

July 2022

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ASIJKI COALITION



**HUMAN RIGHTS
FOR EVERYONE**

INTERNATIONAL SEX WORKERS' DAY

On 2 June Asijiki commemorated International Sex Workers' Day. SWEAT, Sisonke and Sonke Gender justice joined Asijiki in launching the #SexWorkPromise media campaign.



The focus of the campaign was on accountability by reminding the government of its commitment to decriminalise sex work. Sex workers came together to record messages, videos and pictures for this campaign.

ASIJKI AT INAUGURAL COSATU GENDER CONFERENCE



Asijiki joined SWEAT and Sisonke at the Inaugural COSATU Gender Conference in Pretoria last month.. The Conference was held over three days and focused on the election of the Gender Committee's new leadership, gender equality/parity in the workplace and bringing COSATU partners together.

In 2015 COSATU adopted its resolution in support of the decriminalisation of sex work and has been vital in the guiding the Coalition in the parliamentary processes and timelines in getting the Decrim Bill tabled.

The Conference also provided valuable networking and lobbying opportunities with other trade unions, the Departments of Justice and Labour and the Commission for Gender Equality.



RIP RUVIMBO TENGA

Ruvimbo Tenga was our beloved colleague, comrade and friend. She was a passionate activist around sex worker, migrant and LGBTQ rights as well being a writer, poet, researcher and performer. Tragically Ruvimbo lost her life from complications related to a car accident on 7 June 2022 leaving her friends and family in South Africa, Zimbabwe and around the world heartbroken.

ASIJKI MEETS WITH THE ANC

On 9 June Asijiki joined SWEAT for a meeting with the ANC at Luthuli House. The goal was to present our inputs into the ANC upcoming National Policy Conference documents..

The meeting went well and the ANC said a draft Report of the meeting will be circulated, and tabled with the Social Transformation Committee, and the Chairperson briefed. The STC will be advised to at one of its meetings, to invite SWEAT, Asijiki, DM Jeffreys and the Study Group, to get an update on progress with the issue, and discuss a common approach, before the Policy Conference.



ASIJKI SUPPORTS THE SISTAAZHOD



Sistaazhood is a community of trans women sex workers based in Cape Town.. The peer-led and founded group functions as a support group and as an activist group.. In May Asijiki supported the Sistaaz of the Castle Fashion show, initiated to create awareness of informally housed/ Homeless Transgender Sex Working Women. The show was aimed at gaining access to spaces where the homeless, transgender sex working women were once denied.

In collaboration with Jan Hoek (Artist/ Photographer) and Duran Lantink (Fashion Designer). The activistic fashion show follows after numerous Transgender women living on the streets and alongside the Castle of Good Hope have suffered discrimination, eviction and loss due to the implementation of the City of Cape Town's bi-laws which criminalizes homelessness.

ASIJKI AT KOPANO



Asijiki was represented at Kopano last month. Kopano provides a once-every-two-year collective strategy development space in which a range of LGBTI activists and allies come together to critically analyse changes that have happened in southern Africa's social, economic, and political context as well as in the LGBTI movements in the region; consider the best ways to continue to advance equality, freedom, and social inclusion for LGBTI people in refreshed ways. learn from each other and develop strong and healthy relationships of solidarity.

DECRIM BILL STATUS UPDATE

Since the process kicked off in February this year with the DOJ consultations, a number of developments took place:

- 1) The Bill has since been finalised and had been submitted to DOJ.
- 2) DOJ, when last updated still had two outstanding consultations with identified interested parties.
- 3) The aim is to have the Bill tabled by the end of 2022 in order to allow for a full parliamentary process before the 2024 elections.
- 4) The work now is geared to have decrim included in the ANC National Policy Conference later this year.
- 5) Unsurprisingly, the decrim momentum has seen some pushback, specifically from the 'abolitionist' camp.
- 6) The work of the Coalition now focused on compiling evidence-based research to support the Bill.

ASIJIKI PROVINCIAL COORDINATORS ON 'THE DAILY THETHA'



One of the strategies of the Coalition for this year was to strengthen its provincial footprint by appointing provincial coordinators to focus on growing the numbers of the Coalition, as well as hold stakeholder engagements. The newly appointed coordinators gathered in JHB in June for a training session on the work of the Coalition, decriminalisation and their role in supporting the Asijiki



While in JHB, the coordinators got a first taste of the work that lies ahead when they were invited onto the SABC 1 programme, 'The Daily Thetha'. All of them did a stellar job in promoting the decriminalisation of sex work and representing Asijiki. You can watch it here: <https://fb.watch/dwaa6OIGPk/>

GOING FORWARD

The Coalition is gearing up for its annual provincial visits. The public participation process of the Decrim Bill is gearing up to be one of the most important factors in determining the success of the Bill. The role of Coalition members and stakeholders in the provinces will play a pivotal role, both in their support of decrim, as well as swaying public opinion.

Aluta Continua! #DecrimSexWork #Asijiki



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