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***For Immediate Release***

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## **NEW REPORT SHOWS U.S. POLICIES HINDER HEALTH, RIGHTS OF FEMALE SEX WORKERS GLOBALLY**

*Women's Rights Organization Calls for Action*

**Washington, D.C.** – A [new report](#) released on the eve of the International AIDS Conference details how U.S. government policies not only hinder efforts to advance the health and rights of female sex workers globally but also prevents the U.S. government from realizing its own commitments in addressing the HIV epidemic.

“All Women, All Rights, Sex Workers Included: U.S. Foreign Assistance and the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Women and Girls Globally,” was released by the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) and is the first report to identify both best practices to advance the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of female sex workers and to measure how U.S. foreign assistance can better conform to those practices.

[The report](#) comes just weeks after the [High Level Meeting to End AIDS](#), held at the UN, where the U.S. government announced \$100 million for a Key Populations Fund, specifically addressing the health needs of sex workers. Earlier this week, UNAIDS released its “Prevention Gap” report noting the high percentage of new infections among key populations including sex workers, the role that stigma plays in hampering prevention efforts, and the need for increased prevention investment.

“When we talk about women and their health needs, female sex workers are often invisible,” said CHANGE President Serra Sippel. “CHANGE’s new report looks at how government policies can and should advance the health and rights of female sex workers and calls on the U.S. government to address policies that perpetuate stigma, abuse, and bad public health policy.”

Specifically, the report examines U.S. policies such as the Anti-Prostitution Loyalty Oath ([APLO](#)), which requires foreign organizations receiving U.S. funds to have a policy explicitly opposing prostitution, and the Bush-era National Security Presidential Directive-22, a little-known policy – still in effect – which conflates sex work with trafficking.

“These policies not only betray women worldwide and put female sex workers’ lives at risk, they hinder the U.S. government from advancing its own global health policies,” said Sippel. “Every woman should have access to the health care services she needs and her rights protected, female sex workers are no exception.”

The report also provides an in-depth analysis of the comprehensive health and rights needs of female sex workers, the role that [decriminalization](#) plays in advancing those health and rights, and provides recommendations for U.S. government action.

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“Female sex workers are women first and have the same health care needs as many women including family planning, contraceptive services, abortion access, and issues caused by gender based violence,” said Sippel. “While advancing sex workers’ rights is critical to addressing the HIV epidemic, the health and rights of female sex workers extend beyond HIV, and so does our report,” said Sippel.

*About CHANGE: CHANGE is a Washington, D.C.-based women’s rights organization that promotes sexual and reproductive rights as a means to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by shaping public discourse, elevating women’s voices, and influencing the U.S. government. CHANGE works across global health issues including family planning, maternal health and rights, HIV prevention and treatment, gender-based violence, and access to abortion.*

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