

MOTHERS FOR THE FUTURE

DUDU DLAMINI SALLY SHACKLETON
SWEAT



WHO ARE WE?

- Dudu is a mother of 4, has been in the sex industry for over 10 years, and works at SWEAT/Sisonke as an organiser. She lobbies those in power to change how they see sex work and support law reform
- Sally is the mother of a 2-year old daughter, and the partner of a trans person. She is the director of SWEAT





RECOGNISING THE NEED

- Sex workers started bringing their children to our workshops
- They started connecting with each other
- Our 24-hour help line/ counselling service were seeing more and more women in crisis pregnancy or struggling with young children, child care and the pain of separation from their children
- We decided to develop a programme for mothers
- We also run discussion about fatherhood with our male sex workers, and had a support group for fathers





Mothers for the Future

Some Facts about sex working mothers:

- In South Africa, there are 153,000 sex workers
- One sex worker supports, on average, 4 dependants
- 5% are male, 4% are transgender
- HIV prevalence in 3 cities between 71% and 50% (Durban, Cape Town, South Africa), on a trucking route on the N3 prevalence was over 80%, sex workers in developing countries about 14 times more likely to be positive
- Few sex workers report violence against them
- Other issues: drug & alcohol use (binge drinking); violence and isolation from criminal justice system; stigma is high, highly mobile, delay seeking help



Mothers for the Future

What does Mothers 4 the Future do?

- Support group for mothers that meets regularly (curricula addresses skills building and participatory methods)
- Reaching their children at the same time
- Children attend, play, are supported and bonds developed
- Plans to establish a clinic offering well baby and basic health screening services, as well as services for mothers SRH, treatment support and prevention
- Safe space for self expression, self organised support
- Access to Legal support and advice, counselling, referrals etc
- Solidarity and support for each other
- Peer outreach to new mothers/mothers in crisis



WHAT WORKS?

- Peer to peer support – this means sex workers
- Participatory learning and teaching (‘creative space’)
- Nurture leadership of mothers, build skills
- Outreach to mothers
- Build TRUST – it takes time, it takes an organisational culture change... ‘sex work friendly’

WHAT WE NEED (AND PROBABLY WHAT ALL SW ORGS NEED)

- Resources – funding
- Partners in the children’s sector, legal support partners
- Political will and commitment from those in power – advocacy partners in the children’s sector
- Supportive legislation, policy and protocols
- Knowledge and good research that includes sex workers as active participants

CONTACT: SEX WORKER EDUCATION & ADVOCACY TASK FORCE

- Sally Shackleton
- sallys@sweat.org.za
- 021 448-7875
- Dudu Dlamini
- dudud@sweat.org.za
- www.sweat.org.za
- Join our facebook page by searching for our full name 😊 (and we tweet!)