

PPE 643 PJ

Project Title: HIV Intervention to Extend Outreach for Transgender People, Transgender Sex Workers (TSW), and Clients of TSW in Hong Kong"

Name of Applicant: Association for Transgender Rights

Executive Summary:

The Aims of the Project are:

1. To contact more Transgender People (TG) in Hong Kong through extensive outreach actions;
2. To outreach and contact more Transgender Sex Workers (TSW) in Hong Kong;
3. To contact clients of Transgender Sex Workers in Hong Kong;
4. To provide HIV/AIDS, STI and safe sex education designed for TG, TSW and Clients of TSW;
5. To provide social support and foster peer networks for TG and TSW so they can have positive attitudes in life and healthier lives;
6. To raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and STIs amongst TG, TSW and Clients of TSW in Hong Kong;
7. To have 100 Transgender people and their clients in Hong Kong receive VCT service.

The Objectives of the Project are:

- 5 Transgender People will be trained to be HIV/AIDS Peer Counsellors;
- Transgender Outreach Actions will be conducted;
- Group Support Meetings for Transgender People will be held;
- Transgender Health Talks will be conducted;
- 100 Transgender People or their clients in Hong Kong receive the VCT Service.

Target population:

Transgender People, Transgender Sex Workers (TSW), and Clients of TSW in Hong Kong

Project Design:

Comprehensive HIV intervention to the Transgender related community through Training, Outreach, Group Support Meetings, Health Talks, delivering Condoms, Hotline and Voluntary Counselling and Testing service (VCT).

Main Achievements:

- 5 Transgender People were trained to be HIV/AIDS Peer Counsellors;
- 100 Transgender People or their clients in Hong Kong received the VCT Service.

Conclusions:

In many HIV prevention and education efforts, TG women are treated as a sub-set of MSM rather than a distinct group with its own specific health needs. In the words of Joleen Mataele, Chairperson of the Pacific Sexual Diversity Network "**Transgender people are so very different from MSM, yet the world tends to clump us together.**" [1] In its prevention and treatment guidelines, the World Health Organization states:

Although the same basic HIV and STI prevention interventions may be indicated for the two groups, public health professionals should avoid conflating the two groups and work towards a more nuanced understanding of each group's needs. [2]

We are very grateful that in recent years, the Department of Health has swiftly recognized the needs of the Transgender community, conducted research projects understanding the specific needs of the Transgender community, particularly concerning the HIV risk the community is facing and the lack of relevant education and social support.

We are also encouraged that our community work is being recognized by the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund and has received support to conduct HIV intervention services to the Transgender community in Hong Kong.

[1] “Apcom Elects First Governing Board”. Fridae (online news outlet), 2010. Available from: <http://www.fridae.asia/newsfeatures/2010/07/02/10087.apcom-elects-first-governing-board-sets-agenda-to-tackle-hiv-among-msm-and-transgender-people-in-asia-pacific>

[2] World Health Organization “Prevention and Treatment of HIV and Other Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Men Who Have Sex with Men and Transgender People.” 2011. Available from: http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/guidelines/msm_guidelines2011/en/index.html