



The 10th International Congress on **AIDS** in Asia and the Pacific
26-30 August, 2011 BEXCO, Busan, Republic of Korea

Sat, 27 August 2011

Plenary Session 2 : Legal Impediments to University Access which
also Enhance Stigma and Discrimination

Chair : Jon Ungprakorn (Commissioner of the Global Commission on HIV
and the Law, former Senator and a long time rights activist, Thailand)

**SaSp2-03 Sex Workers Rights and Communities Role in Transforming Negative Legal
Environments : Kaythi Win, Population Services International, Myanmar**

Situation Analysis : FSWs in Myanmar

- Sex work is illegal but men want sex, so
- 60,000 – 80,000 female sex workers are in the country, also a good number of male and TG sex workers are exist
- HIV prevalence among FSW is 11.2%
- STi prevalence among FSW is 2.3% (syphilis)
- State violence against sex workers are higher than the client violence
- 16 organization including NAP are working for Sex Workers

Law is not clear to anyone

- As law is not clear so it can be use and abuse in many different ways
- Special days gets so many arrest
- Never say “NO” in many where during the process to send you to the jail
- If you say “NO” or deny any point given by police you will get long term punishment
- Never recruit a lawyer to fight for you. It can bring long term punishment
- On sport money does work

What it I recruit a Lawyer: an example

Tin Tin Khaing got arrest on 15th February around midday from a park. She could not pay on sport so she needs to go police station. She was in police custody foe two days. Police told her as she can not pay anything so she has to stay in jail for 6 months. Two days



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later she was sent to court. Tin Tin's friend recruit a lawyer to get back Tin Tin. After first day honorable judge fix another date after two months. After two months another date after three months. . After three months another date after two months and finally judge told that she has to jail for 6 months. Just for recruit a lawyer she was in jail 13 months, 7 months for the final judgment.

Stigma and discrimination come because of illegality

- Stigma and discrimination is in each and every sector in the society
- Our children face problem in the school because of mother's job
- We face problem to rent a house/build a house
- We can not attend a family function
- Our children often rape with an assumption that SW daughters will be SW.

Stigma and discrimination in the institution

- In NGO/INGO now a days you'll see a common fashion that everyone recruit community people as a peer educators or peer supervisor. Never recruit as manager.
- INGOs/INGOs just try to show donors that they involve community people
- When we go to clinic and doctor understand that we are sex worker then we face under or over physical exam. Often ask for more money.
- Positive sex workers usually don't get any services from doctors and also face so many problem from everywhere.

What do we want?

- Sex work should be consider as work and we want legalization of our work. We can not reduce stigma and discrimination until it will legal.
- Stop tokenism, sex worker know how to solve their problem by us. Sex workers project must run by sex workers.
- We need our rights like any other human.
- We want zero stigma discrimination, stop it now.