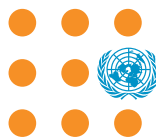


# SEX WORK AND THE LAW IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



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The information contained in this report is drawn from multiple sources including consultation responses, an extensive literature review and expert inputs. While every effort has been taken to ensure accuracy at the time of publication, errors or omissions may have occurred. Laws, policies and law enforcement practices are constantly changing. It is hoped that the report will provide a baseline of information, to inform more detailed efforts at country level to build an accurate and complete evidence base to inform efforts to address the health and human rights of sex workers.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including UNDP, or UN Member States.

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

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ISBN: 978-974-680-343-4

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Design: Ian Mungall/UNDP. Photos: UN Photo (p. 114), Getty images (p. 172), Reuters (p. x, 8, 20, 32, 40, 90).

Cover photo: Sex workers, wearing traditional costumes, attend a protest against the police crackdown on brothels in Chuncheon, about 100 km (62 miles) northeast of Seoul May 31, 2011. Reuters/Lee Jae Won.

# SEX WORK AND THE LAW IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Laws, HIV and human rights in the context of sex work

John Godwin  
October 2012

UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre and UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office,  
in partnership with UNAIDS, Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW) and:

Shishuder Jonno Amra and Tree Foundation, Bangladesh; Women's Network for Unity (WNU), Cambodia; China Sex Worker Organization Network Forum, China; Survival Advocacy Network, Fiji; Durbar Mahila Samanwya Committee (DMSC), India; Indonesian Social Changes Organization (OPSI), Indonesia; Asia-Pacific Transgender Network (APTNet) Malaysia; Population Services International Targeted Outreach Program (PSI/TOP), Myanmar; Blue Diamond Society (BDS) and Jagriti Mahila Maha Sangh (JMMS), Nepal; Friends Frangipani PNG; Empower and SWING, Thailand.



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The development of *Sex Work and the Law in Asia and the Pacific – Laws, HIV and human rights in the context of sex work* was the result of a thorough collaborative and consultative process. Contributions were made by many stakeholders including technical experts, community sex worker organizations and individuals, and UN agencies.

With many thanks and our gratitude we acknowledge the valuable insights and contributions of John Godwin, the author of the report.

Special thanks go also to Marta Vallejo Mestres, UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre and Julia Cabassi, UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office who coordinated and managed the development of this report from its conception to its publication.

Thanks are due to the UNDP HIV Practice Team especially to Clifton Cortez, Edmund Settle, Ferdinand Strobel, Ema Naito, Ian Mungall, Jennifer Branscombe, Pranee Threerkul, and Sangita Singh; to Cherie Hart from UNDP APRC; to Supaporn Chatwanichkul from UNFPA APRO; to Andrew Hunter and Nadia Van der Linde from APNSW; and to Brianna Harrison, Beth Magne Watts and Smriti Aryal, from UNAIDS RST.

We thank the numerous contributors to this report from across the region. We would particularly like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of contributors who took the time to provide feedback on their country and sub-regional chapters. These include: Shishuder Jonno Amra and Tree Foundation, Bangladesh; Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, India; UNDP, UNFPA and UNAIDS in the Maldives; Blue Diamond Society (BDS), Jagriti Mahila Maha Sangh (JMMS), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Forum for Women Law and Development (FWLD), UNDP, and UNAIDS from Nepal; UNFPA, UNAIDS, OHCHR, UNDP, the National AIDS programme and several experts from Sri Lanka; the China Sex Worker Organization Network Forum, Yunnan Daytop Legal Center, and UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS offices in China; UNAIDS, provincial and district governors, health department officials, Provincial AIDS Committee members, NGO staff, lawyers, researchers, Women's Network Unity, and entertainment workers from Cambodia; OPSI and the Community Legal Aid Institute (LBHM) from Indonesia; Asia-Pacific Transgender Network (APTAN) and LAC/PT/MAC Legal Clinic, Malaysia; UNAIDS, UNDP and UNFPA offices and several sex workers in the Philippines; UNFPA, SWING and EMPOWER from Thailand; UNAIDS, UNODC and UNFPA offices in Viet Nam; Papua New Guinea Development Law Association (PNGDLA), the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Friends Frangipani, UNDP, UNAIDS and UNFPA offices in PNG; Survival Advocacy Network in Fiji and UNDP Regional Centre in the Pacific.

# ACRONYMS AND KEY TERMS

Term	Definition	Country
100% CUP	100 Percent Condom Use Programme	
<i>adhiya</i>	Sex worker who pays the madam a percent of income in exchange for accommodation and food	India
ACHIEVE	Action for Health Initiatives	Philippines
ACLAB	Alliance for Cooperation and Legal Aid	Bangladesh
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	
<i>ainen matawa</i>	Women and girls who board foreign fishing vessels to sell sex to seafarers	Kiribati
APNSW	Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers	
ART	Antiretroviral therapy	
ARV	Antiretroviral drugs	
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations	
ASEP	AIDS Surveillance and Education Project	Philippines
BABSEA CLE	Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education Initiative	
<i>badis</i>	A sub-caste of people who traditionally worked as entertainers. Most <i>badi</i> women now rely on sex work for income.	Nepal
<i>bāopó</i>	Temporary mistress or 'second wife'	China
<i>barangay</i>	A <i>barangay</i> is the smallest administrative unit in the Philippines, equivalent to a village, district or ward	Philippines
<i>bariwalis</i>	The <i>bariwali</i> are owners of premises that are rented to the brothel managers (sardarnis)	Bangladesh
BDS	Blue Diamond Society	
<i>bhatta</i>	Protection money	Pakistan
BICMA	Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority	Bhutan
CACHA	Cambodian Alliance for Combating HIV/AIDS	Cambodia
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women	
<i>chukri</i>	Bonded sex worker	Nepal
CNMWD	Cambodian Men Women Development Agency	Cambodia
COSWAS	Collective of Sex Workers and Supporters	Taiwan, Province of China

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