



FACT SHEET

Our Health, Our Rights, Our Voices, Our Leadership

Advancing SRHR, Inclusion and Leadership for Young Sex Workers

Insights from the Young Sex Workers' SRHR Webinar
African Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA) · October 2026

Nothing about young sex workers without young sex workers.

Why This Matters

Young sex workers have unique experiences, perspectives and priorities that must be recognised and reflected in programmes, policies and decisions that affect their health, rights and wellbeing.

To strengthen young sex workers' voices in SRHR advocacy, ASWA convened the Young Sex Workers' SRHR Webinar to discuss HIV, STI prevention and care, contraception, healthcare access, stigma and discrimination, safety, meaningful participation and leadership.

What the Dialogue Highlighted

- **Healthcare must be accessible — not simply available.**
Stigma, confidentiality, cost, transport and limited information can block access to friendly services.
- **SRHR is more than HIV**
Integrated HIV, STI, contraception, menstrual health and pregnancy-related care.
- **Contraceptive access must include information and choice**
Accurate information, a range of options and support for informed decisions.
- **Stigma and discrimination require institutional change**
Providers, communities and institutions must challenge discriminatory attitudes and practices.
- **Being present is not the same as participating**
Meaningful involvement in programme design, delivery and evaluation.

Our Advocacy Asks

- 1 Ensure accessible, confidential and respectful SRH services**
Strengthen youth-friendly and sex-worker-friendly healthcare without stigma or discrimination.
- 2 Strengthen access to comprehensive SRH and HIV services**
Accurate information and access to HIV prevention, testing, treatment, STI services, contraception and broader reproductive healthcare.
- 3 Protect informed contraceptive choice**
Provide clear information and support for voluntary and informed decisions.
- 4 Address stigma and discrimination within institutions**
Challenge discriminatory attitudes and practices in healthcare, civil society, government and communities.
- 5 Move from representation to meaningful participation**
Young sex workers' perspectives should inform decisions, programmes and advocacy priorities.
- 6 Invest in young workers' leadership**
Increase access to mentorship, advocacy training and opportunities to participate in national, regional and international spaces.

What ASWA Is Doing

- 1 Creating spaces for young sex workers to speak and lead through dialogues, webinars and consultations.**
- 2 Building young and emerging leadership through mentorship, leadership development and peer learning.**
- 3 Strengthening advocacy skills through capacity building, including sessions such as the Africa Leadership Sex Workers Academy (ALESWA).**
- 4 Advocating for better healthcare and SRHR including access to HIV prevention and care and healthcare without stigma and discrimination.**
- 5 Challenging stigma, discrimination and misinformation through policy and structural advocacy.**
- 6 Amplifying community voices in decision-making spaces.**

From Dialogue to Action:

The webinar should not be the end of the conversation. ASWA will continue to listen to young sex workers, identify recurring priorities and use community perspectives to strengthen advocacy and programming. Accountability matters: communities should know how the information and recommendations they share are being used.