Misconceptions about sex workers hinder effective HIV prevention programmes

**THE MYTH IS...**

- Sex workers have higher burdens of HIV, although epidemics are reflective of, and impact on, surrounding adult populations.
- Global epidemiology of HIV among female sex workers.
- Misconceptions about sex workers hinder effective HIV prevention programmes.
- Transgender female sex workers face the same risk of HIV as male sex workers.
- Heterosexual identity in SHARED TRANSMISSION is not just a passing phase but a sexual identity to be cultivated.
- There is no risk of HIV transmission to the non-transgender and from female sex workers.
- Transgender female sex workers demonstrate about 0.6 fewer cases of HIV compared to non-transgender women.
- HIV infection rates are highest among sex workers who are also other affected populations.
- Sex work is not a real job.
- Feminist interventions in sex work in Brazil, entitling sex workers to labour rights.
- Sex work is officially recognised as an occupation.
- Police harassment forces sex workers to labour rights.
- Female sex workers are at the same risk of HIV as male sex workers.
- Male sex workers are all gay.

**BUT THE TRUTH IS...**

- There is no risk of HIV transmission to the non-transgender and from female sex workers.
- Transgender female sex workers demonstrate about 0.6 fewer cases of HIV compared to non-transgender women.
- Sex work is officially recognised as an occupation.
- Police harassment forces sex workers to labour rights.
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**THE IMPACT BEING...**

- Anti-retroviral therapy scale-up of worldwide.
- Sex workers have higher burdens of HIV, although epidemics are reflective of, and impact on, surrounding adult populations.
- HIV prevalence.
- How much could HIV infections be averted?
- Sex work is not a real job.
- Female sex workers are at the same risk of HIV as male sex workers.
- Misconceptions about sex workers hinder effective HIV prevention programmes.

**THE HIV BURDEN**

Sex workers have higher burdens of HIV, although epidemics are reflective of, and impact on, surrounding adult populations.

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