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”