Facts about sex work & violence in Mozambique.

SEX WORKERS IN MOZAMBIQUE FACE UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF VIOLENCE, STIGMA, DISCRIMINATION AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. IT PUTS THEM IN SITUATIONS THAT MAKE THEM CONSIDERABLY MORE VULNERABLE TO HIV AND AIDS, SUPPORTIVE LAWS AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES ARE NEEDED TO SECURE THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF SEX WORKERS.

What the law says:
Sex work is not criminalized by Mozambique law, however, the law prohibits assaults on public decency, thus having sex in a public space or driving a vehicle.

Criminalization:
Sex workers who operate in exchange where prostitution is criminalized has increased risk of violence, experiences police abuse and lack of access to health care centers and the judicial system.

70% of the sex workers in Mozambique experienced violence in the past year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sorts of violence</th>
<th>Risk factors</th>
<th>Who are the perpetrators</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sexual violence</td>
<td>drugs</td>
<td>clients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>physical violence</td>
<td></td>
<td>health worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emotional violence</td>
<td></td>
<td>community</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

After we had sex she started to accuse me that i robbed his money. He hit me, he attacked me, ripped my clothes off, saying give me your money, give me your money. I hadn't robbed anything. The only thing she could take from me was the money he had paid me before.

18% of the sex workers experienced violence by the police in the past year upon arrest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What type of violence are we talking about?</th>
<th>Hard facts</th>
<th>Reasons for arrest</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>physical violence</td>
<td>13% of the sex workers were arrested. Anywhere they were arrested.</td>
<td>Police or tax officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emotional violence</td>
<td>5% of the sex workers were intimidated. The police interrogated them.</td>
<td>Police or tax officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Filing a case

6% of the sex workers were held for 24 hours or more.

13% of HIV-positive sex workers do not have regular access to treatment

HIV prevalence: 40% in 15-49 females

At the clinic

35% of the sex workers have been married at one age and engaged by a health worker in the past twelve months.

Access to regular HIV medication:

73% were given regular medication.

Condom use while selling sex:

49% use condoms always.

Recommendations:

1. Clearly articulate support by government and NGOs.
2. Training and sensitization of the law enforcement officials.
3. Develop a well-funded rapid response system to assist in cases of violence.

Tyiane Varaose and Pathfinder

Tyiane Varaose is a sex worker-led organization that advocates for the rights of sex workers in Mozambique. Pathfinder is a global NGO focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights, women's rights, and building communities out of need.

Read the full report at www.dhsprogram.com/handsoff.