



CALL FOR CONSULTANT/S OR CONSULTANT TEAM/S

An Analysis of Data Needs for Advocacy to Increase Funding for Sex Workers' Human Rights Organising

| Apply by 23.59 EAT Wednesday 7th August 2019 |

Our Motivation, and Values

The Sex Work Donor Collaborative (SWDC) are grantmakers that adopt the mission and values of the donor collaborative, and who are championing increased quality and quantity of funding to support a rights-based approach to sex workers' rights. We do this by strategic coordination of grant-making, research, and advocacy, in partnership with sex worker-led organisations and networks globally.

We recognise the self-determination of sex workers, and the importance of meaningfully engaging sex workers in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programmes, initiatives, and funding affecting their lives and work, including the SWDC.

We oppose criminalisation of, and all forms of stigma and discrimination against sex work and sex workers. We recognize that sex work is work, and that sex workers are entitled to the same rights as other workers, including the right to self-organise. We oppose all forms of exploitation of and violence against sex workers, and recognise the distinction between sex work and human trafficking.

We also recognise the diversity among sex workers, and strive for solutions that include and benefit sex workers oppressed because of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexuality, age, national origin, nationality, migration status, health status, dis/ability, and other identities and circumstances that occasion prejudicial treatment.

The Context

In most parts of the world, sex work is criminalised, and in the Global South and East often as part of colonial legacies of outdated anti-prostitution laws. Often, sex workers are linked to moral collapse, HIV and STIs, drug abuse and other illegal activities, and sex trafficking. With this view of sex workers as the problem, states routinely exclude them from laws and policies concerning socio-economic services, labour rights, health, and violence. Sex workers hence suffer prejudicial treatment accessing public services, state-sanctioned violence, assault from clients and the public, and often targeted murder. Stigma around self-identification or association with sex work frequently causes exclusion and expulsion from public health, social and economic services, and housing.

There is also a growing number of anti-trafficking programmes around the world claiming to protect 'exploited women', while in reality they have resulted in many women (often migrant and poor) being outed in the media, locked in prisons, and forced to underpaid labour in rehabilitation centers.

Still, sex workers, committed to protecting their dignity and rights, organise to improve their lives, by seeking equal access to healthcare and social services; mitigating and addressing violence; building community; campaigning for equal recognition of their work; and advocating for decriminalisation.

The grantmakers who form the SWDC address the restrictive and oppressive environments that sex workers around the world live, work, and organise in, by funding their organising and programmes to advocate for and advance equality and dignity. We appreciate that funding levels for sex workers' rights are extremely low, and are therefore committed to mobilising needed research and advocacy to increase the amount and quality of funding. Essentially, this research will identify for SWDC, and for sex workers, what data is needed to create more and better funding for sex workers' rights.

The Assignment

The Sex Work Donor Collaborative (SWDC) seeks a consultant/s or consultant team/s to explore the key data needed to make a case to increase funding for sex workers' rights. With active consultation and guidance of sex workers, their organisations and networks, their funders, and their allies (particularly in LGBTQI, feminist, and anti-trafficking movements), the research should distill and describe the dynamics shaping funding for, and against, sex workers' rights.

The SWDC expects that the assignment will include a literature review and key informant interviews, addressing the public sector, NGOs, and relevant private sector initiatives. We seek a researcher/s who will apply rigorous, participatory methods; bringing the best substantive thinking and practice.

The research provider will coordinate with and report to SWDC's Outreach and Research Committee, through an appointed representative, with the administrative supervision of the fiscal host for the research process, UHAI EASHRI.

Among other issues that will be identified by sex workers and the SWDC, the research will explore:

- Priority data needs that could inform, support, and strengthen advocacy for more and better funding for sex workers' rights globally, drawing from the insights of sex work activists, sex workers' donor advocates, and allies in LGBTQI, feminist, and anti-trafficking movements;
- Available data that can be retrieved to create a baseline and/or track progress in advocacy for, and against, sex workers' rights, and on funding for, and against, sex workers' rights;
- Identification of rights-based funders for sex workers' rights, and a determination of key data needs with potential to deepen existing support, and/or unlock new funding opportunities;
- Data that would facilitate, and available opportunities for engagement, closer partnership, and ally building with LGBTQI, feminist, and anti-trafficking activists and funders; and
- A recommendation of follow-up research, responding to the above data needs and analysis, towards supporting needed advocacy for increased funding for sex workers' rights.

At the end of the assignment, the researcher/s will prepare a concise report of no more than 25 pages, and summary PowerPoint presentation, addressing key questions and offering recommendations to sex workers, the SWDC, funders, and key allies on data needed to create more and better funding; and what our collective and individual roles and strategies are in data collection and advocacy in this regard. The research and report should also identify key players in activist and donor fields that the SWDC and others who are committed to increasing support for sex workers, can work with as learning partners, advisors, and, potential advocacy and research partners.

Based on this research, there will be a potential for the research provider to develop a proposal to conduct a second phase of research responding to the key data needs determined in the first phase.

The Requirement

The SWDC has a budget of, and will accept proposals of up to, US\$12,000 for the assignment. We expect that the assignment will run for about 4 months between September and December 2019, or such other timeline as may be negotiated with the selected research provider. We estimate that the available budget will cover about 24 days of work over the period at a daily rate of US\$500. The consultancy costs charged should include any travel, supplies, equipment, and report writing costs.

We recognise that this is a global assignment, which is a wide scope. We expect that responses will propose what scope and sample size is useful and realistic, and how language inclusion, access, and justice will be addressed. Consequently, we welcome specific proposals and dialogue on additional considerations and assistance from the SWDC to ensure the assignment is effectively executed.

To submit an expression of interest for consideration as research provider for the assignment, share (i) **a research outline/plan**, (ii) **detailed budget**, (iii) **a resume/s for research team members**, and (iv) **at least two examples of relevant research that the consultant/s have conducted to** [SWDCresearch \[at\] UHAI-EASHRI \[dot\] org](mailto:SWDCresearch@UHAI-EASHRI.org) before **23.59 EAT, Wednesday 7th August 2019**.

Consultants from the Global South and East are encouraged to apply.

The SWDC will confirm receipt of applications before the deadline, and also if successful or not.

About the SWDC

The Sex Work Donor Collaborative (SWDC) is a network of funders that have come together to increase the amount and quality of funding to support sex workers' rights. At the time of publishing this call, the SWDC included [aidsfonds](#), [American Jewish World Service](#), [Anti-Trafficking Fund](#), [Neo Philanthropy](#), [Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice](#), [Fondo Semillas](#), [Global Fund for Women](#), [Hispanics in Philanthropy](#), [Human Capability Foundation](#), [Mama Cash](#), [Open Society Foundations](#), [Red Umbrella Fund](#), [Third Wave Fund](#), [UHAI EASHRI](#), [Urgent Action Fund](#), and [Women's Fund Asia](#).

To better appreciate our rights-based view to sex workers' rights and health [review our resources](#), and learn more about us and our work on our website www.SexWorkDonorCollaborative.org.