



Support Sex Workers' Health & Human Rights



Make healthcare services accessible, non-coercive and responsive

Why?

Health is not only the absence of illness; it is wellbeing. Sex workers need accessible and non-judgemental healthcare that fulfils their right to overall health and supports their agency and choice.

How?

Ensure access to non-coercive and non-discriminatory sexual and reproductive health services, psychological and psychosocial support, specialist health services, and access to justice and social protection.



Build trust and partnerships

Why?

Sex workers and sex worker-led organisations are best positioned to address sex workers' needs. Services and their delivery should be rooted in sex workers' needs and treat sex workers as experts on their own lives.

How?

Ongoing sex worker-led training should be offered to providers regarding sex workers' experiences and needs. Medical education should include health inequities and best practices for addressing sex workers' needs.



Prioritise community empowerment and mobilisation

Why?

Implementing sex worker community empowerment and mobilisation within service delivery will advance rights-aiming and evidence-based interventions.

How?

Sex workers and sex worker-led organisations should inform approaches and be supported to design and deliver services that address their needs. These include advocating for full decriminalisation, non-coercive occupational health and safety, addressing violence, access to justice, and anti-stigma and discrimination efforts.



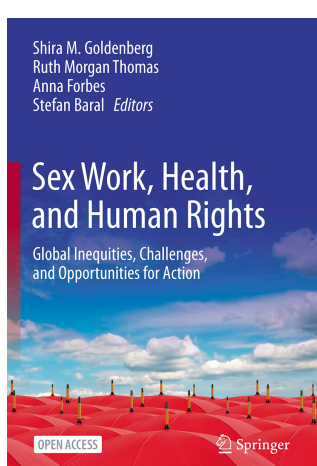
Support collaboration

Why?

Partnerships and collaborations with sex worker-led organisations are shown to result in more inclusive and relevant health and social services for sex workers. This is linked to better health and human rights outcomes for sex workers.

How?

Services should be designed in collaboration with sex workers and sex worker-led organisations. Collaborating with community-led organisations that work with other marginalised and criminalised groups disproportionately represented within sex work is also extremely important.



Sex Work, Health, and Human Rights: Global Inequities, Challenges and Opportunities for Action is the first global textbook co-written by sex workers, sex worker-led organisations and academics about sex work. Drawing upon community case studies and data from around the world, the book highlights the sustained health and social inequities that sex workers in all of their diversity experienced in 2020.





Support Sex Workers' Health & Human Rights



Join the call to decriminalise all aspects of sex work

Why?

When any aspects of sex work is criminalized, sex workers face stigma and discrimination, find it harder to access health services, face abuse and violence, including from law enforcement officers, and become less likely to report crime to the police, and are less able to safely negotiate with clients.

How?

Call to remove all laws, policies and practices that criminalise sex work or are used to punish sex workers so that sex workers can access health services, be able to report crime to police and become meaningfully involved in the development of health and social services for them.



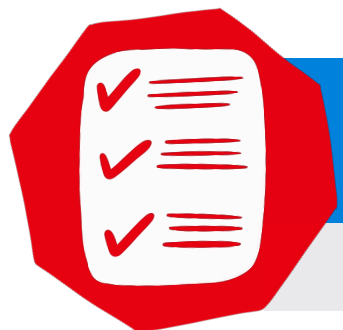
Prioritise collaboration

Why?

Partnerships and collaborations with sex worker-led organisations are shown to result in more inclusive and relevant health and social services for sex workers. This is linked to better health and human rights outcomes for sex workers.

How?

Research processes should be designed in meaningful collaboration with sex workers. Collaborating with community-led organisations that work for other marginalised and criminalised groups disproportionately represented within sex work is also extremely important.



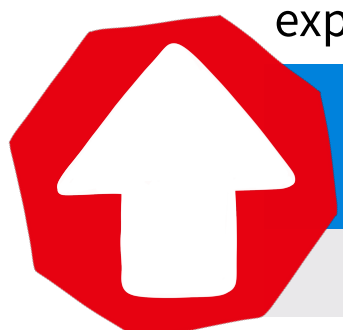
Support sex worker-led resilience and evidence-based approaches

Why?

Sex workers show resilience, adaptability and resistance in their work, lives and advocacy efforts. Programmes, policy and research need to work with and build on the knowledge and expertise of sex worker-led organisations.

How?

Research focused on health and social inequities sex workers face needs to consider sex workers as agents and experts in their own lives.



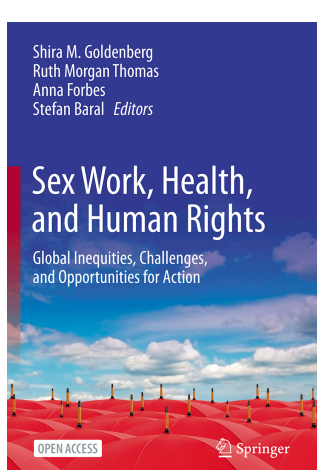
Strengthen sex worker-led organisations' involvement capacity

Why?

Sex worker-led organisations' engagement in research is essential for community empowerment and mobilisation efforts, yet are seriously under-resourced.

How?

Allocate funding for integrated knowledge translation efforts. Many sex worker-led organisations are already engaging in these efforts and simply lack the funding to support them.



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Recognise sex work as work

Why?

Not recognising sex work as work prevents sex workers from accessing occupational health and safety protections, anti-discrimination and social protection schemes.

How?

Governments should decriminalise sex work and extend all labour rights and legal protections to sex workers. Sex workers must have the ability to access protection of employment legislation without any legal and policy barriers.



End crackdowns, surveillance and harassment

Why?

Crackdowns, surveillance and harassment that target sex workers, third parties and clients seriously undermine sex workers' health and violate their rights.

How?

Decriminalisation, "non-harassment" and "access without fear" policies are needed to end police and immigration crackdowns, public health surveillance, arrests and prosecutions.



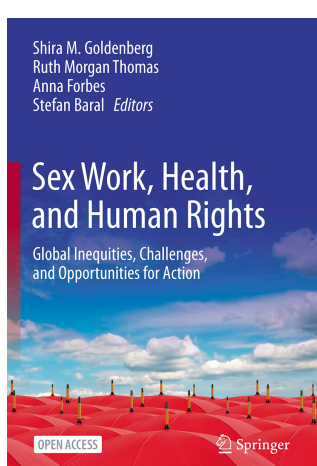
Ensure access regardless of mobility/migration status

Why?

Migrant and mobile sex workers often face barriers when accessing health care, social services and other supports. Many services depend on local registration and/or immigration status. There are also other reasons migrant sex workers can't easily access services.

How?

Services must be made accessible and safe for all sex workers, regardless of immigration status or place of origin. Laws and policies that restrict the rights and access to services for migrant and mobile sex workers must be removed. Culturally appropriate services are also needed.



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