

ConStellation  
Special Edition  
Toronto 2006  
13-18 August  
STELLA  
by and for sex workers  
Montréal, 514.285.1599  
[www.chezstella.org](http://www.chezstella.org)

**Welcome to Toronto!**

Stella, Maggie's and Canadian sex workers would like to welcome you for a week of extraordinary actions and exchanges during the XVI<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference!

**Updates!**

During the week, many events will be moved or added to this schedule. Consult the board at the Stiletto Lounge regularly to stay abreast of all the changes : conferences, actions and meetings!

**It's a rendez-vous!**

*Come and visit us at the Global Village.* You'll find us at the Stiletto Lounge, the booths of Stella, Zi Teng, Danaya So and the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW). While you're there, don't miss the APNSW Sex Workers' Barbie March!

**AIDS 2006 Film Festival**

Check out the festival schedule for some work by sex workers!

### **Not to be missed: Events at the Stiletto Lounge!**

Sexxy Demonstration by the Stella Grrrlz, *Canada* : Monday from 12:00 to 12h30 pm;  
Tuesday from 11:30 to 12 am, Wednesday from 12 to 12:30 pm and Thursday from  
12:00 to 12h30 pm!

#### Sunday August 13th

5 pm Sex Worker Orientation Session and Meet-and-Greet

#### Monday August 14th

6 pm Meeting to prepare for Sex Workers action

#### Tuesday August 15th

12-1 pm Book Presentation, Danaya So, *Mali*

4-5 pm Exhibit and Performance by Zi Teng, *Hong Kong*

#### Wednesday August 16th

10 am Rendez-vous for the Sex Worker Action

2 pm Performance of non-status Sex Workers by Empower, *Thailand*

4-4:30 pm Book reading and signing with Tracy Quan, *United States*

#### Thursday August 17

1.15-1.35pm Native Sex Work Drumming and Song

6 pm Francophone meeting

### **Francophone meeting**

The conference is great but...almost everything is in English! So for those of us who want to learn more about what's going on, meet with other francophone sex workers, and chat in French, this meeting is for you! Be there on Thursday, 6 pm!

### **Conference Sex Work Daily Blog!**

Every day, news about sex work-related activities will be posted on our Web site by our super mistress reporters! In French and English, on line at [www.chezstella.org](http://www.chezstella.org). Send this link around to all your friends and colleagues!

### **Parties**

#### Jeudi 17 août – Thursday August 17<sup>th</sup>

20h00 / 8 pm

*Cocktail des travailleuses du sexe - Sex Workers Cocktail*

Lot 16

1136 Queen St W

Hosted by Maggie's and Stella

**No media allowed**

#### Vendredi 18 août – Friday August 18<sup>th</sup>

21h00 / 9 pm

*T-Party : Welcoming the World! - Bienvenue au monde!*

Sive Nightclub, 5, St Joseph

Par/by: Trans Programmes du 519 Church Street Community Centre, *Canada*

The 519 invites all trans and sex worker delegates from around the world to celebrate

together as a community and honor our accomplishments. It's time to listen to music, share food, and dance ourselves silly. Performances by Ote a'Tane, a group of Tahitian dancers, Kayla, a trans singer, and Robbie from South Asia, performing a modern ballet dance. Following that, local trans DJs will take center stage.

Shuttle busses will be available to take delegates from the convention site to the dance venue.

Tickets will be available in advance at the Stiletto Lounge and the LGBTQ Networking Zone in the Global Village.

## **Schedule of Sex Work Events**

### **Sunday August 13**

2:45-4:45 pm

*Is US AIDS Policy Undermining the HIV Response?*

Session Room 11, Level 100

Agencies : AIDS Policy Watch, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO) and Open Society Institute (OSI).

Speakers : H. Begum, Durjoy, *Bangladesh* and other international speakers to be confirmed.

**Satellite Session**

5:00 pm

*Sex Worker Orientation Session*

Global Village – Stiletto Lounge

Let's meet and greet at our Stiletto Lounge in the Global Village!

### **Monday August 14**

7:00-7:45 am

*Women and Girls' Rally & March*

Metro Hall Square

Organized by the coalition *The Blueprint for Action on Women and girls and HIV/AIDS*, the rally will begin at Metro Hall Square with Posawawajek Aboriginal Women Drummers performing. Then the march will go west on Wellington Street, ending at 7:45 at the North Building of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Speakers at the march, include someone from Stella, who will talk about HIV and sex workers' human rights. We know it's early but come on girls and boys! Bring your banners and let's make noise!

10:45-12:15 am

*Unlocking Untapped Potential: Tools to Promote Self Efficacy, Enhance Communication and Strengthen the Skills of Sex Worker Peer Educators*

Skills Building Room 5, Level 200

Facilitators: S. Bou, N. Sopha, K. Reth, FHI, *Cambodia*. **Skills Building Workshop**

12:00-12:30 pm

*Sexxy demonstration*

By Stella Girlzz, *Canada*

Global Village – Stiletto Lounge

12:30-2:00 pm

**Poster Presentations**

Exhibition area, Level 800, South Building of Metro Toronto Convention Centre

*Deficiencies of the "4 Free 1 Concern" policy, and the compulsory HIV/AIDS-test: experiences we obtained from the China program*

Y. Yuet Lin, Zi Teng, *Hong Kong*

*Improve Working Relationships between a Sex Workers' Organization and the Police in Order to Increase the Effectiveness of HIV Prevention Strategies for Street Based Sex Workers*

R. Wotton, *Scarlett Alliance, Australia*

2:15-3:45 pm

*Sex Workers are Part of the Solution: Sex Worker Leaders Around the Globe*

Global Village - Session Hall 2

Agencies : Stella, *Canada*; Maggie's, *Canada*; Network of Sex Work Projects, *International*.

International speakers to be confirmed.

4:15-5:45 pm

*Sex Workers, HIV & Human Rights: What Can be Done?*

Session Room 2, Level 800

Moderators: M. Ditmore, *NSWP* & P. Puckmai, *Empower*

Speakers include : E. Reynaga, *Ammar, Argentina*; P. Sokchea, *Women's Network for Unity, Cambodia*; N. Stojanovik, *Macedonia* and O. Odumuye, *Alliance Rights Nigeria, Nigeria* and A. Saha, *DMSC, Inde*.

This session is about how different existing policies impact on sex workers' human rights and HIV/AIDS. Examples of self-organizing and empowerment of sex workers, and legal approaches that work in different settings will be presented.

**Symposium**

6:00-8:00 pm

*Where is the pleasure in safer sex?*

Skills Building Room 1, Level 200

Speaker : C. Cloniger, *St. James Infirmary and SWEAT Project, United States*

The session is about the ways St. James Infirmary and the SWEAT research project incorporate pleasure into their conversations/counseling/harm reduction with sex workers.

**Satellite Session**

## **Tuesday August 15**

11:30-12:00 pm

*Sexxy demonstration*

By Stella Girlzz, *Canada*

**Global Village** – Stiletto Lounge

12:00-1:00 pm

*Presentation of the Book “L’Espoir bafoué” - “Hope Ridiculed”*

Global Village – Stiletto Lounge

By Djelika Diallo, Danaya So, *Mali*.

Based on interviews with sex workers who are members of the association Danaya So, this book looks at sex work in Mali, health structures, HIV/AIDS, condom use amongst sex workers and attitudes of clients towards sex workers. The book was written by Sylvia Mollet and Broulaye Sangaré, the co-founders of Danaya So.

2:15-3:45 pm

*Sex Work, HIV & Politics*

Global Village - Session Hall 1

Agencies: AIDS Policy Watch, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO), Internews, Network of Sex Work Projects, Maggie’s and Stella.

International speakers to be confirmed.

4:00-5:00 pm

*Exhibit and Performance by Zi Teng*

Global Village – Stiletto Lounge

By Zi Teng, *Hong Kong*

People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and sex workers in Mainland China, especially those living in poverty in small villages, are often stereotyped as people who live in fear, sadness and hopelessness. Through this exhibit of paintings and sculptures and through our dance performance, we would like to show others that the PLWHAs and sex workers in China are indeed as cheerful, creative, and optimistic as others and continue to strive for full lives. We will also tell the audience about the situation of sex workers in Hong Kong, Macau and parts of Mainland China.

4:15-5:45 pm

*Criminalization and HIV: Stories of Communities Fighting Back in a Human Rights Framework*

Session Room 9, Level 100

Moderator : J. Csete, Canadian HIV-AIDS Legal Network, *Canada*

Speakers: P. Suwannawong, Thai Drug Users’ Network, *Thailand*; G. Azzi, Helem: Lebanese Protection for LGBTQ, *Lebanon*; C. Healy, New Zealand Prostitutes’ Collective, *New Zealand*.

For some persons most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, stigma, marginalization and

discrimination are compounded by criminalization under the law.

### **Learning from practice**

4:15-5:45 pm

*Prevention controversy*

Session Room 2, Level 800

4:45 “Sexual health, HIV prevention and impact of US policies” with F. Girard, OSI, USA.

This session will look at controversies over working with sex workers.

### **Controversy and Common Ground**

5:45-6:15 pm

*APNSW STAR WHORES*

Global Village-Main Stage

By APNSW All Stars Troup

A musical review highlighting critical issues for sex workers including funding restrictions and condom distribution.

6:30-8:00 pm

*Research With Marginalized Populations: Authentic Community Involvement and Engagement*

Global Village- Session Hall 2

Agencies : Aids Vaccine Advocacy Coalition, *United States*; Stella, *Canada*; Maggie’s, *Canada*; Network of Sex Work Projects, *International*.

Speakers : International speakers to be confirmed.

7:30-11:30 pm

*Compelled to Act: Prostitute theatre in Mali*

Olympic Spirit Toronto, 35 Dundas Street East – Free Admission

*Compelled to Act* is the story of a theatre group composed of sex workers who defy the stigma of their profession to perform plays about HIV-AIDS, pharmaceutical abuse and female circumcision. Their performances include a liberal helping of social satire, humour and song. 46 minutes / Director: B. Rosensweig.

**AIDS 2006 Film Festival – Shorts Program**

## **Wednesday August 16**

10:00 am

**Rendez-vous for Sex Workers’ Action and March**

**Global Village – Stiletto Lounge**

12:00-12:30 pm

*Sexxy demonstration*

By Stella Girlzz, *Canada*

**Global Village – Stiletto Lounge**

10:45-12:15 am

*Claiming Rights for Women in HIV/AIDS*

Session Room 4, Level 800

Includes: “Advancing the rights of women drug users through advocacy in Canada” with J. Csete, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, *Canada* at 11:06 and “Mobilizing Sex workers and claiming rights in India” at 11:13 with M. Seshu, Sangram, *India*.

**Symposium**

12:30-2:00 pm

**Poster Presentations**

Exhibition Area, Level 800, South Building of Metro Toronto Convention Centre

*Shift from a Vertical STD/HIV Intervention Program to a Comprehensive Development Program in response to Community Initiative: The Sonagachi Project*

B. Dey, DMSC, *India*

*The Social Impact of a STD/HIV Intervention Program among the Female sex worker community in West Bengal*

P. Halder, DMSC, *India*

*Mobile clinic to provide Care and support to clandestine sex workers in Senegal*

D. Diouf, Enda Tiers Monde/ Santé, *Senegal*

4:00-4:30 pm

*Diary of a Married Call-Girl*

Global Village – Stiletto Lounge

By Tracy Quan, New York City, *USA*. Tracy will read from her latest novel *Diary of a Married Call-Girl*.

4:15-5:45 pm

*Risk and Risk Reduction with Female Sex Workers*

Session Room 12, Level 100

Moderators : C. Overs, NSWP and M. Seshu, Sangram, *India*.

Speakers : J. Zhang, *China*, X. Li, *China*, A. Mathur, *India*, N. Mack, *Malawi*, Kamanga, *Zambia*.

Research presented look at clients of female sex workers (FSW) and voluntary testing and FSW in China, an empowerment project with rural sex workers in India, the links between alcohol consumption and transactional sex in Malawi and a project for FSW and truck drivers in Zambia.

**Oral Abstract Session**

6:30-8:00 pm

*Building a Global Transgendered HIV/AIDS Prevention Strategy*

Global Village - Main Stage

Agency: The 519 Church Street Community Centre (Canada)

International speakers to be confirmed.

## **Thursday August 17**

12:00-12:30 pm

*Sexxy demonstration*

By Stella Girlzz, *Canada*

**Global Village** – Stiletto Lounge

2:00 pm

*New findings on the Impact of US Prostitution Loyalty Oath on HIV Prevention*

Press Conference Room, Media Centre

Agencies : Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO), Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP).

**Press Conference**

4:15-5:45 pm

*Understanding and Reaching Marginalized Groups*

Session Room 6, Level 800

Includes: “How the object of research transformed into researcher: a Durbar experience” at 4:30 with S. Pal, DMSC, *India*.

**Oral Abstract Session**

## **How Do I Find Myself in the Conference ?**

The conference is a massive, invigorating... and sometimes overwhelming event with enough people to fill a small city ! If you are lost or confused, someone at the Stiletto Lounge can give you a hand figuring out where you're going.

## **Global Village**

The Global Village is open to everyone for free and there is no need for conference registration. It contains Networking Zones for different communities, including, among others the Sex Work (Stiletto Lounge), Aboriginal, Prison and Drug User Networking Zones. It also includes booths for HIV/AIDS related NGOs from all over the world.

Marketplace booths are places where you can buy fun souvenirs.

There are panels, meetings, and presentations going on at all times in the Global Village. It is an excellent place to meet and network with people from different communities and from all around the world. Presentations are usually more accessible and easier to understand than in the rest of the conference. It is also where a lot of the planning for demonstrations happens...and where a lot of flirting happens too!

## **Registration**

If you are registered for the conference, you must go pick up your conference bag and schedule at registration. It will have all the information you need on events taking place in the official conference program.

## **Conference**

The conference has a very large schedule. You can consult it on the website at [www.aids2006.org](http://www.aids2006.org). If you are interested in a specific theme like “prison” for example, you can enter “prison” into the search engine and it will show you events that may be of interest to you. There are many types of conference presentation. Panels have different speakers talking about a given subject. Oral abstract sessions have different speakers presenting their research. Skills-building workshops are great chances to learn more skills.

## **Cultural Program**

The Cultural Program brings together artists from all over the world to talk about HIV/AIDS through song, dance, theatre and visual arts. Check out the cultural program schedule for times and venues.

## **Support for sex workers in Toronto**

If you are considering doing sex work in Toronto, the groups below can offer you support and information :

### **Maggies’**

298 Gerrard St. East, 2nd Floor

Tel: 416.964.0150

### **Meal Trans, 519 Church Street Community Center**

519 Church Street

Tel: 416.392.6878 ext. 104