



‘What do sex workers think about the French Prostitution Act’?

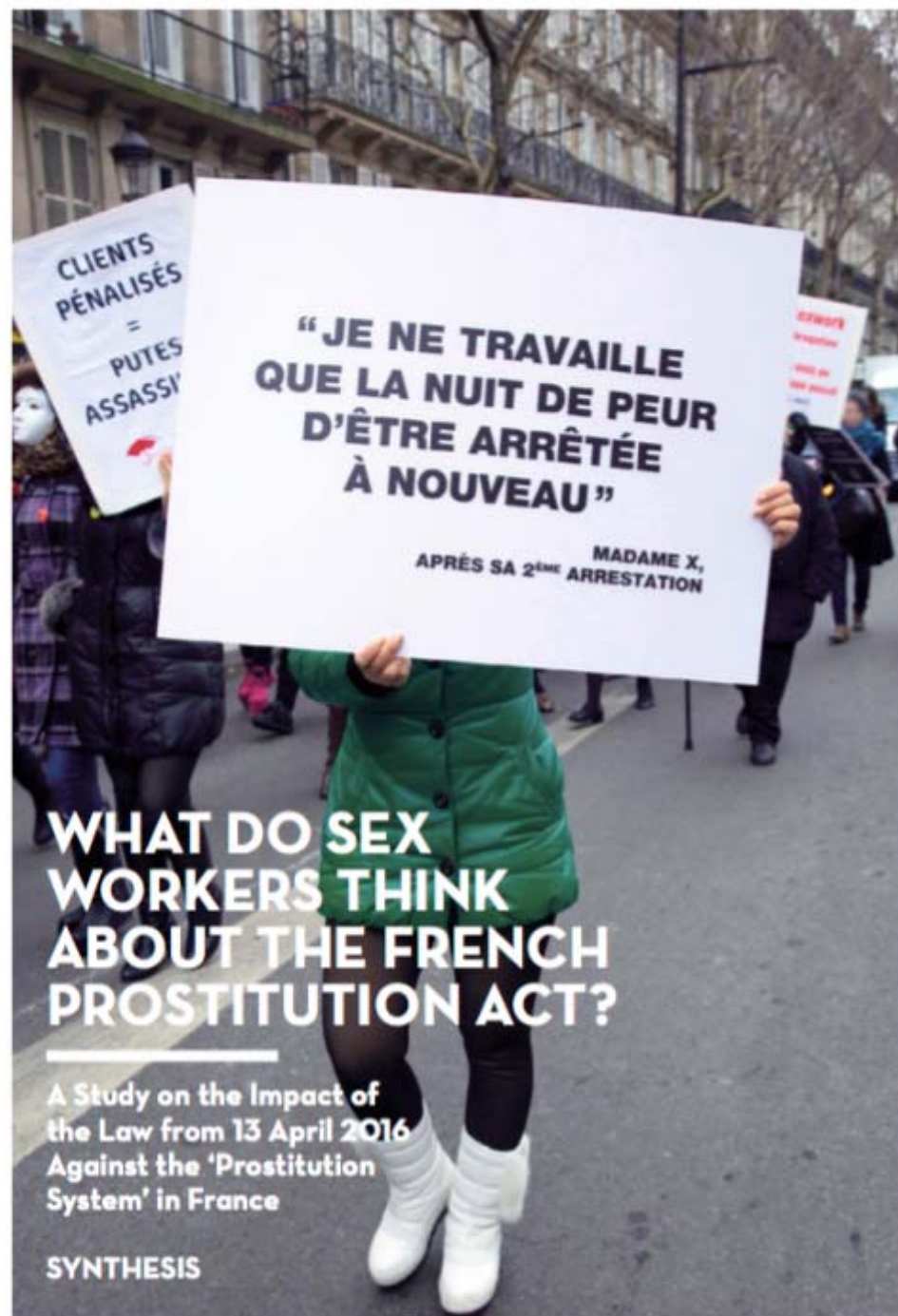
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Large scale research led by Medecins du Monde with the participation of 24 organisations working with sex workers.

583 sex workers took part in the research which included 38 focus groups and 70 in-depth interviews.





Findings

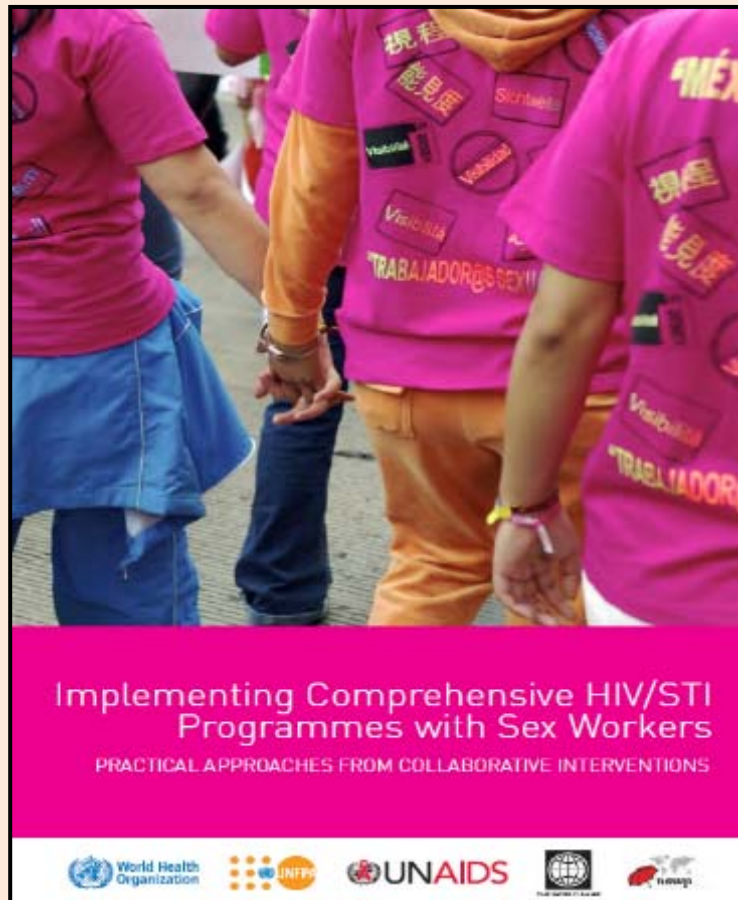
- - 63% of sex workers have experienced deterioration of their living conditions, more isolation and greater stress.
- - 78% of sex workers have experienced a loss of income due to decrease in number of clients and fall of rates.
- - 42% of sex workers are more exposed to violence.
- - 38% of sex workers find it increasingly hard to demand use of condom.
- - 70% of sex workers observe no improvement or deterioration of their relations with the police.



- **Other findings on criminalisation of clients in Europe:**

- France and Ireland: increase of violence against trans sex workers
- Continued criminalisation of sex workers themselves (recent raids in Ireland, fines in Iceland)
- Increase precarity and push sex workers to migrate (Serbia, France)
- Impact of domestic funding (cut to MDM, increase to abolitionist project who do not support harm reduction)
- Criminalisation also impact data collection > limited evidence on HIV/STI prevalence.

Sex Worker Implementation Tool



Good practice recommendations

1. All countries should work toward **decriminalization of sex work** and elimination of the unjust application of non-criminal laws and regulations against sex workers.
2. Governments should establish **antidiscrimination and other rights-respecting laws** to protect against discrimination and violence, and other violations of rights faced by sex workers in order to realize their human rights and reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and the impact of AIDS.
3. **Health services should be made available, accessible and acceptable** to sex workers based on the principles of avoidance of stigma, non-discrimination and the right to health.
4. **Violence against sex workers** is a risk factor for HIV and must be prevented and addressed in partnership with sex workers and sex worker-led organizations.

http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/stisex_worker_implementation/en/



Thank you !

***“Nothing about us
without us!”***

**Situation of sex workers in
Europe**

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