Introduction

• KESWA stands for Kenya Sex Workers Alliance but registered legally Key Affected Population Health and Legal Rights Alliance

• Formed in 2010 after the establishment of the African Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA) which was founded in 2009 at the first ever African Sex Workers conference held in Johannesburg.

• KESWA vision is “A Kenyan Society that recognizes sex work as work and promotes equal protection of human rights which are the foundational principles of our democratic society
• KESWA’s Mission it to advocate for Sex Workers rights as human rights through awareness raising, capacity strengthening, organizational development and advocacy.

  • Promotes health and human rights and ensures sex workers issues are well articulated at a national level

• KESWA is the umbrella body of the sex workers led groups and organizations and exists to strengthen the voices of sex workers and to empower their health and human rights

  • Has a diverse target group thus engaging male, female, transgender sex workers, sex workers using drugs and sex workers living with HIV
KESWA PROGRAMS

• Other programs implemented by KESWA besides BRIDGING THE GAPS (BTG) and PITCH are ARASA, UHAI, OSIEA, RED UMBRELLA FUND, RED RIBBON AWARD and NSWP

• PITCH Area of implementation; is across the country in all the 47 counties in Kenya but mainly focuses more on 5 counties with high violence prevalence rates in Kenya
  
  ❖ targets female sex workers (FSW) and men who have sex with men (MSM)

• Has membership of 64 sex worker led organizations across the country
SEX WORKERS IN DETENTION

• Sex Workers in detention – or persons perceived as belonging to this group – are in a situation of particular vulnerability, at risk of human rights violations and abuses – including by fellow detainee for male and trans sex workers – throughout the entire criminal justice system.

• Violence amongst detainees: The experience of being deprived of one’s liberty is harsh for any detainee, but sex workers are more exposed to violence from police officers and prison personnel.

• Within detention facilities, there is usually a strict hierarchy, and those at the bottom of this hierarchy, such as children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and diseases, sex workers (female, male and trans) suffer double or triple discrimination.’ The risk of sexual abuse as a form of inter-prisoner violence is particularly high for male and transgender sex workers in prison.
SEX WORKERS IN DETENTION CONTINUED....

• Among other violence incidences among sex workers include, beatings, sexual assault, confinement and targeted forms of violence, including the so-called corrective rape of transgender women who identify as sex workers, and the intentional beatings of the breasts and cheekbones of transgender sex workers to burst implants and release toxins

• To prevent sexual abuse by co-detainees, a thorough assessment should be conducted for all inmates to ascertain their risk of either being victimized or a danger to others

• In facilities for men, there are some instances of male couples where a transgender detainee is in a relationship with a male detainee and the majority of detainees feel that their virility is questioned by homosexual relationships. In this situation, there is an increase of homophobia and transphobia compared to outside prisons, and instances of sex are often characterized by violence

• It is common in many contexts that male and transgender sex workers’ detainees, are detained together, in the same cell, or the same unit since our governments don’t have cells for minority groups such as the sex workers. In such cases violence is rampant
HEALTH NEEDS AND CHALLENGES FOR SEX WORKERS IN DETENTION

• No HIV preventive measures are made available to them i.e condoms, lubricants, PrEP, PEP and other safer sex supplies

• Limited access to ART and TB drugs

• Limited access to confidential screening and treatment for HIV or any other sexually transmitted infections

• Limited access to emergency contraception for FSWs

• Lack of Needle exchange services for sex workers using drugs

• Lack of appropriate sexual health and other support following rape and sexual assault incidences among sex workers in detention

• Lack of appropriately trained staff personnel in prisons to handle Trans and male sex workers issues: In the case of Trans sex workers there’s limited access to hormonal therapy
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Interventions to address violence and promote safety in prisons for sex workers.
• Support for victims of rape and assault such as counseling and emotional support
• Advocacy to enable male, Female and Trans sex workers access health services and receive equitable treatment
• Sex workers in prison initiative: cascade training to prison staff to raise awareness about sex workers and their service needs including sexual health
SEX WORKERS IN LANG’ATA WOMENS PRISON BEING VISITED BY KNIGHT NURSE –MEMBER GROUP OF KESWA DURING THE INTERNATIONAL WOMENS’ DAY
Celebrating Sex Workers Resistance and building alternatives for a better world to accommodate them

Some commodities taken to the sex workers in prison during the visits include sanitary towels, soaps and toilet papers.

Sex workers in prison showing off their expertise in bead work and hand crafts.
Sex Workers Showing Solidarity and Love to their fellow sex workers in detention
Sex Workers Lust for their Rights

“Sex workers are Mothers, sisters, brothers, fathers & many other good things you can think of, but above all they are human and so they are entitled to all that pertains human rights.”
Thank You