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Lost in Transition:

Transgender People, Rights and HIV Vulnerability in the Asia-Pacific Region



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United Nations Development Programme
UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre
United Nations Service Building, 3rd Floor
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Email: aprc.th@undp.org
Tel: +66 (0)2 304-9100
Fax: +66 (0)2 280-2700
Web: <http://asia-pacific.undp.org/>

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Lost in Transition: Transgender People, Rights and HIV Vulnerability in the Asia-Pacific Region

Sam Winter
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“ We see a pattern of violence and discrimination directed at people just because they are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. There is widespread bias at jobs, schools and hospitals, and appalling violent attacks, including sexual assault. People have been imprisoned, tortured, even killed. This is a monumental tragedy for those affected – and a stain on our collective conscience. It is also a violation of international law.”

Ban Ki-Moon

United Nations Secretary General
Geneva, 7 March 2012

“ We have to confront head on the social, sexual and gender norms which drive vulnerability to HIV. [Including] discrimination against homosexual and transgender people, and in many places the criminalization of their sexual behaviour”

Helen Clark

UNDP Administrator
New York, 8 June 2011

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The 'Lost in Transition: Transgender People, Rights and HIV Vulnerability in the Asia-Pacific Region' report aims to provide a research and strategic information framework. It will guide governments, civil society, donors and key stakeholders to design and produce relevant research as part of collective effort to reduce the extreme vulnerability of transgender people to HIV, while protecting their rights in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The conceptualization and development process underlying this report arose out of two meetings: the *Asia Pacific Regional Dialogue of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law* held on 17 February 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand and the *Men Who Have Sex With Men and Transgender Populations Multi-City HIV Initiative Regional Action Planning Meeting* held on 6-9 December 2010 in Hong Kong. During both meetings transgender participants called for increased targeted research relating to transgender persons, human rights and access to health services.

Findings and recommendations from this report support the UNESCAP *Resolution 67/9 Asia-Pacific regional review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS* which "noted with concern the continuing barriers to access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support faced by key affected populations particularly sex workers, injecting drug users, men who have sex with men and transgender populations."

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/ Acronyms and abbreviations

AAI	AIDS Accountability International
ACJ	Advisory Council of Jurists
AHRC	Australian Human Rights Commission
AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
amFAR	Foundation for AIDS Research (previously American Foundation for AIDS Research)
APA	American Psychiatric Association
APCOM	Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health
APNSW	Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers
APTN	Asia Pacific Transgender Network
ARROW	Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women
CBO	community-based organization (here including non-registered networks and groups, as well as more formal and/or funded organizations)
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CETH	Centre of Excellence in Transgender Health
CONGENID	International Congress on Gender Identity and Human Rights (The 'Barcelona' Conference)
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DSM	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
EQUINET	European Network of Equality Bodies
FSW	female sex worker(s)
GATE	Global Action for Trans*-Equality
GID	Gender Identity Disorder
HIVOS	Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation
HIV-PJA	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus - Prevention Justice Alliance
HRW	Human Rights Watch
HSV2	Herpes Simplex Virus 2
IAVI	International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
ICAAP	International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICD	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights
ICJ	International Commission of Jurists

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