

# Sex Talk

July 2016 – 21<sup>st</sup> International AIDS Conference

Issue 01



Welcome to the first edition of the **"Sex Talk"** a daily newsletter that will be produced during the 21st International AIDS Conference. The newsletter will focus on sex work(ers) related news and events happening at the conference and will feature articles written mainly by sex workers from all over the world attending the AIDS 2016 conference.

For more news & highlights on the #AIDS2016 conference, follow us:



@SweatTweets



Sex Workers Education & Advocacy Taskforce

## **Sex workers still excluded – 21st International AIDS Conference 2016**

On Thursday the 14th of July Sisonke Sex Worker Movement's National Assistant Coordinator Pamela Chakvinga arrived in Durban to assist sex workers nominated to work as volunteers at the AIDS2016 conference. We had organised 12 sex workers to work at the conference as volunteers and also to participate in activities during the conference.

Two of our delegates were told that they may not gain access to the conference because the accreditation process revealed that they had previous criminal records (one for prostitution, the other on a drug related charge).

Chakvinga fought on their behalf against this exclusion. "The process was humiliating and was a clear example of how the continued criminalisation of sex work is an example of a kind of bizarre double-speak."

After the disagreement, the matter was sent to the AIDS Conference Volunteer organiser who met with Chakvinga and gave a vague explanation of their security procedures. One of the sex workers in questions, her case dates back to 2003.

The AIDS conference in acknowledging that sex workers are on the frontline in the battle against HIV has many sessions allocated to the issue of sex work. Sex workers are acknowledged globally as a 'key affected population' in HIV prevention, treatment and care. Yet sex workers are criminalised and prevented from accessing the conference!

The continued criminalisation of sex work makes no sense, it ensures that no matter what grand projects and interventions we design and present to each other – it will still be behind closed doors will still be closed with sex workers left on the outside.

***"THE PROCESS WAS HUMILIATING AND WAS A CLEAR EXAMPLE OF HOW THE CONTINUED CRIMINALISATION OF SEX WORK IS AN EXAMPLE OF A KIND OF BIZARRE DOUBLE-SPEAK."***

## VISIT DAILY



Sex Workers  
Networking  
Zone

Booth: 619



SWEAT  
Exhibition  
Space

Booth: 323



Stop AIDS Now!  
Networking Zone

Booth: 602

## Global Village Opening Night



### Sex workers pre-conference meeting

The Africa Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA) and the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) are delighted to have workers from around the world who will be attending the International AIDS Conference #AIDS2016 in Durban, South Africa from 18-22 July 2016.

ASWA, and NSWP welcomes them to our pre-meeting that will provide us an opportunity to meet one another, review the conference programme, and identify advocacy strategies during #AIDS2016.

Additionally, we invite sex workers, and other conference participants to the Sex Worker Networking Zone in the Global Village, where we are creating space for sex worker organisations from across the world to present their work, and create a safe space for sex workers attending #AIDS2016.

Viva Sex Work Viva!

**"NOTHING ABOUT US  
WITHOUT US"**





Sisonke, National Movement of Sex Workers joined an estimated 7000 people who attended the Keep the Promise March that was organised by AIDS Health Care Foundation. The march which its message was a call-to-action advocacy campaign to governments and international funding bodies to increase Aids funding and their commitment to end the epidemic.

More that a 100 memebers joined in on the call because they believe sex workers are the frontline in the battle against HIV.



# DRINK EAT AND BE MARRIED!

Together we commit to the end of AIDS in a world where all people affected by HIV and STIs access prevention, treatment, care and support and live happily ever after.

Raise your glass with us at our reception, or reinforce your commitment to the end of AIDS in our wedding chapel.

When: Monday 18 July, 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm  
Where: Global Village Booth 602, AIDS 2016

RSVP, You in?  CAN'T WAIT  CAN'T MAKE IT

Please RSVP by Sunday July 3rd.

With love,  
Louise van Oort

Executive Director Aids Fonds-STOP AIDS NOW!-50e Aids Nederland



## Mechanisms of Policy Change and their Impact

Attending the UNDP Key Populations Expert Group 4th Regional meeting where a beautiful tool has been released for the realisation of policy change in the health rights accessibility for key populations and suddenly I get flustered thoughts around implementation.

For years in the sex work movement there have been numerous model frameworks for policy change, frameworks on how to use the mechanisms put in place Globally, Regionally, Nationally and Locally. Recently the biggest of these was the Amnesty International "Policy on State Obligations to Respect, Protect And Fulfil The Human Rights Of Sex Workers", a policy that is meant to ensure that police, policy makers, judges, and courts uphold the human rights of sex workers. However I have not seen much impact that is documented on these models, mechanisms and frameworks, particularly in a criminalised system of sex work.

Sex workers are still being killed, raped, assaulted, stigmatised, discriminated upon, have no access to legal redress and often health facilities (that will not discriminate based on their choice of work) and medical treatment.

Where do they go? Who uses them? Do governments and law makers take them into considerations when developing policy? Do we have a big black board where we tick to show completion in order to ease minds by deceiving ourselves that it is enough? As sex workers are we taking enough initiative to hold government accountable to their obligations? Or do we wait upon other bodies and organisations to voice our needs?

Maybe it's time sex workers moved more in the frontline and take ownership of these opportunities, *"Nothing about us without us" stop saying it and start doing it.*

### Sex work(ers) related sessions schedule

## Monday, 18 July 2016

Title	Organisers	Venue	Time
It Takes One to Know One: Sex Workers Pave the Way for PrEP in Kenya		Global Village Session Room 2	08:30-10:00
Repairing HIV Service Cascades That Leak: Key Population Communities Taking the Lead	FHI 360/LINKAGES, USAID, MSMGF, NSWP, INPUD, IRGT, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO	Session Room 7	10:15-12:15
Linking Community-Level Interventions with Health Care Delivery Systems		Global Village Session Room 1	12:00-13:30
March for Quality Treatment for All	Treatment Action Campaign	King DiniZulu Park	12.00-15.00
HIV in Conservative Social Settings: Promoting A Rights Based Approach To HIV	Global Institute for Health and Human Rights (GIHHR) International AIDS Society (IAS) OPEC Fund For International Development (OFID)	Session Room 5	12:30-14:30
Reaching Treatment for All: Developing a package of differentiated care	Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation	Session Room 8	12:30-14:30
South Africa's National Sex Worker HIV Plan: Are you coming?	South African National AIDS Council	Session Room 11	14:45-16:45
Optimal Treatment is Not a Dream!	International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC)	Session Room 10	14:45-16:45
Meet the NGO Delegation to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board		Global Village Session Room 1	15:30-17:00
From General Population to Key Populations: South Africa's Global Fund Grant Moves with the Times	South African National AIDS Council	Session Room 11	17:00-19:00
Opening Session	International AIDS Conference	Session Room 1	19:30-21:00