

Information for sex workers planning to attend the International AIDS Conference 2018 in Amsterdam, 23–27 July 2018

Introduction

The International AIDS Conference is the largest conference on any global health or development issue in the world. It continues to provide a unique forum for the intersection of science, advocacy, and human rights. The 22nd International AIDS Conference (AIDS2018) will be hosted in Amsterdam, Netherlands, 23-27 July 2018.

NSWP and our members are promoting meaningful participation and visibility of sex workers at AIDS2018.

NSWP encourages sex worker-led organisations to get involved with the range of events at AIDS2018. This document covers the ways sex workers can get involved with AIDS2018.

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About AIDS2018

The AIDS2018 conference will be comprised of plenary sessions, special presentation sessions, oral and poster abstract presentations, satellite symposia, and the Global Village - a space open to the public. You can read more about the types of activities on the AIDS2018 website:

<http://www.aids2018.org/Programme/Conference-Programme/Session-types>.

The theme of AIDS 2018 is “Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges”, drawing attention to the need of rights-based approaches to more effectively reach key populations, especially in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the Middle Eastern North Africa region where epidemics are growing.

How to get involved

There are a number of ways you can get involved with AIDS2018. If you want to attend AIDS2018 but have not secured funding to do so, please see section 3 below for details of available scholarships.

1. Sex Worker Pre-Meeting

PROUD, ICRSE, SWAN and NSWP¹ will be organising a **sex worker pre-meeting on Sunday 22 July 2018** for sex workers from around the world who will be attending the AIDS2018.

The pre-meeting will provide sex workers with an opportunity to meet one another, review the conference programme and identify advocacy opportunities and strategies. The pre-meeting will take place between 10:00 and 16:00 on Sunday 22 July. The meeting will be free to attend, and lunch will be provided, but

¹ PROUD (a Dutch Union for Sex Workers); ICRSE (International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe); SWAN (Sex Workers Rights Advocacy Movement); NSWP (Global Network of Sex Work Projects).

participants **must register** as there are a limited number of places available. Details of the venue will be sent after your registration has been confirmed by the NSWP Secretariat.

Please register by 1 May 2018, by emailing your name, the sex worker organisation, city and country you come from, language spoken and whether you need translation² and your arrival date in Amsterdam to AIDS2018@nswp.org. NSWP Secretariat will try to ensure geographic and gender balance when allocating places.

2. Sex Worker Activities Planned for AIDS2018

PROUD, ICRSE, SWAN and NSWP³, supported by Aidsfonds Sex Work Programme, will be organising a range of activities during AIDS2018. A small Organising Committee has been formed with representatives from each organisation who will plan and coordinate the sex worker activities.

The Global Village is a space open to the general public as well as conference delegates, and admission is free. It is designed to be a diverse and vibrant space where communities from around the world can meet, share and learn from each other. It runs at the same time as the main conference programme, and includes live performances, networking zones, NGO booths, art exhibitions and presentation spaces.

At AIDS 2018, the Global Village will be located in Hall 5 and Atrium 1 and 2 of the [RAI Amsterdam](#).

Sex Worker Networking Zone in the Global Village

PROUD, ICRSE, SWAN and NSWP will be organising the Sex Worker Networking Zone in the Global Village, which is a space for sex worker organisations from across the world to network and present their work.

The theme of AIDS 2018 is “Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges”, drawing attention to the need of rights-based approaches to more effectively reach key populations. Under this theme, PROUD, ICRSE, SWAN and NSWP have chosen to focus on the impact of punitive laws and policies (including criminalisation) on the lives of sex workers.

There will be a daily programme of events in the Sex Worker Networking Zone. Sex worker organisations can submit a proposal for a session, or can bring promotional materials to be displayed or handed out. The networking zone will also provide space for each of the five NSWP regions to display materials and ensure visibility of sex worker-led groups from around the world.

There will be one session a day available for art advocacy performances by sex workers in the Sex Worker Networking Zone. If you are interested getting involved in art & performance advocacy during the conference, please email AIDS2018@nswp.org.

If you would like to apply to run a session in the Sex Worker Networking Zone, please send a proposal including details of:

- An outline of the content of the session [maximum of 250 words]
- Length of time required for the session
- The intended audience for your session.

To AIDS2018@nswp.org, by Tuesday 1 May 2018. Sessions should not exceed one hour.

² The organisers will try to provide translation, but cannot guarantee translation will be available for all languages.

Booths in the Global Village

Regional networks and member organisations are encouraged to consider applying for booths for AIDS2018. NGO Booths allow community-based organisations to promote their work. Marketplace Booths provide community based organisations with an opportunity to sell their products to generate income.

Applications will be open between 1 December 2017 and 5 February 2018, and require an abstract be submitted. For more information on the Global Village, including applying for an NGO or market booth, please see the AIDS2018 website: <http://www.aids2018.org/Programme/Global-Village-Youth-Programme>.

Workshop in the Global Village

PROUD, ICRSE, SWAN and NSWP will be organising a workshop for sex workers at AIDS2018, to share ideas and best practices on challenging punitive laws and policies. The IAC is a rare opportunity for sex workers from around the world to spend time together in the same city, and the workshop will be a chance to discuss punitive laws and policies related to their work.

Satellite session in the Conference

We have also applied for funding to organise a satellite session aimed at decision-makers focusing on the impact of punitive laws and policies. This will be organised by bringing together sex workers from around the world to share their experiences and advocate for the removal of punitive laws. This is an opportunity to discuss sex workers' experiences and demands with key decision makers and led by the sex worker community. More details to follow.

Sex Worker Party in Amsterdam

The sex worker-only party will allow sex workers to spend time together and strengthen their relationships outside of the conference in a more relaxed environment. More information will be circulated closer to the time.

Arts and Performance Advocacy

Sex workers and sex worker-led organisations from around the world are encouraged to submit a proposal for a performance that will be included in an abstract to be submitted for the Main Stage in the Global Village. Proposals will be reviewed and selected by a small working group to be combined into a one hour show by sex workers. You can find more information about the main stage at the Global Village at <http://www.aids2018.org/Programme/Conference-Programme/Global-Village-Youth-Programme>. Please e-mail proposals to AIDS2018@nswop.org by Monday 15th January 2018 with a short outline of the performance. Please include 'Global Village Performance' in the email subject line.

There will be other opportunities for Art and Performance Advocacy during AIDS2018, so if you have other ideas please email them to AIDS2018@nswp.org for consideration by the Art and Performance Working Group.

3. Scholarship Programme and Abstract Submission

Scholarship Programme

Scholarship funds are available through the IAC to support people to attend AIDS2018. The organisers aim to make the conference accessible to people from resource-limited settings, researchers, young people, key and vulnerable populations, and community representatives. The programme provides financial assistance to help people who would **otherwise be unable to benefit from the conference**.

The Scholarship Programme is open to everyone around the world working or volunteering in the HIV field, who is at least 16 years of age at the time of the conference. A full scholarship covers:

- **Registration fee** for the conference (includes access to all sessions and exhibitions);

- **Travel** (pre-paid airfare at the lowest fare available, from the nearest international airport);
- **Accommodation** (in a budget hotel for the days of the conference only);
- Modest daily **living allowance** for the duration of the conference (23-27 July 2017).

A partial scholarship may include any combination of the above. The scholarship selection criteria give priority to those:

- whose participation will help enhance their work in their own communities;
- to those who are able to assist in the transfer of skills and knowledge acquired at the conference;
- to those whose abstract, workshop or Global Village activity has been selected.

Applications will be open online through the conference website between 1 December 2017 and 1 February 2018. There are only a limited number of scholarships available, and applicants are **strongly encouraged to seek other/additional funding sources**.

Further information on scholarships is available at:

<http://www.aids2018.org/Registration/Scholarships/Scholarship-Programme>. Please contact AIDS2018@nswp.org if you have any questions.

Abstracts

We are keen to support sex workers who intend to submit an abstract and will provide support for sex workers and sex worker-led groups on abstract writing through a pool of researchers and professionals (co-ordinated by ICRSE). Please contact ICRSE if you would like to take advantage of this support:

info@sexworkeurope.org.

Abstracts can be submitted to the conference between 1 December 2017 and 5 February 2018. More information on submitting an abstract can be found here:

<http://www.aids2018.org/Programme/Abstracts/Submitting-your-abstract>.

Summary of deadlines

1 December 2017: Conference registration opens

Application deadlines:

- Art advocacy performances (to NSWP): 15 January 2018
- Scholarships (to IAS): 1 February 2018
- Abstracts (to IAS): 5 February 2018
- Global Village activities and NGO booths (to IAS): 5 February 2018
- Sex worker pre-meeting (to NSWP) : 28 February 2018
- Global Village – Sex Worker Networking Zone (to NSWP): 1 May 2018

Contact information

We will send out regular updates prior to the conference to encourage sex workers to get involved. During the conference we hope to send a daily digest from AIDS2018, which you can [subscribe to here](#).

If you have further questions about AIDS2018 please don't hesitate to contact us.

Contact details: AIDS2018@nswp.org. Tel: +44 131 553 2555.

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