



PROGRAMME REPORT 2014

In 2014, Project X officially left the Student Christian Movement (of Singapore) (SCM)—its parent organization. This is because we have far exceeded the Constitution and mandate of SCM and decided it was time to formalize the legal and governing structures in order to ensure accountability and sustainability. Together with a group of people who were volunteers with the project, we proceeded to register under the Societies' Act in April. On the 30th of December 2014, with the blessing of Minister Dr Ng Eng Hen, we finally received approval from the Registry of Societies. The Board now consists of lawyers, social workers, counsellors, financial advisors, researchers, and business entrepreneurs.

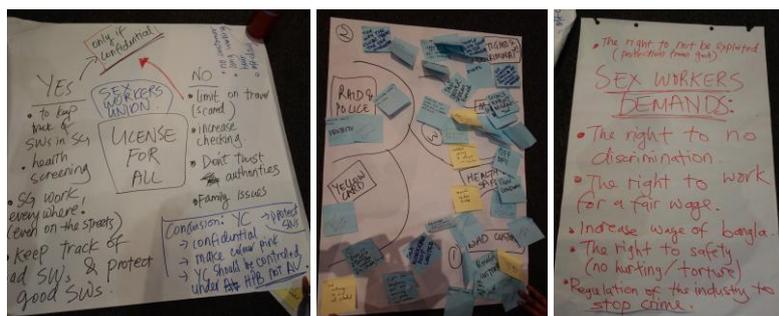
Despite the long wait, it remained a fruitful year. We hired another Singapore transgender sex worker Kak Wan as our community engagement officer in January. By October, we expanded our team to include two youth programme coordinators—Maya and Sherry. We also acquired a new space in Little India that serves both as an office as well as a community centre.

Apart from conducting outreach to sex workers online and offline, here are some of the highlights from 2014.

Community Development & Capacity Building

March:

- **All Fired Up – an International Women’s Day event** held at Hong Lim Park organized by the Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE). We were invited to set up a booth to share more about Project X and also to participate in the various activities.
- **International Sex Workers Rights Day** – With the support of the Free Community Church for the second consecutive year, we held a film screening session and focus group discussion with sex workers in order to commemorate the day.



- **ASEAN People’s Forum/ ASEAN Civil Society Conference** – Together with the Sex Workers of ASEAN (SWASEAN) network, we travelled to Yangon, Burma for a four-day. We took part workshops and sharing sessions, and took time to learn best practices from other more experienced organizations and experts.

April:

- We initiated and executed collaboration with Law Society’s Pro Bono Services Office to conduct **legal clinics for sex workers**. We had two stationary legal clinics—one in Geylang, and one at our centre in Little India. We also had two mobile legal clinics where lawyers accompanied us during our outreach to give out legal advice on the streets.

May:

- We organized a sexual health training for volunteers that was conducted by the **Department of STI Control (DSC)**.

July:

- **International AIDS Conference 2014** – Held in Melbourne over seven days, we attended this conference to increase our capacity, build meaningful networks, as well as to raise awareness about the situation in Singapore. We were also given a booth at the Community Village at the conference.

Human Rights Research and Documentation

- In end December 2013, we were approached by the **Allard K. Lowenstein Human Rights Clinic from Yale Law School** to do research on the situation faced by sexual minorities in Singapore. After months of discussion, we decided to focus the research on the difficulties faced by transgender sex workers. In March 2014, the team flew into Singapore in order to conduct in-depth interviews with transgender sex workers, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. The report has been completed as of January 2015.
- In February 2014, we began a formal collaboration with the **National University of Singapore’s Centre for Culture-Centered Approach to Research and Evaluation (CARE)** to embark on a three-year research project that focuses on the health needs of transgender sex workers in Singapore. A Ministry of Education grant of \$99,000 was approved in July and we have since conducted three advisory board meetings.
- Our collaboration with the **NUS Law Pro Bono Society** was extended for another year and we continued working on a legal rights and responsibilities handbook for sex workers. We also embarked on a new research project that sought to analyse the legal situation facing licensed sex workers in Singapore.

Public Education and Advocacy

- At the beginning of 2014, a handful of NGOs came together to form the [StopTraffickingSG coalition](#). We heard of MP Christopher de Souza’s intention to draft an anti-trafficking bill and as such started a campaign to raise the voices of people who have been trafficked and

to advocate for the bill to meet international standards. The NGOs were HOME, AWARE, UN Women, Maruah, and TWC2.

March:

- **Pecha Kucha** presentation about sex workers in Singapore held at Lime House

June:

- The **Sex Workers of ASEAN “Yet Still We Dance” art exhibition** featuring artworks made by sex workers from around the region showcased at The Substation. This exhibition debuted in Bangkok in 2013, and went to Yangon in 2014 before arriving in Singapore.



October:

- We presented a booth at the **Asia Law Pro Bono Conference**

November:

- Organized by **Soroptimist International**, we were invited to be on a panel to share more on the sex industry in Singapore. The event was opened by MP Christopher de Souza.
- We were invited to a panel at the **Freedom Film Festival** to discuss the film 3:50 starring Eunice Olsen.
- We were invited to a lunch sharing session at **Bloomberg** to commemorate Transgender Day of Remembrance.
- We co-organized an event titled “LGB know your T” together with **Oogachaga** and **The T Project** to commemorate Transgender Day of Remembrance.

December:

- We were invited to a panel at the **We Can! Arts Festival** discussing issues that sex workers face.
- We organized a mini-film festival plus discussion panel at Artistry café to commemorate **International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers**.

