

Alliances for Solidarity - Access to SRHR Services for Sex Workers and the LGBTQI+ Community

(2018 IDAHOT/International Sex Workers' Day Watchdog)



For the past five years, YCSRR has released a “Watchdog” for the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) on May 17 - an entirely youth-authored publication on LGBTQI+ rights. The theme for the 2018 IDAHOT is “Alliances for Solidarity” - so this year, the YCSRR has decided to highlight the common struggles that young LGBTQI+ people and young sex workers face when accessing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services, including comprehensive sexuality education. Conservative social norms continue to stigmatize young people's sexuality, which leads to the development of laws, policies and practices that discriminate against LGBTQI+ people and sex workers, including criminalization laws which restrict access to health care services and deny young people their sexual and reproductive rights. This stigma is compounded by age discrimination which limits the ability of these communities to participate in decision making. LGBTQI+ sex workers are sometimes discriminated against within the LGBTQI+ community on the basis of their profession - so it is critical to discuss both of these communities and find solidarities between them.

While YCSRR continues to support IDAHOT as an important day of visibility for the LGBTQI+ community, we have decided to release this Watchdog on June 2nd, in honor of International Sex Workers' Day. On 2 June 1975, approximately 100 sex workers occupied Saint-Nizier Church in Lyon, France, to express their anger about their criminalized and exploitative living conditions. On 10 June at 5pm the church was brutally raided by police forces. This action

sparked a national movement, and the day is now celebrated in Europe and around the world.
Source: [Global Network of Sex Work Projects \(NSWP\)](#)

Recognising 2 June as the International Sex Workers' Day, the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights is calling on all young activists to speak up for sexual and reproductive health and rights and access to services for sex workers, people in sex trade, and LGBTQI+ people by submitting art and writing to our Watchdog!

Youth Coalition's Watchdog publication aims to provide a platform for people and organisations who have been excluded from or otherwise not had the opportunity to contribute to the sexual and reproductive health and rights services discourse. This includes, but is not limited to marginalized and minority groups, such as youth and adolescents, people living with disabilities, economically marginalized people, those who live in rural or remote locations, indigenous peoples, young people living with HIV, sex workers, refugees, undocumented migrants and trans, gender non-conforming and queer people, who face multiple challenges in accessing SRHR services and realising their rights. We strongly encourage young people living at the intersections of these marginalized identities to submit your work!

Submit Your Art and Writing:

The YCSRR is calling on all young people under 30 years old to submit original artwork (posters, infographics, pictures, postcards, videos, etc.) and original writing (articles, stories, poetry, research) on the theme of "Alliances for Solidarity - Access to SRHR Services for Sex workers and the LGBTQI+ community" for our Watchdog publication!

Selected artistic submissions will also be featured on the YCSRR website and used during the YCSRR social media campaign around International Sex Workers' Day.

Please note that your submission can discuss the suggested topics below just as they relate to sex workers or just as they relate to the LGBTQI+ community, but we strongly encourage submissions that address similarities/solidarities between the two communities.

Suggested submission subtopics include (but are not limited to):

- Common issues and experiences faced by both sex workers and LGBTQI+ people in accessing SRHR
- Access to comprehensive sexuality education for LGBTQI+ youth and/or young sex workers (and all the intersections of those identities)
- Access to high-quality, youth-friendly SRHR services for LGBTQI+ youth and/or young sex workers (and all the intersections of those identities)
- Impact of criminalization and discriminatory laws on lives of sex workers and/or LGBTQI+ people, particularly how it impacts access to health care services
- Decriminalization of sex work and/or homosexuality

- Examples of successful campaigns and advocacy initiatives highlighting solidarity between LGBTQI+ people and sex workers
- Advancing the human rights of LGBTQI+ individuals and/or sex workers

Submission Requirements:

- All content must be original with all necessary copyright permissions. Content with copyright violations (including but not limited to background music used without permission or copyrighted images appearing in photograph/video) will not be considered.
- Entries submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
- All entries must align with the [YCSRR Principles and Values](#) and YCSRR's support of the decriminalization of sex work. Entries with homophobic, transphobic, sex work abolitionist or otherwise discriminatory content will not be considered, without exception.
- All content submitted must be created entirely by a person or group of people under 30 years old, without exception.
- Please include your name (preferred name, pseudonyms and anonymous submissions are all acceptable), country of citizenship/residence and date of birth with your submission.

Each participant can submit up to three original submissions. The format of image files must be JPG. Videos should not exceed a length of three minutes and must meet the [requirements found here](#). Videos selected will be shared on June 2 and a still from the video will be included, with a description, in the Watchdog publication. Writing is welcome in English, French, Spanish, Hindi, Turkish, German and Russian, and should be submitted as a Word document (.doc format). Submissions should not exceed 1 page single-spaced (approximately 500 words).

Deadline for submissions: May 2, 2018, 23:59 EDT

Please send your submissions to watchdog@youthcoalition.org with "SRHR Watchdog 2018" in the subject line no later than May 2, 2018.

The Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR) is an international organization of young people (ages 18-29 years) committed to promoting adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive rights at the national, regional and international levels. We are students, researchers, lawyers, health care professionals, educators, development workers, and most importantly: we are all dedicated activists.