

Advocacy and Sensitization Training for MSM and SWs

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Summer 2020



Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC)

- Mobilizing the voice, visibility, and participation of vulnerable population, by impacting the HIV response in the Caribbean.
- Advocating to support human rights and strengthen self- capacity of vulnerable populations.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE OF PROJECT

- Prevalent human rights violations, stigma, violence, and discrimination against MSM and SWs in the Caribbean.
- Sensitization through education and advocacy = addresses violence = integral part of HIV prevention, treatment and care.
- Community mobilization and support = improved HIV outcomes.

LESSONS LEARNED

- How to condense professional academic information into engaging public discourse materials.
- Remote experiences need extensive research and efforts to understand, experience, and address the needs of the culture and community being served.

Adaptation of existing Global Implementation Tools (SWIT, MSMIT) for training of community service organization partners and community members by developing culturally appropriate low literacy training materials and tools for assistance with self-advocacy and sensitization purposes that comprehensively addresses the needs of each of the target population: men who have sex with men (MSM) and sex workers (SWs) in Kingston, Jamaica.

Promoting a Human Rights Framework for MSM

3 STEPS

- 1. Challenging stigma and discrimination**
against men who have sex with men and supporting decriminalization of consensual same-sex activities.
- 2. Mobilizing support**
in favor of MSM, their rights, and against their exploitation.
- 3. Educating the universality of human rights**
to community members as it applies to MSM and changing the attitudes of the wider community.

Source: MSMIT, World Health Organization

3 Strategies to Advocate for Violence Against Sex Workers

- 1. Support and Empower**
 - Share messages of empowerment and solidarity.
 - Support capacity building and psychological support.
 - Provide information, skills, and resources to address violence.
- 2. Educate and Hold Perpetrators Accountable**
 - Create public and media awareness.
 - Educate the public about violence against sex workers.
 - Demand justice for victims.
- 3. Document Violence for Policy Change**
 - Support documentation of instances of violence.
 - Use the data to advocate for policy change and rights provision for sex workers.

Source: SWIT, World Health Organization

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Enhancing the HIV response in the Caribbean by addressing the issues faced by key populations (MSM and SWs) by spreading awareness, providing tools for self-advocacy, and sensitizing the community against existing violence and stigma.
- Education, training, and call to action through social media to reach and engage community members virtually during the Covid-19 pandemic.

AREAS OF ACTION AGAINST VIOLENCE ON MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

- Building capacity and self-efficacy
- Working for legal and policy reforms
- Fostering police accountability
- Promoting safety and security
- Providing health services
- Providing psychosocial, legal and other support services

Source: MSMIT, World Health Organization

A Condom Ensuring Guide for Sex Workers

Condoms remain the most effective tool for sex workers in preventing HIV transmission.

- Make condoms more available, more affordable, and of higher quality.
- Provide information and communication messages to reduce barriers to condom use.
- Destigmatize condoms.
- Spread knowledge of health benefits of condoms and where they are available.
- Build capacity of sex workers to negotiate condom use and sexual risk reduction.
- Educate them on:
 - Safer sex negotiation abilities
 - Skills to correctly and consistently use condoms (for both male and female).
 - Appropriate use of safe lubricants.
- Provide routine reinforcement of condom and lubricant use and negotiation skills.

Source: SWIT, World Health Organization