WE ARE PRISONERS
There are at least 4.5 million of us in Asia-Pacific and we face these issues:

- 20 of us are locked in the same cell for hours each day.
- The male staff physically abuse me and the other female inmates.
- I was raped by another inmate and I have nobody to turn to.
- My HIV treatment has stopped since coming to prison.
- I have unsafe sex because we can’t get any condoms here.
- With or without guards knowing, we smuggle and inject drugs. But clean needles are rare, so we reuse and share them.

We are being left behind due to:

- Weak criminal justice systems, leading to long periods of pre-trial detention and overcrowding
- Lack of legislation to ensure HIV tests are done with informed consent, confidentiality and counselling
- No access to harm reduction measures in closed settings
- Restrictions on condoms in prisons, often due to laws prohibiting same-sex sexual activities
- Lack of policies to ensure protection of the physical and mental health of prisoners