

# WE ARE SEX WORKERS

There are at least 4.8 million of us in Asia-Pacific and we face these issues:

I am often detained by the police for carrying condoms.

Some of my clients refuse to wear condoms. If I reject them, my client or manager threaten to beat me.

When I experience violence from clients, managers or police, I have nobody to turn to.

My child and I are looked down upon by health workers; they treat us differently.

The government shut down the sex work facility where we worked. Now we rarely see HIV outreach workers coming to us.

We can't form collectives to advocate for our rights.



## We are being left behind due to:

- Criminalization of sex work and soliciting, which creates a hostile environment for sex workers and encourages police to use condoms as evidence of illegal conduct
- Lack of laws, policies and programmes that protect against discrimination on the grounds of occupation and ensure access to justice for sex workers
- Laws and policies allowing coerced HIV testing of sex workers
- Laws that deny sex workers their labour rights and identity documents
- Compulsory detention of sex workers for the purpose of "rehabilitation" or "re-education"