



only rights
can stop the wrongs

the curious sex workers GUIDE

18th international
AIDS conference
Vienna, Austria
18 to 23 July 2010

**The Curious Sex Workers Guide
to attending the
18th International AIDS Conference
Vienna, Austria | 18 to 23 July 2010**

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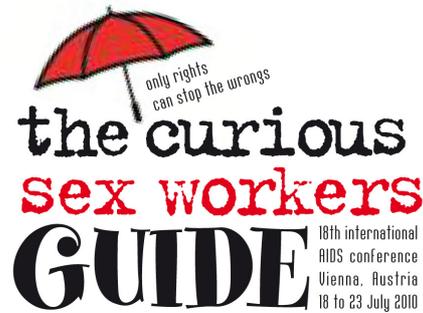
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Part I

The IAC 2010

Rights Here, Right Now

The IAC 2010 in Vienna

The 18th International AIDS Conference, which will take place in Vienna, Austria, from the 18th to the 23rd of July 2010, will have as central theme the promotion and protection of human rights as a prerequisite to a successful response to HIV/AIDS.

Its motto **Rights Here, Right Now** emphasises the right to dignity and self-determination, to equal access to health care and to life-saving health programmes.

Being 2010 the deadline world leaders set for providing universal access to HIV prevention, care and treatment, **Rights Here, Right Now** is a call for leadership and urgent action.

The IAC 2010 will therefore be a platform for sex workers from around the world to bring up their issues and needs regarding HIV/AIDS and sex work. NSWP is adopting the theme **Only Rights can Stop the Wrongs**.

Sex workers are not the problem; we are part of the solution

The IAC 2008 in Mexico

At the IAC 2008 in Mexico, sex workers had a strong and powerful presence and made their voices heard.

■ **In plenary** - Elena Reynaga, from Argentina, executive secretary of RedTraSex, the *Latin American and Caribbean Network of Female Sex Workers*, called for the full recognition of sex workers' rights and for the strengthening of sex workers organisations to develop and implement effective HIV/AIDS programmes rooted in the realities of their lives.

■ **The fashion of DASPU** – DAVIDA, a sex worker organisation in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, created the label DASPU, which comes from "*das putas/from prostitutes*". The fashion show was a massive event at the main stage at the Global Village. The clothes that the models, sex workers and allies, wore with great pride were colourful and daring.

■ **On panels** – During the "*Sex Work, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS*" panel in the networking zone, the discussion challenged the negative way some international documents portray sex work, by equating it with trafficking and slavery, and the damaging consequences for sex workers' labour situation.

■ **Award for APNSW** – The *Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers* won the “Award for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights 2008” at the IAC 2008. It recognised the extraordinary contribution of APNSW in the struggle for sex workers’ rights.

■ **March against Stigma, Discrimination and Homophobia** – Sex workers from around the world participated in advocacy activities related to human rights and HIV/AIDS.

Sex workers have to participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies

Why attend the IAC 2010

The strong participation of sex workers during the IAC 2008 in Mexico is an example that advocacy work for sex workers can happen in many different contexts, around the world.

The IAC 2010 is not a sex workers’ conference but gives us an opportunity for sex workers from all over the world to discuss human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS. It will give sex workers the possibility to raise issues that are relevant for them, to participate and to get involved in discussions.

Use the opportunity to meet with colleagues fellow activists and sex workers from around the world, exchange and share your experiences, influence politicians and decision makers, make your issues heard, stand up and raise your voice, make a video, write about it, learn from others, teach others, dance and celebrate, be part of the global movement, be an expert, be connected, be empowered.

Let the IAC 2010 be one more platform for sex workers’ voices to be heard worldwide.

■ **Sex workers pre-meeting** – NSWP will organise a pre-meeting for sex workers and allies one day before the beginning of the Conference. The aim of the pre-meeting is to provide an informal space for planning priorities and activities for the actual conference. The pre-meeting will be organised by a Planning Committee composed of representatives from regional networks. **More info on the pre-meeting will be online soon!**

■ **Human Rights March, Concert, Sex Workers Activities** – The IAC 2010 explicitly uses a human rights theme, highlighting the role of human rights in the response to HIV/AIDS. A number of activities are planned by the conference organisers, among others a march in the centre of Vienna which will end with a concert. Both will take place on the evening of 20 July. We will also organise a sex workers march and other sex workers activities – **look out for more info on this soon!**

Sex workers rights are human rights

How to get involved

Apply and participate! There are different possibilities to getting involved in the Conference. Make a submission for an abstract in one of the conference tracks, for a workshop or a Global Village activity. Apply for a scholarship.

You can submit

- an abstract in one of the conference tracks (areas)
- a Workshop proposal
- a Global Village activity

■ **Abstracts** – half of all Conference sessions will be abstract-driven. Submit an abstract of a maximum of 300 words, in which you describe e.g. a study, a research, an activity,

a project, a campaign, training, a programme. The abstracts selected are chosen for one of the following modalities:

- 10 minutes oral presentations at one of the oral abstract sessions
- a poster presentation
- a poster exhibition
- inclusion in the CD-Rom given to all delegates
- inclusion in the Conference catalogue

If you want to present a **scientific/academic research**, your abstract has to be broken down into: background, methods, results, conclusions.

If you want to present an **issue**, a **programme** or **policy results**, your abstract has to be broken down into: issues, description, lessons learned, recommendations.

ATTENTION

- ✓ Before submitting your abstract, read carefully **PART II step-by-step** on how to structure and write an abstract.
- ✓ If you need support for writing your abstract, please contact us at iac@nswp.org and we can introduce you to a regional contact person who will help you.
- ✓ In case your abstract is accepted it does not mean that you will automatically receive a scholarship but it can help your chances to get one.
- ✓ To apply for an abstract you must first create a conference profile. Abstracts can only be submitted online under www.aids2010.org.

■ **Global Village** – The Global Village is an exhibition space for NGOs and grassroots organisations, an international gathering place to display information, highlight cultural and community issues, and activities like theatre, films and videos. It is open to delegates and the general public.

There will be different types of spaces in the Global Village:

- **Global Village Sessions**: panel discussions, debates and presentations.
- **Networking Zones**: spaces for groups focused on particular communities or geographical regions.
 - ✓ The NSWP will apply for a **Sex Workers Networking Zone**. It will be an information and exchange point for sex worker organisations from around the world as well as a space for events and presentations, including showing videos.
- **Main Stage**: space for live performances of music, dance and theatre. APNSW (Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers) will apply for a live performance session.
 - ✓ There are no scholarships for cultural events!
- **Video and ICT Lounge**: space to screen videos and documentaries. APNSW will apply for a video session, and will try to collate videos from all over the world, to present a global picture.
- **Literary Lounge**: place for live readings and literature reviews.
- **NGO Booths**: a place for NGOs to promote their work. ICRSE (International Committee on the Rights of Sex workers in Europe) will apply for a booth.
- **Marketplace Booths**: a place for NGOs to sell their products to generate income. NSWP and SWAN (Sex Worker Advocacy Network in Eastern Europe and Central Asia) will apply for booths that will hopefully provide space for all sex worker organisations.
- **Art Exhibitions**: space to exhibit sculptures, installations, photos and paintings. APNSW will apply for an exhibition space that we hope everyone will contribute to.
- **Community Dialogue Space**: place for delegates and the general public to engage with community-based organisations.
- **Youth Pavilion**: networking place for young people.

The criminalisation of sex work is an obstacle to fight HIV

How to get to Vienna

■ **Visa** – Austria is a Schengen Treaty country within the European Union (EU). Travellers will need a valid passport or identity card, and may need a visa.

Applications for a visa can take time. Therefore, apply as early as possible for one, by contacting the Austrian Embassy or an Austrian Consulate in your country. If there is no Austrian representation in your country contact any other Schengen country Embassy or Consulate.

✓ See list of countries that need a visa, visas rules and conditions under **PART II step-by-step**

ATTENTION

In order to get a visa you MUST have:

- ✓ A fully paid health travel insurance that covers medical treatment in Austria.
- ✓ A fully paid return air ticket.
- ✓ A pre-paid accommodation.
- ✓ Even if you get a conference scholarship you cannot apply for a visa unless you have those three items fully paid.
- ✓ If your visa is refused because the visa application was made too late or was incomplete, the registration fee will not be refunded!

■ **Flights** – Try to book your flight as soon as possible, in order to get a low cost flight.

■ **Accommodations** - Try to book your accommodation as soon as possible, in order to get low cost accommodation. Vienna is well served with hostels, pensions and hotels of different categories. However, do not forget that Vienna is a very touristic city and that the IAC 2010 is expecting about 25.000 visitors!

Only rights can stop the wrongs

The partners

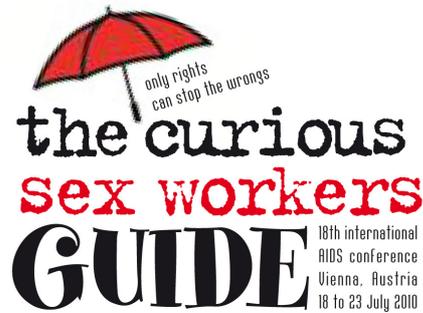
The following networks and organisations are partners in coordinating the participation and activities of and for sex workers at the IAC 2010 in Vienna.

- NSWP (Global Network of Sex Work Projects)
- ICRSE (International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe)
- SWAN (Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia)
- LEFÖ/TAMPEP Austria (Counselling and Education Centre for Migrant Women/Support for Migrant Sex Workers), based in Vienna, is the local NSWP partner.

How to get support

■ For further information and support for submitting abstracts, please contact the NSWP IAC 2010 Coordinators *Faika El-Nagashi* and *Veronica Munk*
iac@nswp.org

We are looking forward to seeing you in Vienna!



Part II

Step by step on how to participate

Here you find information on how to register for the conference, how to submit an abstract or a Global Village activity and how to apply for a scholarship.

Be sure to also have a look at the conference website at www.aids2010.org (sign up for the conference newsletter!) and the community-website www.aids2010community.org.

If you have any questions, get in touch with us at iac@nswp.org.

We're looking forward to working with you and to seeing you in Vienna!

Faika El-Nagashi & Veronica Munk

General info & requests

■ Keep in mind the timeframe!

Registration, submissions and applications for scholarships are open already and they close on **10 February 2010**. This might seem far away but keep in mind that you might need time to get familiar with the application process, to get organisational approval and support, a letter of recommendation for a scholarship application or your credentials for a media scholarship, to look for funding, to develop partnerships for activities, to clarify questions or for translations.

■ Language

- **All applications have to be submitted in English.** Application forms and guidelines are available in English and **Russian**.
- We are trying to organise **English editing support**. If you do not feel confident putting in an application in English but have it drafted in English and would like a second pair of eyes to look at it, get in touch with us.
- There are regional **Abstract Support** persons who can assist you with writing your abstracts and also with some translations.
- **The official conference language is English.**
- Simultaneous translation **into Russian** will be provided for some of the conference sessions.
- Interpretation **from Russian** to English will be available in the Global Village session rooms.
- Activities in other parts of the Global Village (e.g. networking zones) may be presented in languages other than English, but no interpretation will be provided.
- **Sign language interpretation in British English and Russian** will be provided for the opening session, the daily plenary sessions and the closing session.

■ Keep in touch!

Let us know what you are planning. Are you submitting an abstract? Did it get accepted? Did you get a scholarship? Are you applying for an NGO or market place booth in the Global Village? Do you want to get involved in the activities already planned by the NSWP and regional networks? Are you planning your own fashion show, a theatre play or an art exhibition? Let us know about your activities! We will try to have all the sex work booths in the Global Village close together and to have a map of sex work related sessions and activities in the sex workers' networking zone.

■ How you can help

Get involved around the AIDS Conference 2010! We will need many volunteers! You can help throughout the on-going preparation process, right at the conference in Vienna or from any other location while the conference is on. You can promote sex workers' rights at the AIDS conference by blogging about it, you can do background research to help with presentations and press releases, help with translations (before, during and after the conference), be a mentor and hang out at the conference with "first timers", help at the party,...! **Other ideas? Let us know!**

■ Visa, accommodation, health insurance

This is a crucial issue! Be clear about the process and the time this requires! Apply for your visa at least two months in advance. Here are some points to guide you through this.

1. Visa

Do you need a visa to Austria (a "Schengen-visa")? You find a list of countries whose nationals require a Schengen-visa, information on where to apply for it and the list of documents you need for the application here:

<http://www.aids2010.org/default.aspx?pageId=256>

2. Documents for the visa

If you need a visa, you will need, among others, the following documents for the application: (a) proof of adequate health insurance, (b) conference invitation letter, (c) flight and accommodation receipt/booking proof.

3. How to get the documents

■ **Regular conference delegates (with registration fee) or media representatives (without registration fee)** - When registering online for the conference, you can book the health insurance package (between EUR 10,00 for 8 days and EUR 38,00 for 31 days) and request a letter of invitation. You will receive the confirmation of health insurance and the letter of invitation after you have paid the registration fee in full (accepted media representatives do not pay a registration fee).

You can also book accommodation online with a number of hotels where pre-arrangements have been made for the conference. The costs are from EUR 60,00 and up per Person per night. **We can try to book cheaper rooms (hostels, dorms) and make group reservations if we know that you are coming. Let us know before 31 January 2010!**

■ **(Full or partial) Scholarship recipients** - Accommodation and health insurance will be paid for and arranged for **full** scholarship recipients. You will also be able to request a letter of invitation for your visa application. **Partial** scholarship recipients might receive any combination of the following: conference registration fee, travel costs, accommodation, small living allowance, travel insurance. If you receive a partial scholarship and need support in organising health insurance or accommodation, get in

touch with us. Scholarship applicants will be notified in mid-April 2010. **If you think you will need assistance regarding accommodation and health insurance, let us know as soon as you applied for a scholarship.**

■ **Other participants** - If you come to Vienna to attend e.g. the sex workers pre-meeting and the Global Village and are not a registered conference participant, then you have to organise accommodation, health insurance and the visa invitation letter yourself. If you need assistance with any of this, get in touch with us. **We can assist you regarding the letter of invitation, send you information on the health insurance package, try to book cheaper rooms (hostels, dorms) and make group reservations if we know that you are coming!** Let us know as soon as possible.

4. If you do not need a visa but need assistance with organising accommodation, get in touch with us. **We can try to book cheaper rooms (hostels, dorms) and make group reservations if we know that you are coming!** Let us know as soon as possible.

We can only find cheaper accommodation if you get in touch with us as soon as possible. If you can afford the regular conference rates, please make your own booking (but let us know that you're coming!). A list of pre-reserved hotels is available here: http://www.aids2010.org/WebContent/File/Hotel_list/hotel_list.html.

Registrations, submissions, scholarship applications

All registrations, submissions and scholarship applications have to be done online through the conference website: www.aids2010.org

■ Sign-up for an online "Conference Profile"

To create an account, go to www.aids2010.org and chose "MY conference profile" from the link list on the left (you can also use this link: <http://80.80.232.235/>). You must enter your personal data (including your passport number for visa and scholarship applications and organisational details to submit an abstract). Once you set up a "conference profile", you can access the various areas (**registration, submissions, scholarship applications**) and familiarise yourself with the system. Do this as soon as possible! Many steps require additional documents. You might not be able to finish this in one session.

■ Register for the conference

The sooner you register, the less you pay! Additional fees apply to registrations after 24 February 2010. Depending on the country of residence, different registration fees apply ("high-income countries", "middle/low-income countries"). There are various types of registration: as **regular delegate**; as **student, post-doc or youth delegate** (with proof of fulltime enrolment at a recognised university; youth delegates aged 18 to 26 with proof of age); as **media representative** (for a limited number of applicants and with proof of accreditation only).

■ Put in a submission

You can submit an abstract, a workshop proposal or a Global Village activity. Making an abstract or workshop submission not only increases your chances of having a scholarship application approved but also ensures the inclusion of sex work issues at the conference.

To submit an abstract

An abstract can focus on an analysis of priority issues of your work, on a critical study that you conducted or an evaluation of policies and programmes. In 300 words. Look at

the conference objectives and see how what you want to say fits in the abstract format. Check how your abstract links to the theme of the conference (“**Rights Here, Right Now**”), to the 2010 deadline for providing **universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support** and to the sex workers rights theme “**Only Rights can Stop the Wrongs**”. You can submit abstracts in one of the 6 conference tracks (they are each divided into numerous sub-tracks, you can access the whole list through your Conference Profile):

Track **A** - Basic Sciences

Track **B** - Clinical Sciences

Track **C** - Epidemiology and Prevention Sciences

Track **D** - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Track **E** - Economics, Operations Research, Care and Health Systems

Track **F** - Policy, Law, human Rights and Political Sciences

Think about which track (and sub-track) you want to file your abstract under. It is important to not only focus on the “obvious” tracks (**D and F**) but to also put in applications in other areas. The wider we look with submissions, the more coverage of sex workers issues there will be and the more abstracts are likely to be accepted.

While it is important to highlight the negative impact of legal frameworks on the human rights of sex workers, you might also want to talk about “Epidemiology and Prevention Sciences” (Track **C**) and what they mean to sex workers.

Track **E** will also evaluate the impact of HIV programmes. What does the community desire as outcomes? How was the health system used successfully by sex workers? Can you provide a community driven evaluation? Did you do a project that focuses on whether sex workers can actually access condoms?

Try to think outside the usual “box” and, if possible, give positive examples so that others can learn from you!

To submit a workshop proposal

You can submit a workshop proposal through your conference profile. The goal of the workshops will be to teach specific skills or strategies to delegates. They are of 90 or 180 minutes sessions and must be linked to one of the track issues. There are three types (professional, leadership and community development) and three levels of workshops (foundation, intermediate and advanced).

To submit a Global Village activity

The Global Village is a diverse and vibrant space where communities gathers from all over the world to meet, share and learn from each other. The Global Village promotes networking and provides a space for displays, discussions and performances from throughout the world. The Global Village is open to the general public and conference delegates and admission is free.

Application is made through your conference profile. **You can apply for:**

■ **An NGO exhibition booth** - will be provided for selected NGOs, AIDS service organisations and grassroots, community-based organisations to display materials and share their work, programming, resources, strategies and other related information (6 square meters)

■ **A marketplace booth** - provides space for organisations to raise awareness of their programming and efforts while allowing HIV-related projects to fundraise by selling their products (4 square meters)

■ **A networking zone** - a space for local and international groups focused on particular populations or geographic regions where groups can meet and conduct their own activities, engage with delegates and the public visiting the Global Village (60 square meters)

- **A Global Village session** - workshop, debate, presentation with questions and answers or panel discussion
- **A cultural activity** - life performance, art exhibition or screening

- ✓ If you apply for a booth or an activity, please let us know!
- ✓ The NSWP will apply for a global sex worker's networking area and marketplace booth.
- ✓ We will try to have all the sex worker booths close together and near the sex worker's networking area.
- ✓ In the networking area, we can have our own displays and activities, show videos and have small workshops. It will also serve as a meeting and information point and as a space to exchange and to energise!

Apply for a scholarship

There will be a limited number of **full** and **partial** scholarships:

- **General delegates (international scholarship)** require an official letter of recommendation from their organisation
- **Media representatives** require proof of accreditation.

You can apply for international and media scholarships through your conference profile

- **Programme activity or workshop scholarship applicants**
- **Abstract scholarship applicants**

The scholarship application form for programme activity, workshop or abstract scholarship applicants is also accessible through your conference profile page but you can only access it after you submitted your activity. You will then receive an email with further instructions.

- If **co-organizers** of activities need financial assistance to attend, they must each submit a scholarship application separately, through their own conference profiles.

What kind of support is available

■ A lot of very useful information, including a toolkit on preparing abstracts in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian, is available through the **conference website**: <http://www.aids2010.org/Default.aspx?pageId=180>.

■ The regional **abstract support groups** will help you with finalising your submission. You need to have a basic draft of what it is you want to present. The regional abstract support persons will help you through the process and might also be able to support you with translations. Get in touch with us (iac@nswp.org) for a list of abstract supporters.

■ We are trying to organise **English editing support** for submissions that are already drafted in English and need language editing only. Contact us at iac@nswp.org.

■ The conference runs an **abstract mentor programme** that provides you with support from more experienced abstract submitters, if you already have a final draft. Information about this is available on the conference website at <http://www.aids2010.org/Default.aspx?pageId=180>.

Watch out for regular updates on the NSWP-website: www.nswp.org!