



Sexual Rights e-News

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January-April 2010

Bringing voices back from the margins

We sent four representatives to attend a Digital storytelling training workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa. The training was facilitated by Women'sNet and was an opportunity for the SRC staff to acquire new and innovative skills. The trained facilitators then organised a training workshop for eight Women who have Sex with Women (WSW). The training was aimed at building the capacity of WSW to raise their voices while documenting their experiences in a creative and participatory way. The digital stories created by the group will be showcased at a private function in May to celebrate the lives and talents of these women.

The SRC participated in an online training on Disability, sexuality and human rights organised by CREA. For more information about disability and sexuality visit our website



Participants create their personal digital story.

Exploring sex and sexuality with medical practitioners

The Sexual Rights Centre has continued training nurses, medical staff and counsellors at Mpilo OI Clinic on sex and sexuality issues with the support of UNIFEM. The training deals with health provision and services from a human rights perspective, ensuring that every Zimbabwean can access health care, free from discrimination, stigma and judgement. The training revealed that there are certain vulnerable and 'at risk' groups that have specific and particular needs that require special skills and understanding. The groups identified were young people, elderly people, people living with disabilities and LGBTI. Medical professionals are often reluctant to discuss sex with young people because of social perceptions about the behaviour of young people. The Mpilo OI

staff felt that culture and generational differences often pose challenges in working with elderly people around HIV/AIDS. People living with disabilities face practical challenges of physically accessing services as well as misconceptions about sexuality and disability. Finally, the LGBTI community experience social and institutional stigma, which prevents them from obtaining relevant and appropriate services. The Sexual Rights Centre workshops have explored addressing sexual relationships, sexual and reproductive health rights, sexuality and sexual orientation with young people, elderly people and people living with disabilities. The Sexual Rights Centre workshops seek to share and disseminate information about these groups, identify tools and techniques to respond to their particular needs and to promote a culture of human rights within the medical profession.

Strengthening the sexual and reproductive health rights of sex workers

With the support of UNIFEM, the Sexual Rights Centre has conducted numerous workshops with sex workers around sexual and reproductive health rights. According to research conducted by the Sexual Rights Centre, access to condoms and reproductive health services for sex workers is a major challenge as a result of stigma and discrimination. However, overcoming these barriers is essential to supporting sex workers in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS. Sex workers are key activists in the campaign to reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. During the workshop many sex workers discussed their strategies to ensure that clients use condoms and practise safe sex. However, the extensive violations of sex workers rights by the police, clients, medical profession and broader society have a severe impact on the ability of sex workers to protect themselves and negotiate safer sex. The workshops aimed to strengthen the capacity of sex workers by providing information and resources about sexual and reproductive health rights, human rights, HIV/AIDS, VCT, legal rights and recourse and services available.

The Sexual Rights Centre is the lead organisation in Zimbabwe for the African Sex Worker Alliance (ASWA) that advocates for the rights of sex workers in Africa. For more information contact src_director@yahoo.com

The Sexual Rights Centre is looking for two sex workers to work



Role play exploring sex and sexuality with the elderly.

as part-time coordinators to support and promote the work of ASWA in Zimbabwe. If you are interested please contact src_director@yahoo.com

SRC builds strategic networks

This first quarter of the year was a hive of activities. We networked with a number of key strategic partners as a way of building our profile and strengthening our programmes. In January we attended a women's conference with the theme *Women Rights Reduce Poverty*. More than 100 delegates attended the conference. During this conference, we raised the need for organisations to consider upholding sexual rights. In February, we led an Action Blogging Campaign on LGBTI rights on Pulse Wire, an online social network (www.pulsewire.com). The campaign called for the Uganda government to review the vile anti-gay Bill. In March, we participated in the Onandi Festival, an annual event held in Bulawayo to celebrate womanhood. We also participated in a Global Fund Consortium meeting held in Kadoma and a Zimbabwean European Network meeting. At these meetings we raised the need to include minority groups in the Constitution-making-process and in development programmes. We also participated in the *Indaba* meeting organised by GALZ where we presented a paper. To read the Director's presentation, visit our website www.sexualrightscentre.com. In April we attended the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) where we networked with like-minded organisations key among them was MSF whom we are working closely with to implement our sex workers' programme.



Some of the women honoured during the 2010 Onandi Festival held at the Small City Hall on March 06, 2010