna-Luise Crago from Stella who made the Stella’s wonderful 2006 IAC leaflets available for reprint; and Aliya Rakhmetova from HCLU without whom the Russian translation of this Manual would not exist. In addition to that, I would like to mention that I used various publications from OSI, NSWP, APNSW, and others, available on the Internet, as resources. Thank you All.

I hope the Manual will be useful in your future advocacy efforts aiming at the decriminalization of sex work in your countries. I also hope that by our next Network meeting following year, and in the next issue of this Manual, we will be able to use some of the advocacy tools you will yourself develop in the meantime. Please share your comments, contributions and critique on sexwork@tasz.hu

I wish you success in your work and your efforts for this world to be a better place to live in.

Nebojsa Radic, HCLU,
Budapest, September 2006
About the HCLU

The Hungarian Civil Liberties Union was established in Budapest in 1994. The Founding Fathers—who actually were more Founding Mothers—aimed to start not a monitoring and reporting NGO, but an advocacy-watchdog type organization. They looked to the American Civil Liberties Union as an example to follow. Past 12 years are the existing evidence that the law can be a very important tool in advocacy issues. The focus areas of HCLU are the followings: drug policy, HIV/AIDS, patient’s rights, political freedoms, such as free speech, opinion, assembly and union, NGOs in the legislative process, protection of privacy and freedom of information. HCLU is very much interested in questions related to individuals’ privacy and actions against unreasonable state interventions.

Regarding the ways of operation, HCLU considers itself as a legal reform organization. Continuing attention is given to the new laws and draft bills, and opinions are submitted to the policy makers and the media about them. Through the Legal Aid Service, HCLU lawyers assist individuals and harm reduction service providers, and other professionals who work with drug users and other vulnerable groups. HCLU often starts strategic impact litigation lawsuits against local and national governments, ministries and police departments. Through the public education program HCLU is raising public’s awareness around various issues.

The reason why HCLU got involved with SWAN is simple: we do think that criminalization and marginalization of commercial sex workers offers no solution to the sex work-related problems of different societies and often causes more harm than good. In democratic societies, where sex work-related questions and state answers are based on the respect of Human Rights and on a real public health approach, sex workers can find partners in the governments’ agencies. In our newly independent countries unfortunately this is not always the case. However, we do believe in the potential power of the media, and well-organized advocacy campaigns. Therefore we launched SWAN, and thanks to the support of the Open Society Institute’s Sexual Health and Rights Program, we are ready to help and work with all our network partners. We understand the differences in the legal systems and in the societies of the SWAN members, but we do think it is possible to work together.

Balázs Dénes,
Executive Director
The Hungarian Civil Liberties Union
About SWAN

Sex Workers’ Rights Advocacy Network is a network of civil society organizations engaged in advocating the Human Rights of the sex workers in Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and South-East Europe.

SWAN Coordinator: Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU), www.tasz.hu
HCLU Executive Director: Balázs Dénes,
SWAN Legal Advocacy Coordinator: Eszter Csernus, HCLU Executive Committee Member

About SWAN News

SWAN Issues monthly email-newsletter SWAN News

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Please notify us if you want to receive the SWAN News in Russian or English.
Please send your opinions, comments, and questions to sexwork@tasz.hu

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The authors’ views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Open Society Institute’s Sexual Health and Rights Program or those of the Open Society Institute.
Quotes About Sex Work, Human Rights and Decriminalization

"When prostitutes are treated as second-class citizens, and in extreme cases, as less than human, then all women who dare to step out of their social constructs will be labeled as whores and treated accordingly. For these reasons, the rights of all women are dependent on the rights accorded to the most vulnerable women,“

-- Sanjay Chugh, MD, Psychiatrist, India

"We believe that like any other occupation, sex-work too is an occupation and not a moral condition. If it is one of the ‘oldest’ professions in the world, that is because it must have continued to meet an important and consistent social demand."


"The criminalization and stigmatization of prostitutes is fundamentally linked to the disrespect of women."

-- Carol Leigh, American activist and former prostitute, the first to use the term "sex worker" in the late 1970s.

"Sex workers are bullied by policemen, beaten and slapped; policemen also seek free services from them and then destroy the evidence before arresting the women."

-- Elaine lam, Hong Kong activist

"In developed countries sex work is an option, while in Guatemala it's the only option."

-- Fernanda Milán, sex worker and activists from Guatemala

"Decriminalize me. Decriminalize my community and bring an end to the darkness and dangers that only an underground economy can reap... the only thing that this prohibition has given rise to is violence and death to the despised, dispossessed, disinherited, degraded and deplorable souls who boldly chose to have sex for money.

Yet, we are yours. We are a part of your rich history. We buy your wares, we share your same community, our children attend the same schools. We vote. We are on the front lines, getting arrested every day. We are your mothers, daughters, sisters, brothers, neighbors and friends. We are your community. Together we feel the collective triumphs, defeats and heartbreak of our nation. We just tend to feel it more, because, wink-wink, we remain invisible”


"As for me, I think it is better to pay to the government than somebody else. I would be the first prostitute to pay taxes”

1 Use these quotes in your presentations, printed materials, on the website, and share them with your colleagues.

"As a sex worker under criminalization, my rights are violated every day, not just my labour rights and legal rights, but most importantly my basic human rights."

-- Katrina, sex worker from Chicago, IL, USA, at a public rally organized on July 13, 2006 in Las Vegas

"Sex work is work. Sex workers are workers. We need job security, health care."

-- Anonymous Thai woman, participant at the sex workers’ march in Toronto, during the 2006 International AIDS Conference

"Accept the rights of sex workers. Society must accept us. Women have a right to their work. We demand access to free condoms to protect our health."

-- Awa Dambele of Danyana So, an association of 2000 sex workers in five cities in Mali

"We demand the recognition of our labor rights as sex workers and that sex work be decriminalized in all countries."

-- Gabriela Leite of sex worker group Davida and the Brazilian Prostitutes’ Network

Working with Different Media

Newspapers and Magazines

Newspapers are the world’s oldest media. They have several advantages against the electronic media (radio, TV):

- They are a document, which is durable - can be kept for months and years. They do not depend on the moment the way radio and TV depend. As a historical document they are approachable to a much bigger number of researchers then radio or TV tapes. Articles can be cut and kept in an archive on the time or topic.
- They can be re-read several times, if the reader does not understand something he/she can go back and read it again. That is one of the reasons why print media in general have coverage which is much more in-depth, more analytical, with more figures, etc.
- They can be come back to several times, one can start reading an article today and finish it tomorrow, etc. It is not possible with radio and TV, and is one of the reasons why radio and TV reports are in average much shorter.
- They can be read whenever reader wants it. The reader controls the timing – while the viewer and listener, if they want to do so, have to document (record) the broadcasts.
• They can be read **wherever reader wants it**: at home, in the office, in a café, in a bus, train...
• They are **more democratic** because they leave an option to readers’ reaction and correction.
• They can publish **photography** as opposed to the radio, which uses only sound.

Print media also have disadvantages:

• Readers **have to be literate** – that limits the accessible audiences in the undeveloped countries
• Newspapers and magazines are **expensive**, especially in the transition countries
• They have to be **distributed** – and in transition countries distribution is sometimes undeveloped or is controlled by the government, which refuses to sell opposition papers
• Newspapers are **slow** as comparing to radio and TV
• **Time and reading habits** are needed for reading papers – watching TV or listening radio is easier and more passive activity
• Print lacks **real voice and moving pictures** and is in a way less trusted by the audience.

Among all mentioned disadvantages of the print media, the timing influences their editorial policy the most. News have to be **timely** – they have “expiration time”, after which they are “old”, and old news is no news. Print media have daily, weekly, or monthly production cycles. A daily newspaper usually “closes” at 5 pm, after which time no changes are accepted in the tomorrow’s edition. Some dailies will have a “service” page, usually the back-page, which is opened until 8 pm or so. After the closing time language editing, news editing, page editing, printing and distribution take place, so the paper is at the newsstands across the country in the morning hours. If something happens after 5 pm when the paper is closed, it can potentially be covered only in the issue published two days later – by which time the news will be old.

**The weeklies close three or four days before publishing date.** The time between writing a story and having it published/broadcasted is called **lead-time**. Lead-time is shortest on radio – the program there most often goes **live**. TV has a longer lead-time because of the complicated technology, but still shorter then the print, which are the slowest media.

**The production cycles influence the profile of the media.** Radio is listened for on-the-spot news, on road situation, weather, etc. Weekly and monthly magazines will focus more on news analysis then on the news. They will publish in-depth stories and reviews of social phenomena. Daily newspapers will mostly report about daily events taking place before 1 or 2 pm, so that the reporter has time to file the story before 5 pm, by which time it should be on the editor’s desk.
Newspapers and magazines often target smaller groups like age (teenage magazines), gender (women or men's magazines), interests (human rights, foreign policy, parliamentary issues, medical topics, etc), national groups (i.e. minority language weeklies), etc. They all are called **specialized** media, as opposed to **mainstream** media that are read by the majority, by the general audiences.

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**Tips: Working With Print Media**

- Find out when is the closing day of the most important weekly magazine(s) you would like to work with. If you know the closing day, you can time your event/report so to be mentioned in the next issue
- Ask the daily newspaper reporters what is the ideal time for them to get a story idea so they could cover it before the closing time. If you know it, you can time your activities so to be reported in the tomorrow’s issue
- Print media can publish more analytical articles, for which reporters needs to understand the topic better, more work with them with is needed, and you need to prepare more materials to give to the reporters
- Think of providing photo material

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**Radio**

Radio is the most important media for the outreach to rural areas. Here are its advantages, when compared to print and TV:

- Radio is the **cheapest** medium. Nowadays it is relatively cheap to start a radio station. It can be placed in one room, no cameras needed, no printing and distribution costs
- It is the **fastest** medium. The lead-time can be zero, in case of live coverage. And live coverage is the cheapest coverage
- Radio enables **continuous coverage** of events. As of few years ago, there are TV stations focusing on round the clock news coverage (pioneered by CNN)
- Radio was for a while the only medium with a possibility of **live coverage** of events. Although nowadays it is possible with TV as well, TV is still very expensive and technically complicated, so that radio still leads in it.
- It enables easy and cheap **two-way communication** between the reporters and the listeners, more then in case of print or TV. Contact programs are still very popular and very common on radio stations. They make public discussion about various issues, among them rights of sex workers, much more visible, democratic, and authentic.
• It has the **biggest outreach** – no literacy required, as for the print media, no TV sets needed, and even lack of electricity in rural areas is not a problem: radio receivers can work on batteries, or even mechanical energy.

• It is **easier to listen then to read**, and people sometimes listen radio in a “background”

However, radio has its disadvantages as well:

• Same as TV, it is **momentary**; the program has to be heard in the moment of broadcasting, unless it is recorded. Except in the prime times, the effect of radio coverage because of that can be weaker then in case of the print.

• It **does not provide picture**, and is because of that less trusted then TV.

• People listen it in background, without possibility to listen again if they did not understand something. That is why coverage has to be **simple and short**. No analytical complicated reports are allowed.

• Because it is most democratic medium, the **language used should be simplified and understandable**.

In the morning and afternoon rush hours drivers often switch on the radio to hear the weather news and find out about possible traffic jams. Those are the times with the highest ratings for radio stations.

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**Tips: Working With Radio**

• Don’t forget that the average radio listener is less educated then a newspaper or magazine reader. Use **simple and understandable language**.

• People rarely sit and focus on listening the radio – they listen to it while doing some other things. Be **short**, use **short sentences, simple examples** and do not use complicated numbers. Instead of “4,756 HIV positive persons” say “close to 5,000 HIV positive persons”

• Radio does not have picture, sound is its only information. Avoid speaking with monotonous and flat voice - try to use **intonation, pauses, and volume** to express yourself better.

• **Morning and afternoon rush hours** are the times with the biggest number of listeners. Those are the best times to reach the biggest number of people with your information.

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**Television**

• Television is the most influential medium. It is the only medium that **combines picture, sound, and movement**. As such, it is **more realistic** then any other media and **people trust it more** then print or radio. It is the **most influential** media of today.
• Television is mostly an **entertainment medium**. As on the radio, the emphasis is on shorter, simple reports.
• Average TV viewer is less educated than print papers reader. **Simple language and short sentences** should be used.
• TV is **technically complicated** and because of that **slow and expensive medium**. In a production of a short interview in a community center, a team of up to 5 people might be involved (producer, reporter, cameraman, light engineer, driver).
• It is **faster than print media** but **slower than radio**
• Evening between 7 and 9 pm is the prime time for TV, with the biggest number of viewers. The main daily news journal is shown, followed by a soap opera or a studio discussion. Friday and Saturday evening have an extended prime time that can go as late as 10 pm, with more entertainment in the program – the viewers can sleep longer the following morning.
• As opposed on the radio, morning program on TV is not a prime time. Mostly children, housewives and pensioners watch it.

**Internet**

• Internet provides **combination of good features or electronic and print media**.
• Its content can be **updated continuously**, in real time, similar to the radio.
• But it is also a “print” media, with electronically published text, with possible **repeated and slow, convenience reading** – similar to the newspapers.
• It also has **photography** (like newspapers) and **film** (like TV).
• With a broadband Internet, we are actually witnesses of a **convergence of media**.
• Computer screen becomes TV set, radio set, newspaper, magazine, and telephone – all in one.

**How to Produce a Backgrounder**

Backgrounder is one of the most important “tools” for working with media. In the time when competition for media space and attention is getting fierce, and when journalists have no time for research, furnishing them with carefully selected, organized and presented facts, figures, quotes and additional sources about SW is becoming of crucial importance. Here are tips for writing effective fact sheets and backgrounders:

• A Fact Sheet/Backgrounder provides facts, quotes, figures, summaries of reports and speeches that give journalist “background information” about certain story/issue/theme, in our case about the issues surrounding SW.
• It helps the reporter to understand the issue, to see where the story is, and possibly, to write an article. Even if coverage is not an immediate result, backgrounders keep the journalists in the loop about the issue. They decrease possibility for misinterpretation.

• A backgrounder increases the odds the story will come out with the angle you desire.

• You should have on-hand backgrounders about all main issues around SW, and prepare the new ones for special events and actions.

• Backgrounders should be updated regularly with new information, facts, and developments.

• Backgrounders could be issued independently, or could be attached as an "expanded press release".

• Backgrounders are also referred to as "Fact Sheets" or "Info Sheets". "Q&A Sheets", and "Frequently Asked Questions-FAQ". "Policy Highlights", "Quote List", "Speech Highlights", "Biography Sheet" are different formats of backgrounders.

Tips for writing backgrounders

• Although they can be written in a form of an article, backgrounders are more likely to attract a reporter’s attention if they are brief, readable, and easy to grasp. Q&A format, bullets, and chronological approach are highly recommended. Best two or three, maximum five to six pages.

• Where possible, mention sources of the facts/statistics– to provide for credibility.

• Mention additional sources on the issue: literature, websites, film footage or photo material available, etc.

• Mention your name, telephone, fax and email for those who need additional information

• Distribute backgrounders in printed form and online.

• Produce them on a letterhead stationary, with contact information.

Example: as an example, see the Appendix 1: the AIDS Backgrounder prepared by the 2006 International AIDS Conference in Toronto. You can use this backgrounder in your media work. In addition to that, produce a backgrounder about AIDS in your country – put together, those two documents will provide journalists with lots of interesting comparisons and possible story topics. Include information about sex workers.
Crafting a Good Message for Your Advocacy

Message is what we are sending, communicating, to those we want to reach out with our information. Clear, concise and understandable message is of crucial importance for effective communications.

Crafting powerful and clear message is of particular importance when campaigning for social change. Here are the main rules on crafting effective and powerful messages.

- Message should be target-directed. In order to be heard, you have to talk to the target. Don’t talk about your own problems. Try to put your issues in the context (frame) of your listeners’ main concerns.
  - The message should be relevant for the target audience – it should answer the question your audience asks: “What is in it for me?”
  - The language used should be understandable to the target audience
  - The media used should be the ones used by the target audience. Find out where your audience gets the news and go there with your message.
  - The messenger should be trusted by the target audience. Think of celebrity spokespersons, academics, individuals or institutions appreciated by those you want to influence. For example, one could argue that men are more likely to influence behavior of other men, rather then feminist groups’ spokeswomen.
  - If you prepare a message for a meeting with government, parliamentarians or other policy makers, think how to craft it so it fits their agenda. How will it help them achieve their objectives, do their work? Put the SW rights in the frame of human rights, national health policy, more effective control of STI, etc.

- Message must be based on research of target’s (public’s) perception, not on your/somebody’s opinion about it. In order to be able to talk to the target, you should know the target.

- Your message should build on target’s believes, not try to overturn them. Try to be inclusive and empathic.

- Message is not a slogan. Slogan is a powerful part of it, but message consists of other elements: policy proposal, validation, suggested action, the language used, context, timing, level from which the message is sent... The visuals such as logo, colors, design, etc –all together develop one message.

- You should stay on message (be focused) and repeat, repeat, repeat. The message should be heard more then once in order to create awareness.

- You should create different opportunities to send your message out. Try to combine media interviews, presentations at conferences and various forums, meetings with officials, street action, production of brochures, websites, media kits, organization of press conferences and briefings, production of backgrounders, training for reporters.
Discuss and share message on sex workers health and rights issues with other organizations that deal with the same issue. Although different organizations might have different priorities, you will for sure find the messages you will all be behind. That will provide for repetition and echo, which will make your cause stronger.

"It was really useful to have sent out the key messages regarding SW health and rights that we wanted our allies to echo. Getting these messages to allies in advance of the conference was an important step in education/outreach, and most importantly, making sure that key themes resonated throughout the conference. The press kits beautifully reiterated these messages, as did the banners from APNSW."

-- Sue Simon on message coordination prior to and during the International AIDS Conference in Toronto in August 2006

Ideally, an **advocacy message** should have four components:

- **Problem Statement**: What is the current state of affairs with SW. The problem regarding SW that you want the society to pay attention to. The things that are wrong or could be improved.

- **Relevance**: Why are the problems sex workers face relevant for the policy makers (in lobbying) and the wider society, family or nation (in media advocacy targeting public opinion). You have to prove that this problem needs to be on the agenda, that it is relatively important, compared with numerous other burning issues competing for the society’s attention. For example, in lobbying, you could focus on the international human rights declarations that your country has ratified and parts of the national constitution guaranteeing equal rights for all. Or you should focus on the need to protect public health by providing free and confidential access to STI screening for sex workers.

- **Policy proposal**: While the first two elements are enough for awareness raising campaigns, message in an advocacy campaign should offer a solution. New legislation and decriminalization, outreach services, mobile units, counseling services, additional funding, etc.

- **Proposed action**: What those responsible should do; what civil society, families, citizens, volunteers, activists can do to press those responsible to act. Create a work group to draft new legislation! Sign a petition! Come to the rally! Write to the editorial boards! Use sex workers as news sources. Include sex workers in drafting legislation. Join our journalist training, etc.

Message needs to be carefully thought element of each piece of communication. In media relations, message is **what you tell in your interview or press release.** Before each
media appearance you should decide what its purpose is and what the message you want to convey is. You should decide on three points you want to make and repeat by using different examples. Do not just state the problem, think of validation, policy proposal and action plan.

Remember that, if you use the media, your message is sent to the viewers, listeners and readers, not to the media editors or reporters. Use the language understandable to the TV viewers, not that understandable to TV anchors! Do not use jargon, technical terms and abbreviations that nobody else understands but those of us working with SW issues!

Example:

**Fighting Stigma Against People With Developmental Disabilities in Montenegro**

NGO „Staze“ from Podgorica – Montenegro organized in December 2003 a campaign to fight stigma against people with mental disabilities. The campaign, supported by the Open Society Institute’s Mental Disability Advocacy Program, included round table discussions, PSA aired on the national TV channel, and media interviews - all under the same slogan: „I do not accept to be beyond a line“.

The main message of the campaign was printed on a leaflet that was given away in the city of Podgorica. It was also repeated in all media appearances. It had the four elements. (The segment titles „Problem Statement“, „Validation“, „Policy Proposal“ and „Call for Action“ added by the author of this toolkit. They were not present on the leaflet)

**Problem statement:** People with developmental disabilities in Montenegro are below the poverty line, without access to appropriate health care services and education, and below the dignity level. They do not have the same opportunities to achieve a full integration in the society as people without disabilities have.

**Validation:** Such a situation is in direct contradiction with basic human rights standards. People with developmental disabilities should have the same fundamental rights as other citizens - as it is provided by the European Convention on Humah Rights. If Montenegro wishes to become a member of the EU it will have to respect basic human rights. Discriminatory practice will influence lives or all of us by slowing down the EU accession process. We all should protest infringement of human rights of disadvantaged groups. Our own rights could be infringed tomorrow, and a system should be in place to prevent such a threat. Rights for all should be fought for by all!

**Policy proposal:** The Montenegro Government should implement antidiscriminatory laws and policy towards people with developmental disabilities, and develop measures that are objectively achievable in the existing economical and social circumstances.

**Call for action:** Join the first march of people with developmental disabilities on Friday, October 19 in front of the National Parliament.

**Question:** try to create an advocacy message around decriminalization of sex work in your country!

Backgrounders and talking points are developed to help either reporters, or policy makers, or your colleagues and allies to understand your standing regarding various issues. Following are three such documents. One about sex work vs. human trafficking; one about AIDS and sex
work; and one about decriminalization of sex work. When discussing with your colleagues the message, think also about what your opposition will tell and how you will answer their claims.

Sex Work vs. Trafficking – What is the Difference?

Some people use the term ‘trafficking’ do describe sex work. What is really the difference between trafficking and sex work?

Message elements:

- Sex work is a type of work. Trafficking on the other hand, is a type of migration.
- Trafficking is related to debt-bondage, slavery-like conditions, forced labor and confinement. Sex work is result of free will and personal choice.
- Sex workers decide for variety of reasons to join the trade. They are not always coerced in to it.3
- Sex work is a job. Sexual exploitation is a violent crime.
- Sex workers are workers. Victims of crime are plaintiffs.
- Sex work is just one specific job. Trafficking is the moving of people using deceit, force or coercion in order to benefit from their forced labor or exploitation.
- It might be more exciting to talk about sex than trafficking but they are not related.
- People are trafficked into all kinds of jobs e.g. domestic work, factory work, seafarers, agriculture, construction workers, military service etc – not only into sex work.
- Trafficking is a global social problem not a problem sex workers should be responsible for solving alone.
- Sexual violence and abuse of women and children occurs in homes, churches, entertainment places, schools, NGO’s, temples, garment factories, government

3 Entry into sex work is often defined as exploitation, coercion and trafficking. However, women have been known to join the sex trade for a variety of reasons. As the table below demonstrates, there is no single reason why women enter prostitution.

(Study conducted in Sonagachi, Calcutta in 1992 with 450 SW – approximately 12% of all SW in the area)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons for joining</th>
<th>Total number</th>
<th>Total percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acute poverty</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>49.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willingly</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>8.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Dispute</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>21.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misguided</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>15.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tradition</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapped</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table taken from Prostitution as Livelihood: ‘Work’ or ‘Crime’? by Geetanjali Gangoli, on http://apnsw.org
institutions, on the streets, on farms, prisons and in cities. It is a global social problem, not a problem sex workers should be responsible for solving alone.

- Under the pretext of curbing trafficking, strict border control and discriminatory immigration laws effectively prohibit safe, independent movement of migrant women, especially young single women from developing nations.

**Challenging:**

(this section will not appear on your “public” backgrounder but is for your internal use only)

- When it (prostitution) starts with violence and sexual abuse how can we call it "work"? ... An action that violates human rights, how can we call it work?
- You say “sexual exploitation is a violent crime”. We agree about it.
- Using female body for sexual pleasure and selling female body on the market is indeed 'sexual exploitation'.
- Those who promote so called ‘sex work’, promote sexual exploitation.
- Therefore all sex work, even so called ‘legal’, ‘safe’ and ‘voluntary’ sex work, is a crime.

**Recommendation:**

- Try not to use the term 'sexual exploitation' at all.
- Everyone has a different understanding of the term with regard to adults. There is no definition in international law. In the Trafficking Protocol it is left without a definition.
- If you use it, or those with whom you discuss use it, always ask them to tell you what it means.
- If you have to use it, define it in relation to children.
- Use more specific terms for adults, such as forced or coerced sex work, un-free sex work, etc.
- It is important not to use the vague and undefined terms and to make sure that your language helps people clarify their understandings of the different issues.
- Brainstorm with your colleagues about how the opposition will attack your standing, and develop effective responses, with fact, figures, quotes.

**Further resources** about sex work, migrant workers' rights and the "anti-trafficking" debate are available on [http://www.nswp.org/mobility](http://www.nswp.org/mobility). Under the "Legislation & Conventions" section you will find laws, resolutions and official reports that deal with migrant workers and 'trafficking in persons'. Under "Analysis & Commentary" available is writing that examines migration and 'anti-trafficking' laws and discourse as well as their affects on workers and human rights. Under "Human Rights Groups on the Web" are listed contacts of the groups that offer support in dealing with migrant sex work issues. A report by Empower Chiang Mai on the human rights violations women are subjected to when "rescued" by anti-trafficking groups
who employ methods using deception, force and coercion -
http://www.nswp.org/mobility/mpower-0306.html

Why Decriminalizing Sex Work?

By decriminalizing sex work, sex workers would:
1) Have legal recourse in the case of abuse by client, police or street gangs
2) Have social services including health benefits, unemployment, and retirement plans
3) Have protection from sexually transmitted diseases by reducing unprotected sex and having access to screening and other health services
4) Their human rights would be protected and their lives dignified
5) Last but not least, they would be able to chose the career of their choice

The society would also benefit from decriminalization, because:
1. The incidence of HIV and STI would decrease
2. It would be more just, with everyone enjoying their human rights, sex workers too
3. The corruption in police and judiciary would be decreased

- Legalizing prostitution would not only underline the right to earn a living but, more importantly, legalize the fight against sexually-transmitted diseases and the AIDS epidemic.

- Without decriminalization, sex workers have no avenue for redressal when their rights are trampled.

- Currently, it is the sex worker who bears the brunt of criminalization of sex work.

- The criminality associated with sex work implies that the justice system either works to the disadvantage of sex workers or is unavailable and unresponsive even in the most glaring cases of infringement of rights.

- Organisation in sex work settings is a prerequisite for ensuring universal use of prophylaxis. Well organised brothels can facilitate provision of STD/HIV services among sex workers and clients alike and ensure that safer sex is practised ubiquitously.

- Other benefits could include reduction in trafficking of minors and the abatement of police harassment.
• Criminalisation of prostitution aims at eradicating exploitation, but by prohibiting organisation within sex work, which is necessary for empowering sex workers and reducing exploitation, it becomes self-defeating.

• When accused, most sex workers plead guilty, even when they have not committed any offence. This, they say is less burdensome than contesting charges in court which entails hiring a lawyer, making repeated visits to the court and further antagonizing local policemen. Justice comes at a price - a price most sex workers cannot ‘afford’.

• If the criminalization of sex work continues, the fights against AIDS is a lost cause.

In your backgrounders or position statements you can use quotes from various publications, to support our claims. Always mention the source. The more authoritative or well known the author, the better.

For example:

"There were unconfirmed reports of a sex worker dying in custody. Not only do the police not adhere to statutory procedures laid down under the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) for conducting raids and arrests, they also violate elementary standards of decency and human rights which they are obliged to follow under law. "They barge into our rooms, pull us out when we are naked and sneer at us for being whores" - bellows a sex worker from Chakla Bazar. "Not only are we stripped of our rights but also of our human dignity" - cries another. In the past, sex workers have found it extremely difficult to report, let alone seek action against erring officials, for fear of retaliatory attacks. Non - availability of lawyers is another barrier in pursuing legal remedies."  

Or:

The perception of criminality associated with sex work gave excuse to any abuse committed against sex workers. Beaten, raped, abused sex workers avoid to seek justice, afraid that they would be charged for illegal activities. Sometimes the police would beat them, sometimes gangs would rape them, and sometimes “moralists” would abuse them to “clean” the society. Police would not register the complaint, for there is no rape against a prostitute.  

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Question: What will be the arguments of the opposition? Discuss with your colleagues and write down ten most probable message elements of the revisionists and opponents of decriminalization of the sex work. How will you answer them?

For more information about decriminalization see the website of the Pivot Legal Society, www.pivotlegal.org where you will find their recent report “Beyond Decriminalization: A Roadmap for Legislative Changes”.

AIDS: There is no Solution without Sex Workers

According to the UN agency UNAIDS, the spread of HIV and AIDS in many nations is underpinned by paid-for sex:

- In China, it is estimated that sex workers and clients represent 20 percent of those with HIV.
- In Ethiopia, 73 percent of sex workers are infected.
- In South Africa, 50 percent of sex workers are infected.
- 31 percent in Ivory Coast...

Furthermore, criminalization of sex work disables effective treatment of this problem. Here are several quotes about sex work and HIV/AIDS, mostly by sex workers and activists:

"When I can work in safe and fair conditions.  
When I am free of discrimination.  
When I am free of labels like "immoral" or "victim".  
When I am free from unethical researchers.  
When I am free to do my job without harassment, violence or breaking the law.  
When sex work is recognized as work.  
When we have safety, unity, respect and our rights.  
When I am free to choose my own way.  
THEN I am free to protect myself and others from HIV."

-- Porn, sex worker, at the closing ceremony of the 2004 International AIDS Conference in Thailand

"Sex workers are part of the solution in the fight against HIV. And sex workers need workers’ rights and human rights in order to fight AIDS."

-- Anna-Louise Crago of Stella, a Montreal-based support group for sex workers at the 2006 International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada.

________________________________________

6 http://apnsw.org
"We are strong, proud and united in the struggle against HIV! We, sex workers, demand our human rights and workers’ rights in order to fight HIV."

-- Claire Thiboutot, director of Stella, at the 2006 International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada.

"It’s not what we do…it’s how we do it. Safe, fair working conditions save lives. The power we share, the power we have! "

-- Thai sex worker group Empower

"If we decriminalize sex work and accept it as normal work, like lawyers and doctors, sex workers will have more bargaining power to ask clients to wear condoms and then HIV rates will decrease."

-- Chiu Hing Fung, Hong Kong sex worker of Chinese advocacy group Zi Teng, at the 2006 International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada

Giving a Media Interview

Interview presents one of the best media opportunities. It is your five minutes, chance to tell to the world what you want to say. As an interviewee, you can influence, design, and even lead the interview.

The basic rule is: Never go to an interview before knowing why you go there and what you want to achieve. Decide what is your message. And what are the words to communicate it. Your objective is to send a strong message using a few simple words. If you use too many complicated terms viewers’ and listeners’ attention will drop and your message will not reach them. The message should consist of three points that you want to make: A, B, C – that will keep it focused. A good way of crafting the message is to think of the headline you would like to appear in the newspapers the day after your interview.

Questions to ask before the interview:

• If possible, get the questions in advance, if not, find out about the topic of the interview. Talk with the reporter who will interview you. Find out what he/she knows about the topic. If possible, brief the reporter.
• Find out about the context in which you will be interviewed: are you interviewed alone or in a group? Who else is on the show? Information about other participants can be crucial for you to prepare properly.
• Find out about the show in which you will participate. What is the format of the show – a Q and A, profile, reportage, news program or something else?
• What is the profile of the **viewers/listeners**. If you know who the viewers and listeners are, you can adopt and fine-tune your message to their language and interests.

• At what **time** is the show broadcasted?

• Research on **previous reporting** on sex work. Do the show and/or reporter have prejudice or any particular stance on the subject?

• Is the **reporter** who will interview you friendly or difficult?

• Find out how long the interview will be.

• Will the interview be **recorded** and edited or it will go **live on air**?

• If it goes on air, will the viewers/listeners ask questions?

**Get prepared:**

• Decide on the **three points**.

• **Get ready for the subject**; find examples, facts, stories and anecdotes for each point.

• Exercise in front of the mirror.

• **Be prepared for surprises.** Think what could be controversial and difficult questions? For example what if the reporter asks you if you yourself have been sex worker and/if why you promote sex work? How to answer?

• Prepare briefing for the reporter – send backgrounders and fact sheets on the sex workers rights and surrounding topics ahead of the interview.

• Suggest topics or questions that would be interesting to discuss.

**During the interview:**

• **Lead the interview.** Direct discussion towards your three points.

• **Be short and concise.** TV and radio do not like long sentences and in-depth analysis.

• **Use sound bites.** They are short, pithy statements on your three points, easy to understand and remember.

• **Use straight and simple language:** not “owing to the fact that” but “because”. Not “the fact that he had not succeeded” but “his failure”. Do not use professional jargon, but simple terms.

• **Avoid “fillers”**. They are the words and sounds that we make while thinking about what to say next. They can be “well”, “like”, or “hmmmm”, “ahhhh” and similar. In order to avoid fillers you need to know that you are using them. That is possible if you tape yourself or have someone listening while you practice.

• **Do not be afraid of silence.** Long silence in the program is reporter’s responsibility, not yours. Think before you answer.

• **Repeat occasionally your three points:** A, B, C, so the message gets across. But do it so that it sounds logical and good –changing angles, examples and even language. Relate all the questions to the three points.
• **First give conclusions then back up with facts.** Learn to talk in this “upside-down” fashion. Go straight to the point first, explanations leave for later.

• **Bridging:** In case of a question that you don’t want to answer, try to “bridge” it, transition it to your three points. Example: “Yes, you are right, I absolutely agree that we have many other difficult problems in the society, but decriminalization of sex work is important because…” Be careful though when you use bridging, it can be counterproductive.

• **Bridging Phrases.** Bridging is used not only to avoid undesired, but also to stay focused. Useful bridges are: “Yes, and in addition to that.” “I would like to add that.” “The most important point to remember is”, ”Let me clarify”, ”This reminds me of”, ”Let me emphasise that”, ”I am glad you asked me that. The truth is”, ”This is a part of a larger issue”.

• **Stay positive.** If you are asked bad question, answer the best you can, but do not antagonize with the reporter. Keep friendly relationship with reporter. Keep smiling. This way you will win the hearts of the listeners and viewers, not the angry reporter.

• **Use facts.** Use facts and figures to substantiate your message. Be careful though – TV and radio do not like too many numbers, viewers cannot remember them. Instead of nine-hundred-fifty-eight thousand” say “almost million”.

• **Taking out of context.** However difficult it is, you should try to avoid statements that can be taken out of context and used against you. For example, do not repeat false statements about you. Not “it is not true that we promote sex work of minors”, (“we promote sex work of minors” can be used alone) but “I can assure you that it is not true”.

• **Truth.** Always tell the truth. Do not be afraid to admit if you don’t know answer to a question. Promise to be back with it once you find it, and do so.

**After the interview:**

• Add the name of reporter to your media list

• Analyse the interview. What went wrong, and what was good. Lessons learned.

• If during the interview you promised additional information to the reporter, act immediately

• Ask for tape with interview and save it

• If the interview was published in print media, collect the press clipping and store it in press clipping archive. If it was very good, use it as a part of your press kit, for further publicity.

**Interview for print media:**

All the above rules apply to in interview for print media, except:

• Before the interview, find out if a photographer will accompany the reporter?

• If yes, then think of shooting locations – maybe with bookshelves, artwork or plants in the background

• Print media usually go into more detail in exploring an issue. Therefore, you can use more facts and figures then on radio/TV.
• Beware that taking out of context and changing the meaning of the sentences is much easier in print media than on radio/TV. If the piece will be printed as an interview, you can request **authorization for authenticity** of the dialogue. Authorization means checking out if your words are properly presented in written text, it is **not an opportunity to change your statements**.

• Print interviews are sometimes done **by email/fax**. In this case you get a list of questions from the reporter and at an agreed time send back answers by email/fax. Reporters in general do not like this format, because it is not spontaneous. That is why it is usually practiced only with celebrities and high level politicians who do not have time to meet with journalists in live.

How to Behave in Front of Camera and Microphone

**Eyes and Body Language:**

• Look into the reporter’s eyes. Do not look down or on the side. Do not look into the camera – ignore it.
• Do not sit stiff with your hands glued to the table in front of you. That does not look natural on the camera. Sit comfortably in the chair, and relax.
• Be natural as much as possible, as if you were alone with the reporter. Use your body language as you normally do: move your eyebrows and hands, control the volume and pace of your speech. For example: when you want to emphasize something, you can slow the pace and in the same time raise the voice volume. You can also pause, with the same result. You can nod head to approve or disapprove something, raise eyebrows in surprise, etc.
• While speaking, breath deeply, slowly and rhythmically, with the diaphragm. That will lower the tension and slow down hearth beating if you are nervous.

**Appearance/Dress:**

• Serious and a bit of conservative attire is demonstrating seriousness.
• Wear solid mid-range colors, avoid white or totally black. Avoid shiny fabrics.
• If you wear glasses, they might reflect light, so if you can do without them, you might decide to take them of.

**Confidence:**

• On TV "you must never let them see you sweat". **Sweating means lying** on television. In order not to sweat, avoid nicotine and caffeine before the interview, they increase heart rate. Makeup can help as well.
• Try to **control nervous rhythmical movement** of your legs, playing with pan, scratching your face or hair, or tapping on the table with fingers... The perception that such behavior gives is much worse a damage that the technical problems with the microphone. By moving without control, looking away from the reporter's eyes, you are actually saying that you are insecure and nervous. That is not helping you looking trustworthy: it actually looks like you might be easily hiding something.

• Have some water by your hand, in case your throat gets dry.

**Writing and Publishing an Op-Ed⁷**

**Getting Started**

1. **Research.** Look at the editorial pages of your local newspaper for several days to get an idea of how it covers opinion (op-ed) material. Besides "letters to the editor," there are columns written by readers, like "In My Opinion," or "Commentary." Read lots of op-eds to see how they're constructed. It may help to notice style, content, tone, and incorporate this into your own piece. Remember, this is OPINION, but an editor makes the decision to run it.

2. **Call the newspaper.** The number is listed in the newspaper, or you can always get it out of the phone book. Ask to be connected with someone who can answer questions about their editorial policy towards submitting op-ed material. Once you reach the person with accurate information, ask questions about how to submit an op-ed: how many words, what format, timeframes, how to submit (fax, e-mail, or hard copy by mail, etc.) Get the opinion page editors name (correct spelling) and contact information so you can send your article directly to him/her.

**Writing Your Commentary**

3. **Write the body of your op-ed piece now.** Op-eds are generally about 750 words, so you should prepare a piece of about 600 words as a first draft. This will be the body of your op-ed. If the op-ed is newsworthy right now, get it in immediately. However, you might think about preparing a piece long before it is timely or newsworthy. For example, in advance of the UN Human Rights Day, or a public health day, or the sex workers rights day, or in anticipation of an event you are sponsoring. If you prepare the op-ed piece well in advance, you can fine tune it and have it ready to go when something newsworthy happens related to the issue you've written about.

4. **Tie your op-ed to a good "news hook"** related to breaking news, whenever possible. Your op-ed should be slated to run on or near the date of something newsworthy. For example, around a Supreme Court challenge on a sex worker case.

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⁷ Adopted from and original document by the ADA Watch
5. **The op-ed editor must realize this is BIG NEWS.** Be sure to have information that shows this is a big news story, use articles that have appeared over the past few months (called clips.) Use this "news hook" and lead your op-ed with that. Express your point of view clearly and boldly in the first paragraph. If you have the body written already, you can just add the "hook" when you are ready to get it to the editor. That way, you can do it quick. And quick is essential.

**What editors want is:**

1. **Timeliness:** Newsworthy and meets deadlines. You MUST get your op-ed into the editor in time for it to be newsworthy. It WILL NOT get published unless you strictly adhere to the editor’s guidelines, and get it in by any deadline he/she may establish.

2. **A well stated point-of-view** with a topical beginning hooked to the news.

3. **The view of someone with “standing.”** Standing means that you are an authority on this issue. Examples: or “Sex Workers’ rights-advocate who was in 2002 indicted by the US Attorney General John Ashcroft for Conspiracy to Promote An Act of Prostitution..” If you are on a board or are appointed to a council, and can demonstrate your authority, play it up!

4. **The correct length.**

5. **Keep it Simple.** Boil your argument down to three major points. Use simple, short sentences. Avoid fancy words and jargon, acronyms. Make your paragraphs short—no more than three sentences each.

6. **Power Ending.** Close on a strong note. A short, powerful last paragraph should drive your point home. And get ready to move your opinion piece the moment big news happens.
Organizing a Press Conference

Press conference (news conference, media conference) is called when an organization has something newsworthy to tell to the media, and when more in-depth approach and discussion is needed then it possible to provide by sending out a press release.

Press conference gives reporters a possibility to ask questions, get explanations, quotes, and photo opportunity.

How to do it:

- An invitation to the conference should be sent to reporters and desk editors a week ahead of it, so they can plan people, technical equipment, etc. Closer to the date – a day or two before it – a phone call can be made to remind the reporters on the event.

- You should organize press conference between 9 – 12 noon. Later then that is not good - reporters will not have time to file a story for the next day newspaper issue.

- Ideally, the conference will have several persons participating: the press officer who knows the reporters will open and facilitate it. One or two prominent persons should be present, who will each give a 10-min statement on the issue (project, release, donation, opening, or similar), after which the facilitator will give floor to the reporters to ask questions. All in all, ideally it will be finished in 45 min. After that individual interviews can be given.

- A "press kit" is usually distributed at a conference, containing a press release, backgrounders, report, research results, fact sheets, list of experts, etc. Sometimes even filmed material or photo material is distributed. After the conference you should send the press kit by a messenger to those media outlets that have not had a representative at the conference.

- Reporters like to say that "A press conference should scream for a headline" – meaning there should be breaking news released on them. If a conference is called and there is no such news, journalists will not forget it - there is a chance that next time, even if you have breaking news, nobody will show up at the event. Exactly because of the proliferation of press conferences, media outlets often send beginners to cover them.
• If possible, **media events should be organized instead of press conference**. Yet, if one decides to organize a press conference, there are a number of technical details to be taken care of. Here they are:

**Press Conference Check List**

**Location**
- Accessible by public transportation
- Available parking space
- Exact address, phone and fax number
- Registration desk at the entrance, with a person greeting the reporters
- Translation booth if foreign reporters expected

**Site**
- Are there enough electricity plugs for TV crews?
- Are the fuses strong enough?
- How many people can attend?
- Tables and chairs – number and position
- Platform for camera and photographers behind the reporters
- Check the light, heating
- Is there a photocopy machine available?
- A desk with press kits
- Table for the participants – seating arrangements
- Glasses with water on the participants’ table
- Where do the participants enter from and where do they leave?
- Is there a separate room for individual interviews?
- Where is the toilet?

**Audio-Visuals**
- Dropdown with the organization-action logo above the participants
- Projectors – transparencies, video, LCD
- Computers, laptops, monitors - platform – Windows or other?
- Microphones for participants, and portable microphone for floor questions
- Loudspeakers
- Recording – audio, video, photographer?
Organizing a Media Event

Media events are a useful tool, and are an important part of a successful communication strategy. Except for news conferences or briefings, media events include regional visits, street fairs, open houses, the opening of a new facility, start of an outreach program, or any other event staged to attract media attention and promote a message.

They may be organized around the International Human Rights Day, International Day of Rights of Sex Workers, publication of an important document, submission or approval of a law, or the release of a study.

They generate news coverage and enable you, the organizers, to set and control the agenda. To plan a successful event, view your event from a journalist’s point of view. Decide on a news angle—the aspect that will make the event newsworthy and not just an exercise in self-promotion.

Planning a media event:

- If your event is extensive (an all day, all week, or all month event), it is most effective to establish a planning or coordinating committee involving key decision makers. The committee should be established well in advance of the event, and should develop a strategy to design, implement and monitor the event. The committee is responsible for ensuring that all the financial resources and personnel necessary to stage the event are available;
- Know what you want the event to communicate; know your message and prepare a news release communicating your message;
- Prepare a news advisory in advance of the event explaining the event to the media, and describing what they can and cannot cover;
- Select an easily accessible site which will enable all those interested to attend;
- Time the event to maximize media coverage (late morning hours are often the best for both television and newspapers), and make sure your event does not conflict with another media event;
- Make sure your event is visual and attractive for television; be creative and consider staging your story. A government official might undergo a health examination to communicate the benefits of health reform; your NGO director might take an HIV test to show how easy and fast it is to do it with the new outreach program;
- Make it easy for journalists to cover your event; be accessible to them, provide them with a news release, assist them in obtaining interviews and in selecting a location from which to broadcast. Send your news release to journalists who cannot attend the event; they may just print the release.
• Always remember that good planning is your best insurance of a successful event, and that a well-planned event requires a good deal of work well in advance.

If your event involves the public, and the participation of non-governmental officials:

• **Select your participants or speakers carefully.** Know what they will say; obtain their remarks in advance. When they can support your message with the media, help arrange media interviews for them.

• Encourage public attendance. **Promote your event** to the public most involved in the issue, and encourage their involvement.

• **Consider working with the government.** The Ministry of Health might involve doctors, nurses, patients or clinic personnel.

• **Consider corporate sponsorship** of the event to help defray expenses, perhaps allowing the corporate sponsor to produce souvenirs, such as T-shirts, caps, or key chains which promote the event and the corporation;

• Consider the establishment of **contests** – among journalists for the best coverage of HIV–SW issues, as a method to attract media involvement in the event; government officials or journalists could serve as judges; journalist involvement in the event as a participant almost always ensures media coverage;

• Consider **hiring a well-known personality** or media personality to participate in your event as emcee, moderator, or panelist. This can make your event more attractive for media coverage.
Appendix 1: The Official AIDS Backgrounder of the 2006 International AIDS Conference in Toronto
FACT SHEET: HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is the most devastating disease humankind has ever faced. Since the beginning of the pandemic 25 years ago nearly 65 million people have been infected with HIV and AIDS has killed more than 25 million people. AIDS 2006 aims to link community and science to galvanise the world’s response to this pandemic through increased commitment, leadership and accountability.

HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus, and is the virus that causes AIDS. HIV destroys certain blood cells that are crucial to the normal function of the immune system, which defends the body against illness.

AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. It occurs when the immune system is weakened by HIV to the point where a person develops any number of diseases or cancers.

HIV Detection
HIV infection is most commonly detected through the test of a sample of blood or oral fluid (oral mucosa). If the blood or oral fluid sample contains HIV antibodies – proteins the body produces to fight off the infection – the person is HIV-positive (also referred to as HIV infected or seropositive). Several rapid HIV tests are available, including ones developed for use with oral fluid or plasma specimens. All rapid tests provide results in less than 30 minutes; however, positive results require confirmatory tests.

HIV Transmission
HIV does not survive well outside the body. Therefore, it cannot be transmitted through casual, everyday contact. Mosquitoes and other insects do not transmit HIV.

HIV can be spread through certain sexual behaviours with an infected person, by sharing needles, syringes and/or other injecting equipment and, less commonly (and now very rarely in countries where blood is screened for HIV antibodies), through transfusions of infected blood or blood clotting factors. Babies born to HIV-infected women may become infected before or during birth or through breast-feeding after birth.

Regional HIV/AIDS Statistics and Features, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Adults &amp; children living with HIV/AIDS</th>
<th>Adults &amp; children newly infected with HIV</th>
<th>Adult prevalence (%)</th>
<th>Adult &amp; child deaths due to AIDS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>24.5 million</td>
<td>2.7 million</td>
<td>6.1</td>
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<td>North Africa &amp; Middle East</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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* The proportion of adults (15-49 years of age) living with HIV/AIDS in 2005, using 2005 population numbers
Alarming Trends

- Every six and a half seconds, another person is infected with HIV.
- Every ten seconds, one person dies of AIDS-related illness.²
- There are an estimated 11,200 new HIV infections and nearly 8,000 deaths every day.¹
- Sub-Saharan Africa is the region of the world that has been most severely impacted by HIV (in terms of the percentage of the region’s population that is infected). This is followed by the Caribbean.
  - Only one-tenth of the world’s population lives in sub-Saharan Africa, yet almost 64% of those infected with HIV live in this region.¹
- India and China, the world’s most populous countries, are experiencing rapid growth of HIV in certain subpopulations and geographic areas.
  - More than two-thirds of those infected with HIV from Asia live in India.¹
- There has been a major increase in HIV infection in Eastern Europe and the nations of the former Soviet Union, a region which has among the fastest rates of new infections in the world.
  - The majority of people living with HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe live in the Ukraine or the Russian Federation.¹
- The total number of people living with HIV continues to rise in high-income countries. In the US, for example, HIV prevalence reached its highest level to date in 2005.¹
- Even with a 3% increase in school enrolment, over the past four years, there has continued to remain a gender gap in education. An estimated 113 million school-age children are not currently in school, 54% of which are girls. In high prevalence countries, girls’ enrolment in school has decreased in the past decade. Girls are often taken out of school to care for sick relatives or to look after young siblings.³
- Access to basic prevention services is inadequate. Less than one in five people at risk for HIV infection has access to prevention services.¹
- As of December 2005, an estimated 20% of people living with HIV/AIDS in low- and middle-income countries (1.3 million) received appropriate HIV treatment (including antiretroviral medicines).¹

Opportunistic Infections (OIs) are illnesses caused by organisms that do not usually cause disease in persons with normal immune systems. The most common OIs in people living with HIV/AIDS include⁴,⁵

- Candidiasis (Thrush), a fungal infection that usually affects the mouth, throat, lungs or vagina;
- Cryptosporidiosis (Crypto), a diarrheal disease caused by the protozoal infection;
- Cryptococcal Meningitis, a fungal infection of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord;
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV), a herpes virus that can cause infections in most organs of the body, though HIV-infected people are most susceptible to CMV retinitis (infection of the eye), which can lead to blindness;
- Herpes simplex viruses (HSV), which can cause oral or genital herpes. (These are common infections, but outbreaks for people living with HIV/AIDS can be more frequent and more severe.);
- Mycobacterium avium Complex (MAC or MAI), a bacterial infection that can cause recurring fevers, problems with digestion and serious weight loss;
- Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), now known as Pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonia, is a fungal infection that can cause a fatal pneumonia;
- Toxoplasmosis (Toxo), a protozoal infection that can infect many parts of the body but most commonly causes an infection of the brain; and
- Tuberculosis (TB), a bacterial infection that attacks the lungs and can cause meningitis. TB is the leading cause of death for people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide.

Prevention

Microbicides are substances that can substantially reduce transmission of one or more sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). They work by either destroying the microbes or

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preventing them from establishing an infection. An HIV microbicide would provide a user-controlled method of prevention. Scientists are currently exploring microbicide development as a potential HIV prevention method.

**Condom** use is one of the least expensive, most cost-effective methods for preventing HIV transmission. Consistent, correct use of condoms significantly reduces the risk of transmission of HIV and other STDs.

**Vaccines** to prevent HIV infection or improve the ability of the immune system to defend itself are being tested by researchers. Global investment in HIV vaccine research in 2004 was US$ 682 million, but it is likely that a successful vaccine is still a number of years away. It is estimated at least US $1.2 billion per year is needed to mount an accelerated search for a safe and effective vaccine.

**Mother-to-child transmission** (MTCT) of HIV can be reduced significantly through the use of antiretrovirals by HIV-positive women during pregnancy and delivery, and by their infants following birth. These regimens reduce the risk of MTCT by decreasing viral replication in the mother and through prophylaxis of the infant during and after exposure to the virus.

**Post-exposure prophylaxis** (PEP) involves the short-term use of antiretrovirals to prevent infection in people who have recently been exposed (such as health care workers through needlestick injuries or women who have been raped). PEP significantly reduces the risk of infection, but is not 100% effective.

**Socio-behavioural interventions** are educational programs designed to encourage individuals to change their behaviour to reduce their exposure to HIV and risk for infection. Such efforts include encouraging proper and consistent condom use, a reduction in the number of sexual partners, abstinence and the delaying of sexual initiation among youth.

**Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PREP):** Pre-exposure prophylaxis involves taking antiretrovirals before engaging in behaviour(s) that place one at risk for HIV infection (such as unprotected sex or sharing needles) in order to reduce or prevent the possibility of HIV infection. The effectiveness of PREP as an HIV prevention tool in humans is as yet unproven; large-scale clinical trials are underway in several countries to determine the safety and efficacy of PREP.

**Treatments**

**ARV** stands for antiretroviral and refers to a type of drug that works by interfering with the replication of HIV. The four classes of antiretroviral drugs currently available are:

- Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (NRTIs), which block the replication of HIV by interfering with a protein called Reverse Transcriptase (RT), essential for the reproduction of HIV;
- Non-nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (NNRTIs), which also block RT, but in a slightly different way than NRTIs;
- Protease Inhibitors (PIs), which block the function of a protein called protease, essential for HIV reproduction; and
- Entry Inhibitors, which block HIV from entering target cells. There is currently just one licensed entry inhibitor available – a fusion inhibitor – though other types are currently being tested.

**Combination Therapy** is a course of antiretroviral treatment that involves two or more ARVs in combination.

**HAART** (Highly Active Antiretroviral Treatment) is a modality of antiretroviral treatment that involves the use of three or more ARVs. HAART interferes with the virus’ ability to replicate, which allows the body’s immune system to maintain or recover its ability to produce the white blood cells necessary to respond to opportunistic infections.

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Appendix 2: Sex Workers and Research Ethics
- a leaflet produced by Stella, a Montreal-based support group for sex workers, on the occasion of the 2006 International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada
SEX WORKERS AND RESEARCH ETHICS

SEX WORKERS ARE FREQUENTLY AMONG THE FIRST TO BE TARGETED BY RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRIALS ON NEW HIV-PREVENTION AND TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES OR SERO-PREVALENCE STUDIES. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY ARE OFTEN THE LAST TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION, NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND TREATMENTS WHICH THEY NEED. ONCE THESE ARE DEVELOPED, MANY STUDIES AND TRIALS INVOLVING SEX WORKERS DO NOT CONFORM TO RESEARCH ETHICS AS DEFINED IN THE Helsinki Treaty.

RESEARCH INVOLVING SEX WORKERS MUST ABIDE BY THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE PREVENTION MATERIAL

MANY CURRENT STUDIES INVOLVING SEX WORKERS, WHO ARE DRUG- USERS, REFUSE TO PROVIDE SAFE PREVENTION MATERIALS SUCH AS LUBRICANT, CLEAN SYRINGES AND OTHER DRUG-USE EQUIPMENT (HEE CLEAN PIPES) TO STUDY PARTICIPANTS. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE.

NO EXPOSURE TO UNDUE RISK

IN 2005, THE MONTREAL SITE OF THE EVA/STEP HIV VACCINE CLINICAL TRIALS RECRUITED SEX WORKERS. THEY PLANNED TO DISTRIBUTE CONDOMS WITH NONOXYNOL-9 TO THESE PARTICIPANTS AND TO REQUIRE THEY USE A SPERMICIDE AND A CONDOM DURING SEXUAL INTERCOURSE. A SEX WORKERS GROUP WAS OBLIGED TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS TO PREVENT THESE CONDITIONS FROM BEING APPLIED GIVEN THE HIGHER RISK OF HIV-INFECTION ASSOCIATED WITH NONOXYNOL-9 (ONE OF THE MOST COMMONLY USED SPERMICIDES). THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN MONTREAL, HOWEVER, THIS STUDY IS TAKING PLACE IN MANY OTHER CITIES AND COUNTRIES.

IN CAMBODIA, A PROPOSED CLINICAL TRIAL PLANNED ON REQUIRING THAT SEX WORKERS RECRUITED TO PARTICIPATE ONLY USE CONDOMS OBTAINED AT THE TRIAL SITE. GIVEN THAT CONDOMS WOULD ONLY BE AVAILABLE DURING THE SITE'S OPENING HOURS, THE STUDY COULD AFFECT THE SAFETY OF THE PARTRICIPANTS.

PROVISION OF CLEAR, ACCURATE AND COMPLETE INFORMATION ON THE RESEARCH AND/OR THE PRODUCT BEING DEVELOPED

IN CAMBODIA, SEX WORKERS REPORTED NOT HAVING BEEN INFORMED OF THE SIDE-EFFECTS OF PRODUCTS BEING TESTED. RESEARCHERS MUST PROVIDE CLEAR AND COMPLETE INFORMATION ON THE RISKS AND SIDE-EFFECTS OF PRODUCTS BEING TESTED, ON THE CONCRETE MEASURES PLANNED IN THE EVENT OF A PARTICIPANT BECOMING HIV-POSITIVE DURING THE COURSE OF THE STUDY, AND THE RIGHT TO DROP OUT OF THE STUDY WITHOUT PENALTIES SUCH AS LOSING ACCESS TO MEDICAL TREATMENT AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPANTS.

THE INFORMATION MUST BE AVAILABLE IN A LANGUAGE THAT THE SEX WORKERS RECRUITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY FULLY UNDERSTAND. SPECIAL MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN WHEN RECRUITING POPULATIONS OF SEX WORKERS WHERE THERE ARE LOW LITERACY LEVELS.

PARTICIPATION FREE OF COERCION

IN 2001, A GROUP OF SEX WORKERS IN MALI DENOUNCED TO THE WHO THE RECRUITMENT METHODS OF A TEAM OF RESEARCHERS DOING A SERO-PREVALENCE STUDY WITH SEX WORKERS. THE RESEARCHERS HAD GONE INTO NIGHT TIME PROSTITUTIONS AND INTO SISTERS WHO HAD INTIMIDATED SEX WORKERS INTO PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY.

IT IS ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE TO USE HARASSMENT OR COERCION TO RECRUIT PARTICIPANTS FOR A STUDY.

RESPECTING OBLIGATIONS TO PARTICIPANTS

IN MALI, SEX WORKERS HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY OBTAINING THE RESULTS OF THEIR HIV-TESTS FROM RESEARCHERS AS PROMISED. IN NIGERIA, AN INVESTIGATION BY THE HOSPITAL WHERE A STUDY INVOLVING SEX WORKERS WAS TAKING PLACE REVEALED THAT BREACHES OF CONFIDENTIALITY WERE OCCURRING.

RESPECTING SEX WORKERS' CONFIDENTIALITY IS CRUCIAL GIVEN THE WIDESPREAD STIGMATICIZATION OF THEIR WORK IN MOST CONTEXTS AND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF THEIR WORK IN MANY COUNTRIES.

ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND CARE

IN CONTEXTS WHERE TREATMENT IS NOT FREELY AVAILABLE, SEX WORKERS WHO SERO-CONVERT DURING A STUDY MUST BE GUARANTEED TREATMENT.

IN CONTEXTS WHERE EVEN THE MOST BASIC PROVISION OF TREATMENT OR CARE COULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN INDOUCEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLES OF CERTAIN STUDIES AND TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

ACCESS TO RESEARCH RESULTS AND THE DEVELOPED PRODUCTS

SEX WORKERS COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN RESEARCH SHOULD BE THE FIRST TO HAVE FREE ACCESS TO THE PRODUCTS DEVELOPED AS A RESULT, WHEN THEY JUDGE THESE TO BE APPROPRIATE TO THE PROTECTION OF THEIR HEALTH.

TRUE AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF SEX WORKERS AND OTHER MARGINALIZED GROUPS

SEX WORKERS MUST BE CONSULTED IN EACH LOCALITY WHERE A STUDY INVOLVING THEM IS TAKING PLACE. AT EACH STEP OF THE RESEARCH FROM PLANNING, TO IMPLEMENTATION, TO DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS, THIS PARTICIPATION CAN PREVENT ABUSES AND SUPPORT THE ADVANCEMENT OF ETHICAL RESEARCH.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.CHEFSTELLA.ORG.


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Appendix 3: Sex Workers, Human Rights and a Fight against HIV
- a leaflet produced by Stella, a Montreal-based support group for sex workers, on the occasion of the 2006 International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada
SEX WORKERS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV

STELLA BY AND FOR SEX WORKERS IN MONTREAL

VIOLENCE AND STATE VIOLENCE

In some countries, sex work is punishable by the death penalty. In countries on every continent (Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Argentina, Cambodia and Russia), sex workers are often subjected to physical and sexual assault by law enforcement officers, and police, military and paramilitary offices. Violence on the part of law enforcement constitutes a grave abuse of sex workers' human rights, and is one of the factors that aggravate sex workers' risks for HIV infection. Such violence also creates a hostile environment and poor relations between law enforcement and sex workers, and this prevents sex workers from benefiting from the laws' protection when they suffer under abusive working conditions or when clients, partners or family members commit violent acts against them.

ACCESS TO CONDOMS

In many countries where sex work is criminalized, sex workers may be intimidated from carrying condoms because police may threaten to use them as proof of the "crime" of prostitution (Canada, United States and India). Since sex workers are constantly under threat of arrest, they may be reluctant to keep even a small number of condoms with them. These policies and practices prevent sex workers from protecting their health.

In many areas where HIV has had a strong impact on sex workers, they have little or no access to free or reasonably priced condoms—a situation in some cases made worse by conservative policies (see the information leaflet about the United States' policy on HIV).

DISCRIMINATION IN ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND SERVICES

In many countries, sex workers—particularly those who are in prison or who are drug users or migrants—suffer from discrimination in their access to HIV treatment (Vietnam).

CRIMINALIZATION, PRISON AND FORCED REHABILITATION

In countries where sex work is criminalized, prohibited or repressed (Canada, United States, South Africa, India, Saudi Arabia, Iran, China, Sweden), sex workers need to hide and work in secret to avoid law enforcement. The resulting isolation makes sex workers more vulnerable to violence and poor working conditions. This isolation also impinges upon their access to health and HIV prevention services.

Police raids carried out in places where sex workers ply their trade—bads performed under the pretext of anti-trafficking measures, neighborhood cleanups or morality policing—are often an excuse for police brutality, arrest and imprisonment, with or without court trials. Sex workers are often detained in prisons (Canada and Thailand), rehabilitation camps or centres (Cambodia, Vietnam, Nigeria, Bangladesh and India), or detention centres for migrants (France, the United States and Canada). In many of these places, detainees are reported to suffer high numbers of sexual assaults by staff or other detainees (United States, India, Bangladesh and Canada). These assaults create additional HIV infection risks for sex workers.

In some places, the increased frequency of arrest and imprisonment has created overcrowding in prisons, the deterioration of prison conditions with prisoners sleeping on the floor, and the reduction of accessible health services (Canada). The high infection rates in prisons combined with the scarcity of prevention services make sex workers highly vulnerable to HIV (Canada).

FORCED TESTING, BREACHES OF CONFIDENTIALITY, AND IMPRISONMENT FOR "TREATMENT"

In many countries, sex workers are required to undergo HIV testing (migrant sex workers deported back to Nigeria or Burundi and local sex workers in Mexico). Confidentiality is rarely respected during these tests, and the results are sometimes made public (Nigeria). In certain countries, sex workers who are found to be HIV-positive when they are arrested face heavy prison sentences, even if they have always practiced safer sex (United States). In Uzbekistan, sex workers with STI are imprisoned in a "hospital" until their treatment is complete, and they must pay the costs of their treatment and food themselves.

LACK OF RESPECT FOR WORKERS’ RIGHTS

In the countries where sex work is considered to be a morality issue or a form of violence in and of itself, sex workers are not given the right to the same social benefits as other workers, and have no recourse when they wish to defend their rights to workplace health and safety and to just and favourable working conditions—even though good working conditions save lives. In countries where sex workers have access to good working conditions, the infection rates among sex workers are no higher than in the general population.

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Appendix 4: Sex Workers and Trafficking
- a leaflet produced by Stella, a Montreal-based support group for sex workers, on the occasion of the 2006 International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada
SEX WORKERS AND TRAFFICKING

STELLA, BY AND FOR SEX WORKERS IN MONTREAL
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TRAFFICKING OCCURS INTO EVERY INDUSTRY AND THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR MIGRANTS', LABOUR, AND HUMAN-RIGHTS BASED INITIATIVES TO FIGHT IT. UNFORTUNATELY, A GREAT MANY ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS FOCUS ON ANTI-SEX WORK AND ANTI-MIGRATION POLICIES.

SEX WORKER GROUPS AROUND THE WORLD NOT ONLY STRONGLY CONdemN COERCION, FORCED LABOUR OR DEBT BONDAGE IN THE SEX TRADE BUT ARE AMONG THE LEADERS IN FIGHTING AGAINST IT. FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH ITS 27 SELF-REGULATORY BOARDS IN THE RED LIGHT DISTRICTS OF KOLKATA, THE SONAGACHI SEX WORKERS PROJECT HAS ASSISTED HUNDREDS OF WOMEN AND TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS FORCED INTO SEX WORK AGAINST THEIR WILL TO ESCAPE.

Unfortunately, important initiatives like these are hindered by attacks on sex workers and sex worker groups. There are actions that aren’t sex workers and sex worker groups. You can cooperate with the anti-sex work and anti-trafficking policies. For example, the THAI government and the American Evangelical Group are supporting the US government and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Work to instigate U.S. raids of brothels in Thailand. These raids, often called “rescues and repatriations,” take place where there are sex workers who work there. They are sex trafficked, so sex worker groups in Asia have documented many of the gross human rights violations that take place in these “rescues”. Following one such raid facilitated by U.S. in Thailand in 2012, sex workers, some of whom had been trafficked at one time, writes in a report by Thai sex worker group, Emanuella.

“Anti-trafficking dialogue and groups have yet to consider us as anti-trafficking workers and human rights defenders. Even though the numbers of women and children we assist far outweigh the handful of women and children reported by the recognized anti-trafficking groups, instead we are ourselves caught up in the “rescues and repatriations.”

MIGRANTS’ RIGHTS

Strict border control and discriminatory immigration laws effectively prohibit the independent movement of migrant women, especially young single women from developing nations. Few options to migrate legally internationally, and in some cases internationally (china). Many migrants are forced to work in informal labour sectors with no occupational health and safety protections. There are very few places where one can migrate legally to work in the sex trade and many countries forbid women who have records for sex work from entering Japan, United States, meaning that those wishing to migrate to work in the sex trade must do so illegally, increasing their vulnerability to human rights abuses.

According to an anti-slavery international report, the majority of slavery-like abuses against sex workers happen to women who were already working or knew they were going to work in the sex sector. However, they are offered few or no protections under the law and are treated as illegal migrants and/or criminals. Unfortunately, women, men and transgendered people who are coerced into the sex trade are also often punished by the state even when they are not, the emphasis on punishing the trafficker or people facilitating illegal migration often outweighs any concern for the human rights protection, the right to stay in a country, and the right to work of trafficked people.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE NAME OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING POLICIES

Unfortunately, there is increasing support for anti-trafficking campaigns that conflate sex work and trafficking and that use means contrary to a human rights framework. These have included curtailing women’s freedom of movement (india), repressing migrant and non-migrant sex workers through brothel raids (india, bangladesh, cambodia and prison/migrant camping areas). Human rights groups have documented many of the gross human rights violations that take place in these “rescues”. Following one such raid facilitated by the U.S. in Thailand in 2012, sex workers, some of whom had been trafficked at one time, writes in a report by Thai sex worker group. Emanuella.

“Traffickers and many anti-trafficking groups employ very similar methods to achieve their goals. Both groups deceive women, transport them against their will, detain them, and put them in dangerous situations.

BLOCKING LIFESAVING HIV-PREVENTION WORK IN THE NAME OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING

Because of their belief that all sex work is trafficking, and that all sex workers must be forcibly removed from sex work and rehabilitated, influential anti-prostitution activists and their allies within conservative governments, notably the bush administration, have led an ongoing attack on condom distribution and health services to sex workers under the guise of “anti-trafficking.”

In so doing, they attack life-saving work done by HIV-prevention advocates and sex workers’ rights advocates, such as the UNAIDS best-practice sonagachi project. Not only is this a huge assault on sex workers’ human right to access the means of protecting their health, it also further endangers those who are in dangerous situations who rely on the non-stigmatizing human rights work of groups like sonagachi to better their situation.

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