

18th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm

Sex worker health and rights advocates welcome your attendance at the following events:

Sunday, 13th – Thursday 17th May 2007

Please come to the **Sex Worker Health and Rights Booth -- Number 14 -- in the Exhibition Area**. Resources from sex worker health and rights groups from around the world will be available. Sex worker rights advocates will be staffing the booth and look forward to discussions with other conference delegates.

Monday, 14th May 2007

18:00-20:00 Sex Work and Harm Reduction Meeting Amber Room

This gathering is a unique opportunity for those working on sex worker health and rights issues to link with others to share ideas, resources, concerns, and recent developments.

Tuesday, 15th May 2007

18:00-20:30 Sex Worker Rights Advocates/Allies Networking Reception Gromada Hotel Bar

Come to the Gromada Hotel Bar to meet others interested in sex worker health and rights, as well as local sex worker rights advocates from Poland. Food and drinks will be provided.

Wednesday, 16th May 2007

13:02 Film - "Taking the Pledge" Film Festival Lounge/Zircon

This film highlights the impact of the U.S. Government's anti-prostitution pledge on organizations working with sex workers to address HIV/AIDS prevention efforts around the world.

Conference Sessions with Sex Worker Health and Rights Advocates and Allies

Monday, 14th May 2007

15:30–16:00 "Women Who Use Drugs: A Roundtable Discussion ONYX CONCURRENT | C1-1

**Chair: Robyn Few*

Peter Higgs / Gender, culture and harm: Insights from ethnic Vietnamese female heroin users in Melbourne

Melissa K. Whitworth / Are we aiming for high quality care for pregnant women with a substance misuse problem?

Michelle Farley / Bridging the Gap

Salina Abigail / Issues Facing Female Addicts in YAKITA Recovery Center, Bogor, Indonesia

Tuesday, 15th May 2007

11:00-12:30 “Harm Reduction For & By Sex Workers: Programme Successes & Challenges” EMERALD M9

*Chair: Rachel Wotton

*Erika Smith/ HR in the context of criminalisation: Risks faced by LGBT sex workers in the “prostitution free zones” in DC

*Linda Cusick / Defining sex work as work for human rights and harm reduction

*Khartini Slamah / Involving female, male and transgender sex workers in IDU programmes

*Penelope Saunders/ Harm reduction, human rights and sex work: Histories, challenges, limitations and future directions

12:00-1:30 “Sex Work, Drug Use & BBVs: Global Research” Emerald C3-6

Chair: Amanda Roxburgh

*Presenters: Volodymyr Kurpita,/Increased prevalence of hepatitis B/C and HIV in sex workers who inject drugs in Ukraine

*Ren Yanlan / Drug use, sexual behaviours and practices among female sex workers in Yunnan Province, China

*Vicki Bright/The prevalence of stigma and discrimination among HIV positive and negative women engaged in survival sex work

Wednesday, 16th May 2007

09:00–10:30 “Empowering Communities” Plenary/ ONYX P4

Come hear Rachel Wotton of the Scarlet Alliance, an Australian organization dedicated to sex worker empowerment, speak about the application of harm reduction to sex worker health and rights efforts. Rachel's presentation incorporates perspectives from sex worker organizations from many parts of the world. She speaks as the representative of a working group dedicated to providing education about sex worker rights issues at the International Harm Reduction Conference.

Chair: Sue Currie

*Rachel Wotton/ Harm reduction frameworks in sex worker peer education

Gregg Gonsalves/ The history of collaboration between drug users, PLWHAs, gay men and women around HIV/AIDS

Milena Naydenova / Recent developments in user organising around the world and where we go from here

Discussant: Dirce Blochinger

11:00-12:30 “Coming of Age: Youth Living, Working & Shaping the Next Generation of Harm Reduction”

Chair: Diane Widdus

UNICEF

ONYX M7

Caitlin Padget / Youth engagement in harm reduction

Vikram Laishram / Unique project in manipur: Injecting & illicit drug user's league

*Iulia-Veronica Broasca / Harm reduction activities among sex workers/IDUs in Romania: Towards a better access to prevention, care and treatment

Cosmas Mutinda / Youth satellite: Report back

Joya Banerjee / Discussant:

Lunch Session

“The Science Behind the Services”

RUBY CONCURRENT | C6-7

Chair: Przemyslaw Biefkowski

Charlotte Nyala, Elizabeth Tompkins/ Barriers to the effective treatment of injecting drug users (UK)

*Mark William Tyndall/ The use of rapid HIV testing among sex workers in Vancouver, Canada

Julie Bruneau /Assessing the relationship between distance and patterns of utilisation of sterile syringe supply programs and HIV-related injection behaviors among adult injection drug users

Maria Patrizia Carrieri /The role of methadone and buprenorphine in sustaining adherence to antiretroviral treatments: A 5-year assessment from the MANIF 2000 cohort study

14:00–15:30 “Considering Harm Reduction, Health Policy & Sex Workers Rights” CRYSTAL LR | C5-LIV

*Host: Penelope Saunders

*Katrin Schiffer / Harm reduction within sex work settings

*Robyn Few/ Reducing Harms for sex workers through empowerment and law reform

Amy Salmon/ Nothing about us without us: Supporting leadership and activism of women drug users through community – based health research

Key Messages from Sex Worker Health and Rights Advocates

Allies are requested to integrate these messages into their presentations and discussions:

- 1) Human rights for sex workers:** Recognizing and ensuring the protection of sex workers’ human rights is essential to promoting health and safety. By ensuring that sex workers have full enjoyment of their human rights, the discrimination and abuse that sex workers are often subject to can be reduced or eliminated and access to health and social services can be improved.
- 2) Sex workers are part of the solution:** Sex worker leadership and empowerment are essential in fighting HIV and discrimination. Sex workers are their own best resource—they should be at the forefront of developing and implementing the programs and policies that impact their lives. It is only by empowering sex workers to speak for themselves and developing sex worker leadership that stigma and rights violations will be stopped.
- 3) Sex work is work, not “harm”:** Sex work (itself) is not inherently harmful. The reasons why people engage in sex work vary widely, as do the reasons why people have a variety of other jobs. Many sex worker health and rights organizations use a harm reduction framework when they address the needs of sex workers who use drugs. Other sex worker health and rights organizations have a less comfortable relationship with harm reduction because “harm” is sometimes defined as sex work or sex workers (themselves). For sex worker rights advocates, the “harm” associated with sex work results from repressive environments in which sex work is not recognized as work and sex workers lack basic human rights and access to appropriate health services.
- 4) Workers’ rights for sex workers:** Sex work should be recognized as work in order to ensure safe and appropriate working conditions. The lack of workers’ rights leaves sex workers vulnerable to abuse and poor working conditions.