

Title: *Absence of protective policies against sex workers creates unacceptable situations with violations of their human rights including that of health in the DRC*

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Issues: The marginalized status of sex workers continues to deny them any national protection against abuse of any kind. It stigmatizes them, excludes them and puts them outside the scope of their fundamental human rights, notably that of health. Significantly high rates of directed sexual violence against female sex workers have largely catalyzed sexual transmission of HIV / AIDS, and recent studies continue to confirm this pattern.

Description: ALCIS is a community-based organization based in South Kivu in eastern DR Congo, a monitoring program for protection of rights and health among sex workers. ALCIS mapped and documented sexual violence and the direct risks of exposure to HIV / AIDS among sex workers in the course of their work.

Due to the rejection and stigmatization of sex work, a profession exercised in disregard of social R & D legislation. Congo, legislative frameworks and the police are often oriented towards the repression and penalization of sex workers. These oppressive policies have increased the clandestine status of sex workers, making HIV / AIDS prevention and care programs virtually impossible to implement.

Indeed, 874 sex workers living with HIV / AIDS and survivors of sexual violence can no longer wait with the lack of care and treatment.

It is often observed that the stigma of rape and, in some cases, HIV seropositivity combined with stigmatizing sex work are powerful barriers to universal access to prevention, care And treatment among sex workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The aggressive efforts to penalize and abolish sex work in the past six years have often resulted in opposition to programs aimed at promoting the human rights and health of sex workers.

The stubborn and accusatory stereotype that portrayed sex workers as "contagion / disease vectors", public order disorder, social harm and social deviance contributed to the exclusion of sex workers, which very often This category of people to stay away from progress in protecting others in preventing the sexual transmission of HIV / AIDS in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Conclusion and recommendations: International Conference on Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS organizations should emphasize the critical importance of supporting the strengthening of protection policies among sex workers to develop more cost-effective strategies that would ensure access to HIV / AIDS services of health and the promotion of human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The risk of inaction= an increase in HIV in these communities for which treatment is inaccessible and the continuation of preventable mortality and morbidity.

Biography

Alphonse Mihigo Ombeni holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health since 2009 with additional training in Public Law from the official University of Bukavu, DRC. He is the Executive Coordinator of ALCIS, a community health and human rights education organization for and by sex workers and LGBT people. Specialized in research-action, advocacy and community mobilization, prevention policy development and HIV / AIDS, he has published several articles on sexual and gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and human rights in Of the various internationally renowned newspapers and was Director of Francophone Projects - Sex Work and member of the Board of Directors of the Global Network Sex Work Project (www.nswp.org)