

TAMPEP-Glossary of Terms for Sex Work

Language shapes beliefs and may influence behaviours, and considered use of appropriate language in promotion of sexual health and human rights of sex workers can be used as advocacy instrument.

TAMPEP has prepared this glossary of terms, relating to the sex industry and HIV prevention; where we are seeking to ensure clarity of a common definition of terms used. It also includes the definition of trafficking as set out in the Palermo Protocol.

Terms used

Sex worker	This term has been used in preference to 'prostitute'. The term 'sex worker' is intended to be non-judgemental, focusing on the conditions under which sexual services are sold. The term 'commercial sex worker' is no longer used, primarily because it is considered to be saying something twice over in different words.
Sex work, the sale of sexual services or commercial sex	These terms are used in preference to prostitution or commercial sex work
Sex industry	This term has been used in preference to 'prostitution' to describe the phenomenon of commercial sex.
Indoor based sex worker	This term has been used for sex workers who establish contact with clients in an indoor setting or over the Internet. Indoor sex work is often advertised in the media or on the Internet.
Outdoor based sex worker	This term has been used for sex workers who establish contact with clients in outdoor settings. Outdoor sex work settings are not advertised, but are areas where it becomes known that sex workers frequent.
Client	This term is used to describe those purchasing sexual services.
Service user	This term is used in preference to 'client' to describe an individual who accesses support from a sex work project or other service provider.
Partner (of a sex worker)	This term is used for individuals in a relationship with a sex worker and should not be compounded with 'pimp'.
Controller (of a sex worker)	This term is used in preference to 'pimp' to describe individuals who determine an individual's involvement in sex work and the sexual services they provide.
Manager (of a sex business)	This term is used to describe individuals who run sex businesses but who do not determine an individuals' involvement in sex work or the sexual services they provide.
Gatekeeper	This term is used to describe individuals that sex work projects and other service providers must negotiate with to enable contact with sex workers.

Sexual exploitation of children and young people through prostitution	This term has been used in preference to ‘child prostitution’
Young person sexually exploited through prostitution	This term has been used in preference to ‘young sex worker’ or ‘child sex worker’
Trafficker	This term is used only when all three components of the definition of trafficking are present.
Trafficking	<p><i>“Trafficking in Persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”</i></p> <p>Broken down into its components, the definition comprises ACTS, MEANS, and a PURPOSE. One or more elements in each of the three components must be present to meet the definition. The consent of a victim is irrelevant if any of the MEANS are used or if the victim is aged under 18 years. The three components are illustrated for ease of reference in a table below.</p>

TRAFFICKING		
ACT	MEANS	PURPOSE
Recruitment	Threat or use of force or other forms of coercion	Exploitation
Transportation	Abduction	
Transfer	Fraud	
Harbouring	Deception	
Receipt of persons	Abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability	
	Giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person	
Forced labour and slavery like practices in sex work or the sex industry	These terms are used in preference to ‘sexual slaves’ or other emotive terminology	
Unprotected sex	This term is used in preference to ‘risky sex’ or ‘high risk sex’	
Safer sex	This term is used in preference to ‘safe sex’ which may imply complete safety. The term safer sex more accurately reflects the idea that choices can be made and behaviours adopted to reduce or minimise risk.	

<p>Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)</p>	<p>This term is used in preference to ‘venereal disease (VD)’ or ‘sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)’ which do not convey the concept of asymptomatic sexually transmitted infections.</p> <p>Sexually transmitted infections are spread by the transfer of organisms from person to person during sexual contact. In addition to the ‘traditional’ STIs (syphilis and gonorrhoea), the spectrum of STIs now includes HIV, which causes AIDS; <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>; human papilloma virus (HPV) which can cause cervical or anal cancer; genital herpes; chancroid; genital mycoplasmas; hepatitis B; trichomoniasis; enteric infections; and ectoparasitic diseases (i.e., diseases caused by organisms that live on the outside of the host's body).</p> <p>The complexity and scope of sexually transmitted infections have increased dramatically since the 1980s; more than 20 organisms and syndromes are now recognized as belonging in this category.</p>
<p>Injecting drug user</p>	<p>This term is used in preference to ‘intravenous drug user’, ‘<i>drug addicts</i>’ or ‘<i>drug abuser’s</i>, which are seen as derogatory and which often result in alienation rather than creating the trust and respect required when dealing with those who inject drugs. UNAIDS does not use the term ‘intravenous drug users’ because subcutaneous and intramuscular routes may be involved.</p>
<p>Using non-sterile injecting equipment (if referring to risk of exposure to HIV)</p>	<p>This term is used in preference to ‘sharing’ (needles, syringes, etc.)</p>
<p>Using contaminated injecting equipment (if referring to HIV transmission)</p>	<p>This term is used in preference to ‘sharing’ (needles, syringes, etc.)</p>
<p>Individuals at increased risk of exposure to HIV</p>	<p>Avoid the terms ‘high risk groups’ Membership of groups does not place individuals at risk, behaviours may. Behaviours, not memberships, place individuals in situations in which they may be exposed to HIV. There is a strong link between various kinds of mobility and heightened risk of HIV exposure, depending on the reason for mobility and the extent to which people are removed from their social context and norms. Some populations may be at increased risk of exposure to HIV.</p>
<p>HIV</p>	<p>This term is used in preference to HIV/AIDS, HIV virus or AIDS virus (unless specifically referring to AIDS). Since HIV means ‘human immunodeficiency virus’, it is redundant to refer to the <i>HIV virus</i>. Since AIDS is a syndrome, it is incorrect to refer to the virus as the ‘AIDS virus’. AIDS is what people die of; HIV is what they are infected with.</p>

Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT)

This term refers to client initiated testing.

HIV testing is pivotal to both prevention and treatment interventions. The '3Cs' continue to be underpinning principles for the conduct of all HIV testing of individuals; testing must be: *confidential*; accompanied by *counselling*; only be conducted with informed *consent*, meaning that it is both informed and voluntary.

People living with HIV

It is preferable to avoid certain terms: *AIDS patient* should only be used in a medical context (most of the time, a person with AIDS is not in the role of patient); the term *AIDS victim* or *AIDS sufferer* implies that the individual in question is powerless, with no control over his or her life. It is preferable to use 'people living with HIV' (PLHIV), since this reflects the fact that an infected person may continue to live well and productively for many years. Referring to people living with HIV as *innocent victims* (which is often used to describe HIV-positive children or people who have acquired HIV medically) wrongly implies that people infected in other ways are somehow deserving of punishment. It is preferable to use 'people living with HIV', or 'children with HIV'.
