



Dear Colleagues,

January 1, 2012

The World Health Organization and the Gender and Sexual Health Initiative (GSHI) of the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS/ University of British Columbia are working to perform a review of violence against sex workers and links to HIV infection. As part of this review, we are documenting best practices in interventions aimed at reducing violence and HIV in the sex industry.

We are currently collecting and synthesizing evidence on the successes and challenges of interventions aimed at reducing violence against sex workers, including female, male and transgender sex workers, in any and all regions globally. In addition to peer review literature, we would like to include grey literature (policy reports, reports by community organizations) that document interventions aimed at reducing violence against sex workers. These efforts are being conducted in partnership with the Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP), UNAIDS, UNFPA and WHO. Interventions may be individual or structural, such as policy initiatives (e.g. decriminalization efforts), programs targeting police, development of occupational health and safety standards, and sex work collectivization efforts.

If you or your organization has produced a report that describes interventions, policies or programs to reduce violence against sex workers, including links to HIV prevention, please forward to us at: gshi@cfenet.ubc.ca. All contributions, reports and documents will clearly be cited in the final report. Reports in all languages are welcomed.

The results of our review will be shared with colleagues in a consultation being held by WHO and NSWP in early 2012. The report will also contribute to the development of best practices and guidelines by WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, and NSWP. Given that some of the best interventions as well as challenges are likely not documented in peer review literature, we hope you will share with us any lessons learned and reports you have to ensure these are represented in best practices.

Many thanks.

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