Facts about sex work & violence in Zimbabwe.

SEX WORKERS IN ZIMBABWE 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/AIDS. SUPPORTIVE LAWS AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES, CARE AND SUPPORT ARE NEEDED TO SECURE THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF SEX WORKERS.

**Who are the perpetrators?**

- Alcohol use
- Police
- Health worker
- Community
- Client

**Hard facts**

- 61% of the sex workers experienced violence by the police in the past year upon arrest
- 27% of the sex workers had sex with a police officer and 58% paid bribes to the police.
- 30% of the sex workers were arrested last year. On average they were arrested 12 times and most of them were detained for 12 hours per arrest.

**Arrest**

- 58% of the sex workers arrested last year, on average they were arrested twelve times and most of them were detained for 12 hours per arrest.

**Filing a case**

- 62% of the sex workers filed an incident with the police. Only 20% of the cases were investigated by the police.

**Access to regular HIV medication**

- 7% of those indicated to be HIV positive.

**Explanation**

- The point is if you are a sex worker and don’t have any friends who are police officer, it means you can’t get justice.

**HIV prevalence**

- 40% of the sex workers have been yelled at and/or stigmatised by a health worker in the past twelve months.

**Recommendations:**

1. Decriminalize sex work
2. Strengthen sex worker movements to protect and defend sex workers’ rights
3. Raise awareness of the legal rights of sex workers

**Hands Off! Reduction of Violence against sex workers**

The Hands Off! programme, coordinated by Aids Fonds, focuses on the reduction of violence against sex workers in Southern Africa through prevention, care and support. The programme works with sex worker-led groups, law enforcement, health and support services, legal centres and NGOs working on human rights.

**The Sexual Rights Centre**

The Sexual Rights Centre (SRC) is a non-profit grassroots organization that works to advance the sexual rights of marginalized women, children and men. SRC works closely with sex worker-led group Poe Wow.

Read the full report or more about Hands Off! at www.aidsfonds.nl/handsoff