A Labour Rights Approach to HIV and Sex Work:

Working with Sex Workers to Protect Human Rights, Prevent and Eliminate Violence and Sexual Harassment and Promote Equal Access to Protection Schemes

The proposed panel discussions will explore options for building and maintaining successful partnerships with sex workers’ organizations to develop innovative rights-based approaches to improve sex workers’ access to HIV prevention, care, treatment and support services.

The panel discussion will be followed by a question and answer session. Participants will leave the workshop with an increased knowledge of relevant international labour standards that safeguard workers’ rights; an increased understanding of sex worker-led approaches to addressing the HIV vulnerabilities of sex workers on labour and health issues; and be able to identify and build on lessons learned from existing partnerships and good practices for improving the health and working conditions of sex workers.
11:00  INTRODUCTION
   Mr. Steve Kraus, Director, Regional Support Team, UNAIDS, Thailand

11:10  A LABOUR RIGHTS APPROACH TO HIV AND SEX WORK
   Mrs. Alice Ouedraogo, Director, ILO/AIDS, International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

11:20  LABOUR, DIGNITY AND HEALTH FOR SEX WORKERS: CHALLENGES IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE
   Mrs. Cheryl Overs, Michael Kirby Centre for Public Health and Human Rights, Monash University, Melbourne Australia

11:30  AN ASSESSMENT OF WORKING CONDITIONS AMONG VENUE ESTABLISHMENT BASED SEX WORKERS IN CAMBODIA
   Mr. Neil Poetschka, Union Aid Abroad, Vietnam

11:40  OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AS A FOUNDATION FOR EFFECTIVE HIV PROGRAMMING: MODEL WORKPLACES
   Mrs. Chantawipa Apisuk, Empower Foundation, Bangkok, Thailand – Best practices and Challenges in Thailand
   Mrs. Kelli Dorsey, Director, Different Avenues, Washington, DC – Best practices and Challenges in the United States

12:00  DISCUSSION AND CLOSING REMARKS

12:30  Dr. George Tembo, Chief of the HIV/AIDS Branch, United Nations Population Fund, New York, United States