

HUMAN RIGHTS FACING HIV/AIDS, OUR RIGHTS

Demands of Sex Workers Women of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sex Work and HIV/AIDS

Sex workers women, we are not a vulnerable group facing HIV/AIDS. they make us vulnerable...

With the repressive policies that criminalize us, put us in a weak position to negotiate the use of condom

with sanitary control policies that violate the most basic right of confidentiality on the results of the tests,

with researches that put us in the place of study objects, instead of recognizing us as subjects of rights,

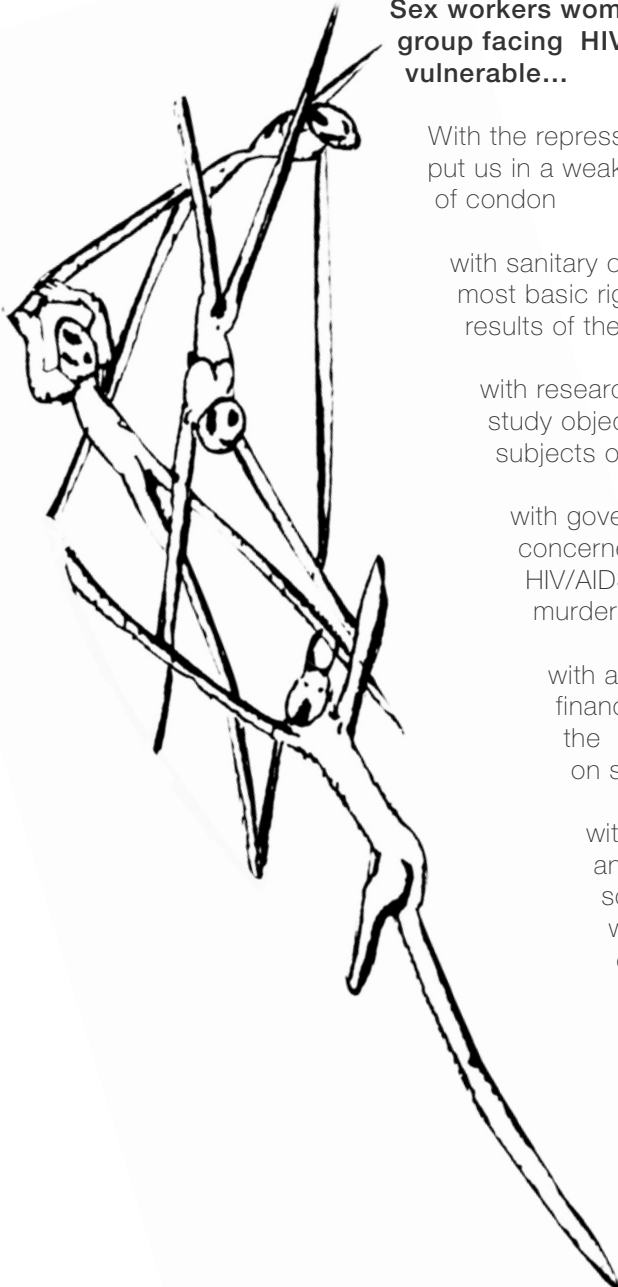
with governments that are more concerned about the prevalence on HIV/AIDS in sex work than by the murders and violence against women,

with a ferocious competition for finding financial support that will not return to the population or have a real impact on sex workers women,

with messages that stigmatize us and isolate us from the rest of the society and lower our self-esteem when associating us to the idea of "infection focus".

Sex workers women, we are not the problem, but we can be part of the solution.

REDTRASEX
UNGASS, /
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We, the members of the Latin America and the Caribbean Network of Sex Workers Women, with representation in 14 countries of the region, participated in the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations on HIV/AIDS in New York to show international organisms and governments of the World the reality of sex workers women living in our countries.

The vindications that we demand in this document are product of the round of National Consultations on Sex Work and HIV/AIDS that we made in all the countries of the area to identify for governments the situation of sex workers women in human rights, violence and access to health. To make this round was a commitment assumed by the governments in ***their regional Consulting "Sex Work and HIV/AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean"*** that was made in Lima, Peru, from the 26 to the 28 of February of 2007.

The Introduction of UNGASS says: *"We must remember that although HIV/AIDS affects rich and poor people, poor people are much more vulnerable to the infection and less able to face the disease once they are infected"*. 80% of the sex workers women in the region we are women below the line of poverty, but we say that we are not vulnerable, they made us vulnerable when not recognizing or respecting our rights.

For that reason, our demands are:

Right to a life without institutional violence

- Derogation of all the norms that criminalize sex workers women and offer legal shelter to the violence.
- To stop violence situations against sex workers women and death of sex workers women.
- Not to the impunity of the crimes. From the organizations we commit ourselves to denounce and to make documents about each assassinated sex worker woman. To governments we demand the clarification of the crimes and the judgements.
- Qualification to the police, agents of security and night watchmen in subjects of human rights, discrimination and nonpunitive legislations.

Right to the integral attention of health

- Elimination of the demand of the sanitary card for practising sex work, because it violates the constitutional right of the confidentiality of the HIV test
- Voluntary, free and confidential detection test, with counselling pre and post test, as international protocols indicate.
- Universal access to prevention, diagnosis, quality treatments and attention on HIV/AIDS.

Access to health care of travelers and migrants sex workers women, particularly in the border zones.

- Friendly services of integral health: opportune, humanized, of quality and pertinent.
- Promotion of the use of the preservative with population in general and with clients in particular.

Right to a life without fundamentalisms

- Defense of Lay (Secular) States to prevent HIV with the only prevention method really useful and universal: the use of preservative
- Messages that help to reduce stigma and discrimination against sex workers women

Right to a life without gender inequality

- To promote the equality between genders is a central part of policies on HIV/AIDS, because the lack of autonomy of women is the main cause of which AIDS is more young, poor and with the face of a woman.

Right to organize ourselves from our own identity

- Legal recognition from Governments to base organizations of sex workers women, recognizing the contribution we make to the community
- Financial support from organisms to our organizations for direct actions on HIV prevention and for organizacional fortification, since it was proven that the most effective form to approach HIV among sex workers women with an integral look is from solid base organizations.



In order to close we mean:

We need an answer to the epidemic that understands "care" as something more than sexuality and the use of the preservative. It is not a subject of personal responsibility of each sex worker woman, it is a collective responsibility and an State's policies responsibility. In order to advance in an answer on HIV/AIDS we demand a basic thing: the recognition of the sex workers women as subjects of rights. The human rights, are also the rights of the sex workers women.

Red de Trabajadoras Sexuales de Latinoamérica y el Caribe



RedTraSex

Secretaría Ejecutiva

RedTraSex / Base en Argentina

Piedras 1067, C1070AAU, Ciudad Autónoma
de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel: +54 (11) 4307-8100 / 4342-0574.

Correo electrónico: presidencia@redtralsex.org.ar.

www.redtralsex.org.ar