

SCM Programme Report for January 2012 to December 2012

In the period of January to December 2012, the Student Christian Movement organized the following programmes and activities.

Project X

1. Outreach work in Geylang, Desker, Woodlands and Changi Village

Outreach to the various redlight districts take place on a weekly basis and it is when we distribute the necessities to sex workers. This includes condoms, wet tissue, lubricant, free anonymous HIV testing coupons, good customer flyers, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We provide a listening ear to the sex workers and try to gain a deeper understanding of the issues that they face at work.

a. Volunteers' Training

Two volunteers' trainings were held in July. These trainings are conducted to equip volunteers with the skills necessary when conducting groundwork. It covers basic information on sexual and reproductive health, the law on sex work, and basic counseling skills.

b. Volunteer Touch Base Sessions

Every other month, volunteers come together to share on their outreach experience and to brainstorm on approaches to improve the project.



Good Customer Flyer
Created by Felicia Low based on
the inputs from sex workers.

2. Public Education and Networking Efforts

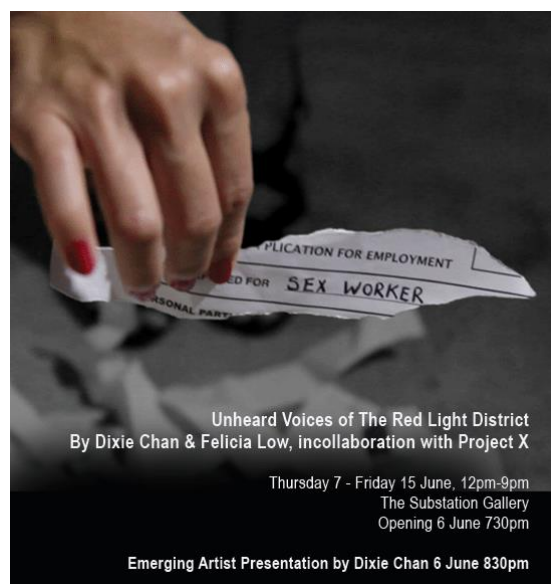
In order to address the issues that sex workers face, we need to first educate the public and expand people's mindsets with regard to sex work.

a. International Sex Workers' Rights Day Film Festival, 3 March 2012

We screened a series of short documentaries which are created by sex workers from all over the world. The aim was to create a positive portrayal of sex work rather than the usual troupe of films on violence and exploitation. We also screened the video recording of the play that Project X created together with DramaBox.

b. “Unheard Voices of the Red Light District” by Dixie Chan and Felicia Low, in collaboration with Project X. Substation Gallery, 6 – 13 June 2012

Unheard Voices was a multi-media installation that aimed to raise awareness on issues faced by Singaporean sex workers in Singapore. Volunteers from Project X gathered interviews from 11 sex workers; volunteers also created 3 ceramic art pieces that represents sex workers who inspire them; Felicia Low created light boxes with hand drawn scenes from the red light district; and Dixie Low created a short film that incorporated the voices of sex workers from the interviews.



There was a turnout of about 150 people on the opening night, and an additional 150 people who attended the exhibition thereafter.

c. Letter of Appeal to the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Alongside the exhibition, we drafted and collected signatures for a letter of appeal to the DPM of Singapore. We were appealing for a dialogue with Ministry of Home Affairs in order to raise our concern about the violence against sex workers.

d. Project X joins a Civil Society Roundtable on Trafficking

A group of civil society organizations have come together to brainstorm ways to tackle trafficking. Project X is part of this network and shares solutions based on sex workers' point of view.

e. Guest Speaker at the National University of Singapore, 28 June 2012

f. Set up a booth at EmancipAsia's Gala Dinner, 27 Jul 2012

g. Engaged NUS's Pro Bono Club to conduct research on sex work laws around the world, September 2012

h. Attended the Singapore AIDS Conference, 17 November 2012

Project X submitted an abstract entitled “The Right to Sexual Health” to the SAC, and we put up a poster of our abstract at the event. We printed out the full article and distributed it to the attendees at the conference.

i. Attended a roundtable discussion on “Managing Cross-Border Movements of People in Southeast Asia: Promoting Capacity and Response for Irregular Migration” organized by S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). 19 – 20 November 2012

j. Screened two short documentaries at SlutWalk Singapore 2012, 24 November 2012

To raise awareness about the level of victim blaming and slutshaming that sex workers face, and also that sex workers also face sexual assault and rape.

3. Publications:

- a. Cleo Magazine, “The Welfare of Sex Workers”. April 2012
- b. Her World Plus, “See the human stories from the red light district in new exhibition”. June 2012
- c. PublicHouse.SG, “Lending a voice to the unheard voices”. June 2012
- d. The Straits Times, “Hold Dialogue on sex workers, group petitions Govt”. Nov 2012

4. Project Y – The Research Arm of Project X

Project Y was started as we noticed that a large number of Singaporean sex workers are transgender people. We wanted to conduct research in order to gain a deeper understanding of the issues facing the transgender community, as well as to research the methodologies and programmes of other organizations (local and international). We also started a media watch team as part of Project Y.

5. Sponsorship by ESP

We have successfully built a good working relationship with our condom supplier—ESP. In 2012, ESP donated 25,000 condoms to Project X as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility programme.

6. Hired an Assistant Programme Coordinator for Project X

SCM has hired Sonia to be part of the team at Project X. Sonia has been a full-time sex worker for the past 19 years and she showed great enthusiasm in joining Project X and contributing to our work in order to fight for sex workers’ rights.

