



African  
Sex  
Workers  
Alliance



## Personal stories of sex workers in Ghana affected by the U.S. foreign aid freeze



Ghana



# 1 Introduction

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Here are five personal stories of sex workers in Ghana affected by the U.S. foreign aid freeze and the challenges they face:

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## 1.1 Ama – Losing Access to HIV Medication

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Ama, a 32-year-old sex worker in Accra, was receiving free HIV medication and regular health check-ups through a program funded by U.S. foreign aid. However, after the funding freeze, many clinics scaled down their services, and Ama found it harder to access antiretroviral therapy (ART). Without consistent medication, her health deteriorated, and she now struggles with frequent infections. She fears that without intervention, her condition will worsen, and she won't be able to work to support her two children.

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## 1.2 Efua – Closure of Safe Spaces

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Efua, a 27-year-old sex worker in Kumasi, used to rely on a safe drop-in center that provided sexual health services, legal support, and a place to rest. Due to the funding freeze, the center was forced to shut down, leaving Efua and many others without a safety net. Now, she faces higher risks of violence from clients and law enforcement, with no secure place to turn for support or emergency assistance.

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## 1.3 Kojo – Facing Increased Stigma and Discrimination

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Kojo, a 30-year-old male sex worker, depended on an LGBTQ-friendly clinic that was partially funded by U.S. grants. The clinic provided STI testing and counseling for marginalized groups, including sex workers. With the funding cut, Kojo no longer has access to free services and faces heightened discrimination when seeking healthcare elsewhere. Many public health workers refuse to treat him due to stigma, leaving him vulnerable to untreated infections.

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## 1.4 Naana – Rising Gender-Based Violence

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Naana, a 35-year-old single mother, has been a sex worker for over a decade. She used to participate in empowerment programs funded by NGOs that helped sex workers learn alternative skills. With the loss of funding, these programs disappeared, making it harder for Naana to find alternative income sources. She now works in more dangerous conditions, facing increased violence and exploitation. She recently experienced physical assault from a client but had nowhere to report it, as many support organizations lost their funding.

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## 1.5 Adwoa – Increased HIV Risk Among Young Sex Workers

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Adwoa, a 22-year-old new to sex work, relied on free condom distribution and peer education sessions to protect herself. With the U.S. foreign aid freeze, these services drastically reduced, and she now struggles to afford condoms. Clients often refuse to use protection, and without proper resources, she is at higher risk of contracting HIV. She has also noticed that more young sex workers are being exploited due to the lack of intervention programs.

The U.S. foreign aid freeze has had devastating effects on sex workers in Ghana, cutting off essential services that once protected their health, rights, and safety. Many now face increased risks of HIV, violence, and economic instability, with little to no support available.

