



# PROJECTX

2024 Annual Report





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# Director's Message

**Vanessa Ho**  
Executive Director



2024 was marked by public outrage over the Samsui woman controversy. A mural by artist Sean Dunston was condemned for allegedly sexualising a national icon—her “crime”: holding a cigarette. This moment starkly revealed how deeply entrenched caricatures of sex workers remain. A single lit cigarette was enough to collapse an identity into a stereotype.

That caricature was reinforced later in the year when a Straits Times reporter went undercover to secretly record migrant women in Geylang, violating their consent, privacy and right of response.

Amid this noise, a brothel with nearly 30 years of history quietly shut its doors due to rising rent and disputes with the landlord. Over two weeks, a dozen local transgender sex workers lost their livelihoods. Attempts to secure a new space failed, and those who once held a visible place in our history faded into invisibility.

Whether or not society acknowledges it, sex work exists—and so will Project X. Our mission remains unwavering: to support, advocate for, and stand beside sex workers in Singapore.

In 2024, we continued providing direct services through our sexual and reproductive health programmes, the *Next Step* programme for those exploring exit options, and our art and talk therapy sessions. We bid farewell to our peer educator Tracy and welcomed Nayla—a long-time community member—into our outreach team.

Our commitment to hiring sex workers as peer leaders saw the addition of Lisa to the team of two (Ivy and Meedee). Together, the team has managed to reach out to different segments of the sex work industry, and collectively organised 10 community events across various themes (Page 23 - 25).



# Director's Message



We continued documenting human rights violations through our case management system and raised systemic issues via Parliamentary Questions, closed-door dialogues (AICHR, NHPC, TIP), and international mechanisms like CEDAW (Page 29). Our 16-year commitment to being an evidence-based, and voice for sex workers led to us being invited to provide an expert statement for a Singaporean trans sex worker's successful asylum application in Europe.

Our work would not be possible without the support of our donors who funding us directly, organising fundraising events, or collaborating to access grants (Page 32). And our volunteers and interns whose contributions have directly impacted the lives of the community through their friendship, allyship, and efforts to challenge stigma and discrimination.

As we move forward, we continue to invite you, your friends, and your companies to stand with us. Speak up against stigma. Challenge injustice where you see it. And support our work however you can—through donations, partnerships, or simply by listening with compassion.

Together, we can build a society where sex workers are treated with fairness and respect, and feel safe to access life-saving services.





# Impact Report



206,416

condoms  
distributed

875

free HIV tests

172

free Chlamydia &  
Gonorrhea STI tests

15

positive STI tests

75%

linked to care

59

caseworks

21

*The Next Step*  
clients

474

total volunteer  
hours

110

community event  
attendees

10

events

26

new Instagram  
posts



# Key Highlights

## Community



### International Women's Day Celebration (March)

Over iftar and an art therapy session, Project X celebrated the diversity within our community.

## Advocacy



### 88<sup>th</sup> CEDAW Constructive Dialogue (March)

Project X engaged in a closed-door dialogue with the Singapore Government on the state of women's rights in the country.

## Advocacy



### Submission of CEDAW Shadow Report (April)

As part of the UN's CEDAW initiative, Project X submitted a shadow report to the UN regarding women's rights.



# Key Highlights

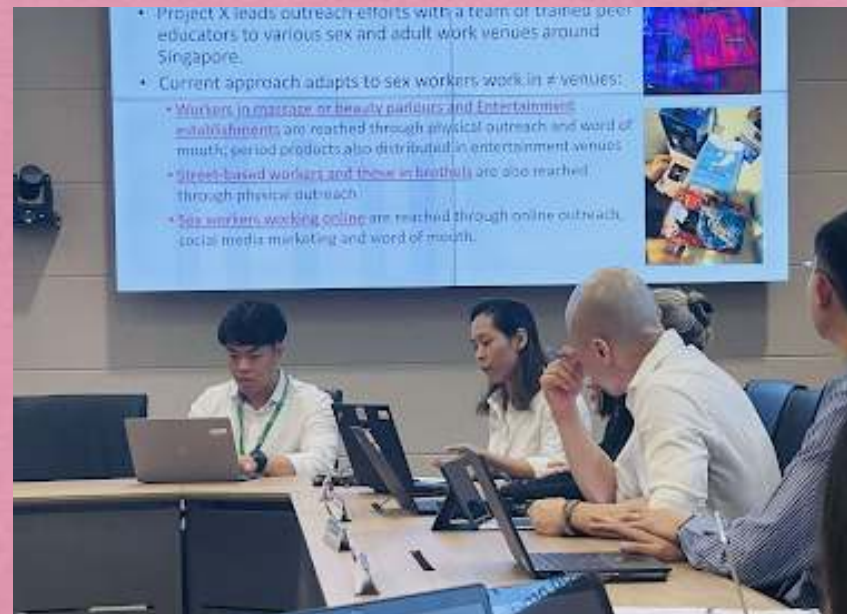
## Public Education



### NCID HIV Sensitivity Training Workshop (July)

Vanessa delivered a workshop educating officers of Singapore's NCID on the nuances around discussions about HIV.

## Advocacy



### NHPC Closed-door Meeting (October)

Project X discussed strategies to prevent the resurgence of HIV with the National HIV/AIDS Policy Committee of the Ministry of Health.

## Community



### Transgender Day of Remembrance (November)

Along with our community, Project X commemorated TDOR with a sharing of heartfelt reflections and self-care strategies.



# Key Highlights

## Public Education



### **Anora Fundraiser Screening (December)**

Full-house screening at The Projector, where attendees got to share their perspectives on the movie and sex work itself.

## Public Education



### **Giving a Voice to the Voiceless (December)**

Project X released an Instagram post to address harmful narratives around sex work in the Straits Times.

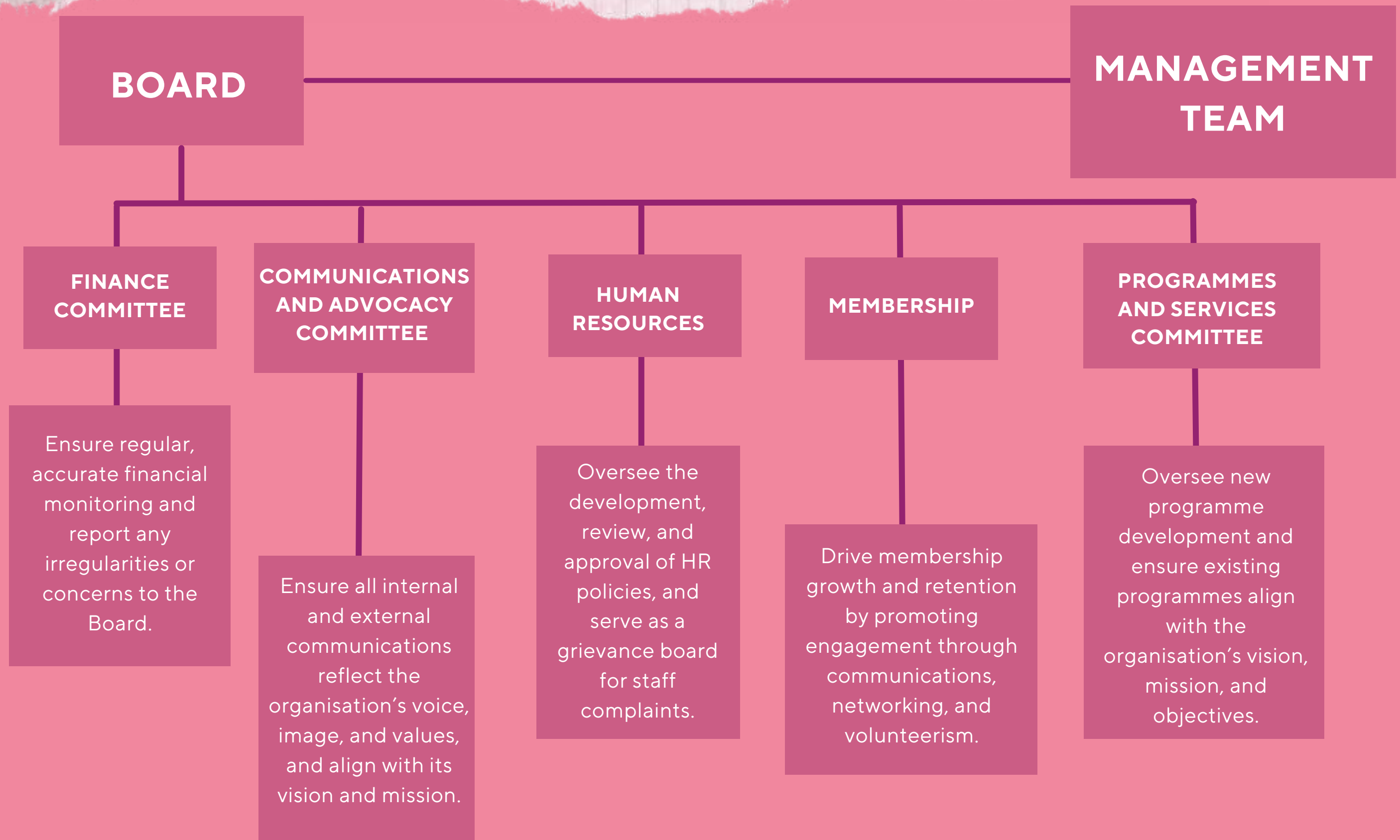




# Management Team



# Organisational Structure





# Management Team



**Nor**  
Programmes  
Manager



**Kheng Leng**  
Social Worker



**Tracy**  
Jan - Oct  
Programmes  
Executive



**Nayla**  
Programmes  
Executive



**Wany**  
Outreach  
Director



**Elicia**  
Programmes  
Executive

## Capacity Building

**MAR** ➤ Spring up course for Nor & Kheng Leng ~ Bluelight Academy: Community Care + Accountability

**MAY** ➤ Elicia onboarded as an online outreach peer educator

**JUL** ➤ APNSW Leadership Transition & Consultation in Bangkok  
➤ 2024 Volunteer Onboarding

**OCT** ➤ Nayla onboarded as a full-time programmes executive

**NOV** ➤ APNSW Mentorship Programme in Bangkok  
➤ Asia Pacific HIV Practical Course (APHPC)



# Board



**Rayner  
Tan**

President

Meetings attended: 3/5



**Raksha  
Mahtani**

Vice President

Meetings attended: 4/5



**Shiang**

Treasurer

Meetings attended: 3/5



**Tan Su Hui**

Vice Treasurer

Meetings attended: 3/5



**Dion**

Secretary

Meetings attended: 5/5



**Gabrielle**

Board Member

Meetings attended: 2/5



**Charissa**

Board Member

Meetings attended: 3/5



**Amelia**

Board Member

Meetings attended: 5/5



# Code of Governance

- None of the board members receive remuneration or benefits for their service on the board.
- No staff receives more than \$100,000 in annual remuneration.
- No staff is a close member of the family of the ED or board members and receives more than \$50,000 in annual remuneration.
- Our Annual General Meeting took place on 19 June 2024, with 7 board members, 6 general members, and 4 members of the management team in attendance





# Sexual Health Outreach



# Sexual Health Outreach and Peer Educators

Through our sex worker movement, we support global efforts to **end HIV transmission**. Sex workers, a key population at risk, face barriers to healthcare. At Project X, we provide **free HIV/STI testing** in **affirming, non-judgemental spaces**.

In 2024, we achieved:

**12679** interactions through

**970** outreach sessions and

provided **875** HIV tests and

**172** Chlamydia and Gonorrhea tests

We couldn't have done this without our Peer Educators. Peer educators are a key resource of Project X. With experiences in the sex and entertainment industries, they are able to help Project X reach out to **communities hidden in the margins** and **bridge access to our services** such as sexual health programmes, anti-violence programmes and our Next Step programme.

This year, we strengthened our Peer Educator Programme by introducing a new code of conduct to guide them in **navigating the challenges** they may face in their work.



# Peer Educators



**Meedee**

"My experience (with Project X) has been great, as everyone is really friendly. I enjoy going out (on outreach sessions) to get to know different people and visit sex workers to help them."

"I enjoyed talking to and getting to know many people through Project X. I have helped many SWs know their STI status and receive prompt treatment. As a Peer Educator, it is important to have empathy and sympathy."

**Ivy**



**Lisa**

"Joining Project X as a peer educator ignited my passion to further engage with and build relationships with the diverse sex workers community in Singapore. Through our outreach sessions, I also help to build meaningful and safe spaces for the community. It also provided me with work opportunities in coming out to represent the voices of the local sex workers community, where I shared my own first hand sex work experience with them."

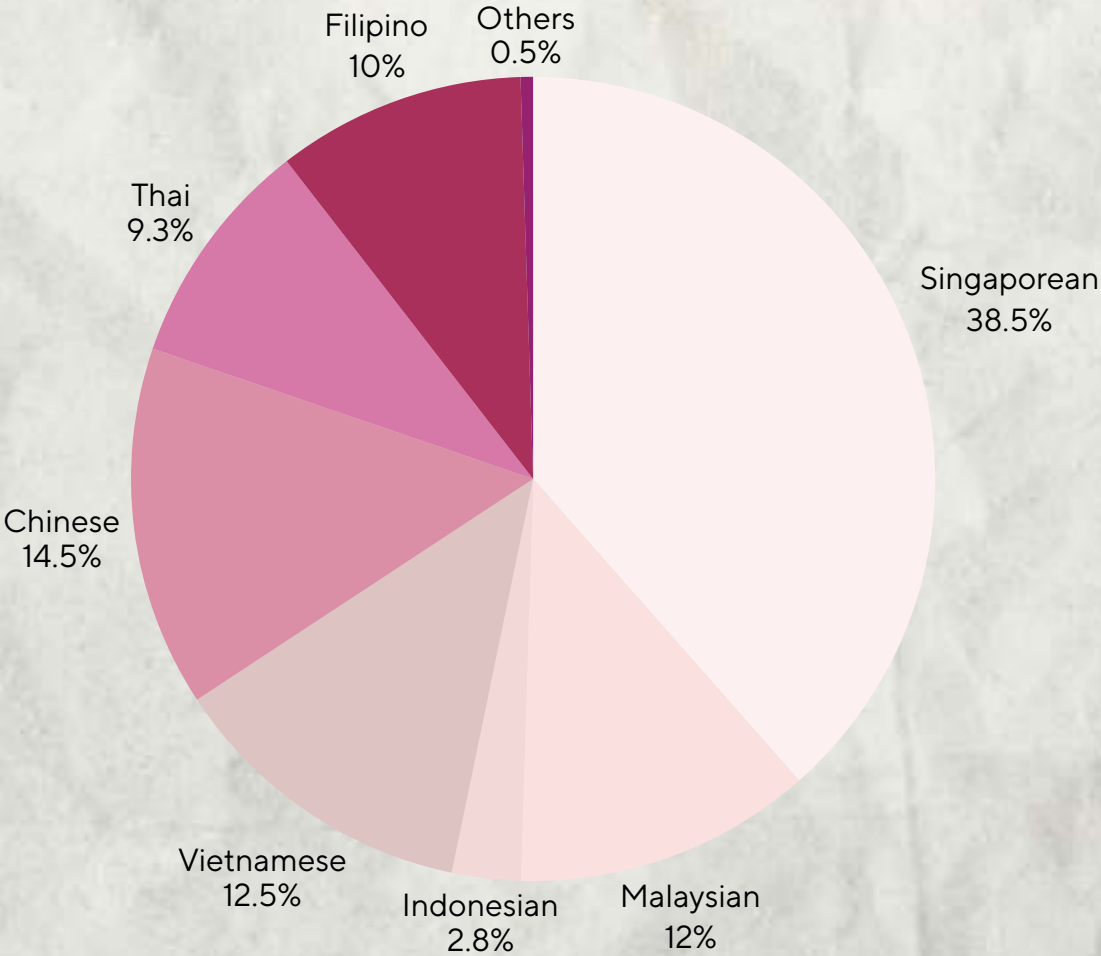


# 2024 Annual Sexual Health Survey Insights

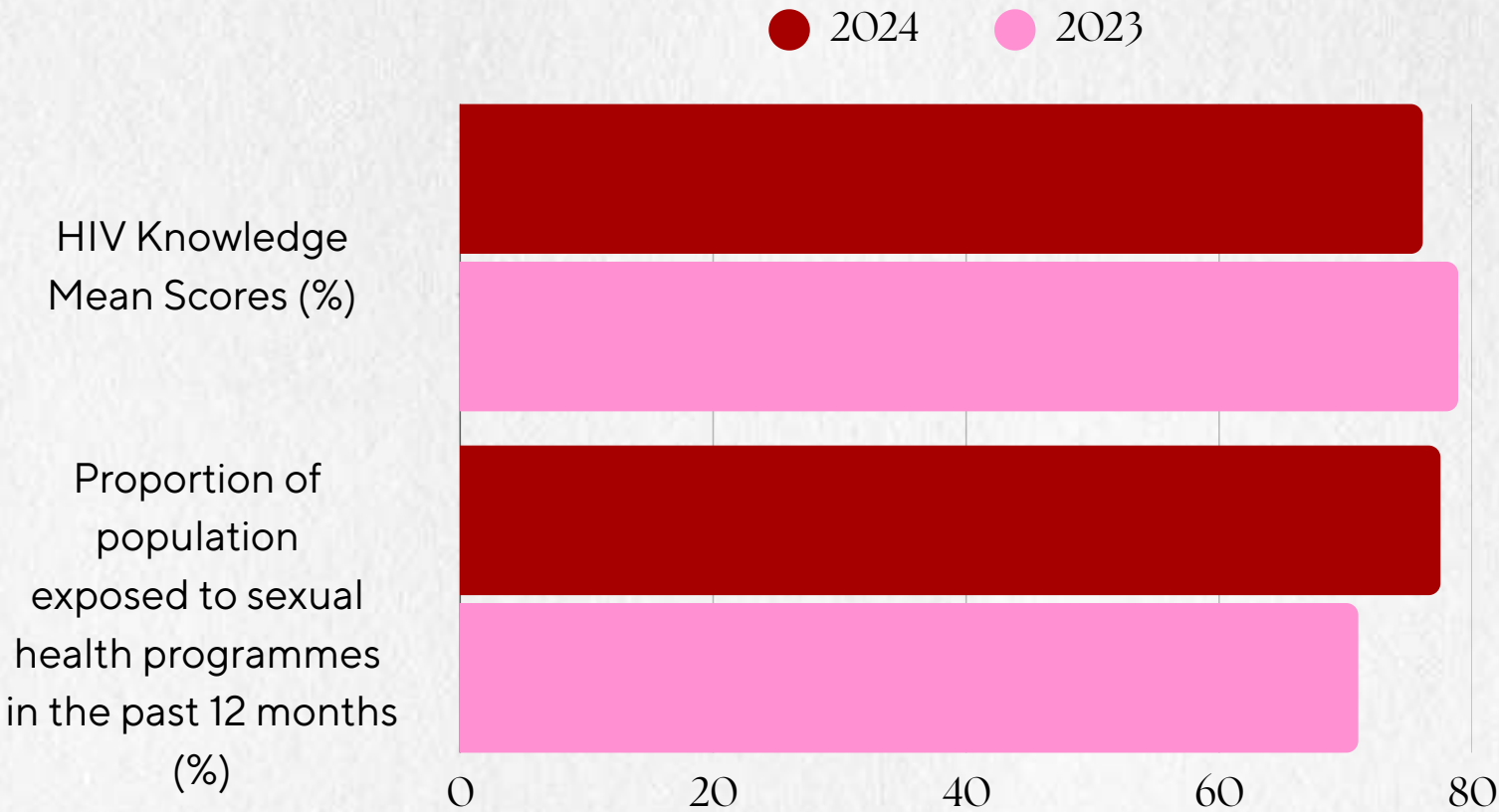
The Annual Sexual Health survey is conducted every year to evaluate the effectiveness of Project X Society’s outreach programmes and community events in raising sexual health literacy among sex workers in the past year. This year, we surveyed a total of 400 respondents on their sexual health knowledge.

Interviews were carried out across various outreach locations such as Orchard, Geylang, Little India and other parts of Singapore

## Survey Demographics



## Sexual Health Knowledge

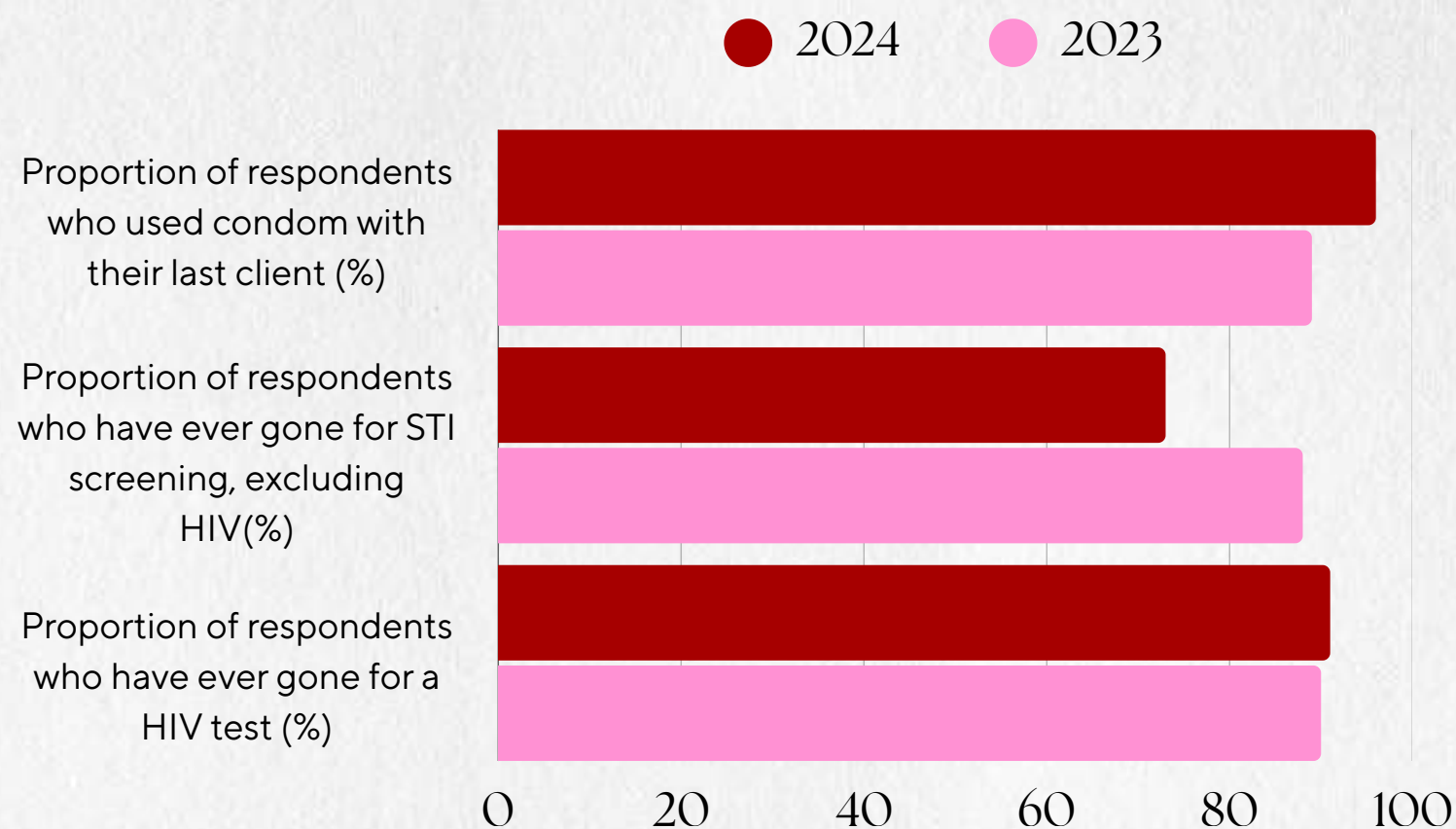


While the mean score for the HIV Knowledge dipped, there was a notable increase in the number of new locations outreached to over the last 3 months. As a result, we have a higher population of individuals that were exposed to sexual health programmes in the last 12 months.



# 2024 Annual Sexual Health Survey Insights

## Health Seeking Behaviours



Overall, there is a notable increase in the proportion of respondents who used condoms and went for a HIV test. However, there was a drop in the proportion of respondents who went for STI screening.

## key takeaway

- 1. Communities have various levels of awareness on different topics**
  - There is a need to strengthen knowledge related to HIV (e.g. PEP and PrEP), as many workers felt that this was important
- 2. To continue outreach to different communities so we are better aware of the issues faced and different priorities**



# Casework

Project X began our case management system in 2015. To date, we have assisted over **800** sex workers in distress. Of the 400 sex workers surveyed for our annual sexual health survey, **22.5%** of sex workers reported either being physically hurt and/or being tricked/deceived/threatened into having sex. Discrimination and stigma against sex workers perpetuates violence against them. They should be protected from violence, and through our work at Project X, we strive to ensure their access to justice.

Sex workers came to us for assistance because:

1. They didn't know who to turn to
2. They were afraid of accessing mainstream services for fear of legal repercussions
3. Mainstream services did not cater to their needs

"I went from trying to seek justice for myself to getting into trouble for being a sex worker."

– Luna, doxxed by her client

"I'm afraid he will blackmail me by threatening to expose my identity if I report him to the police for theft."

– Poppy, whose client stole \$250 from her





# Casework Breakdown



## Others: 14

Financial difficulties, family violence, performing artist case, housing and other criminal cases

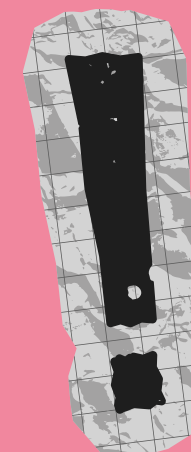
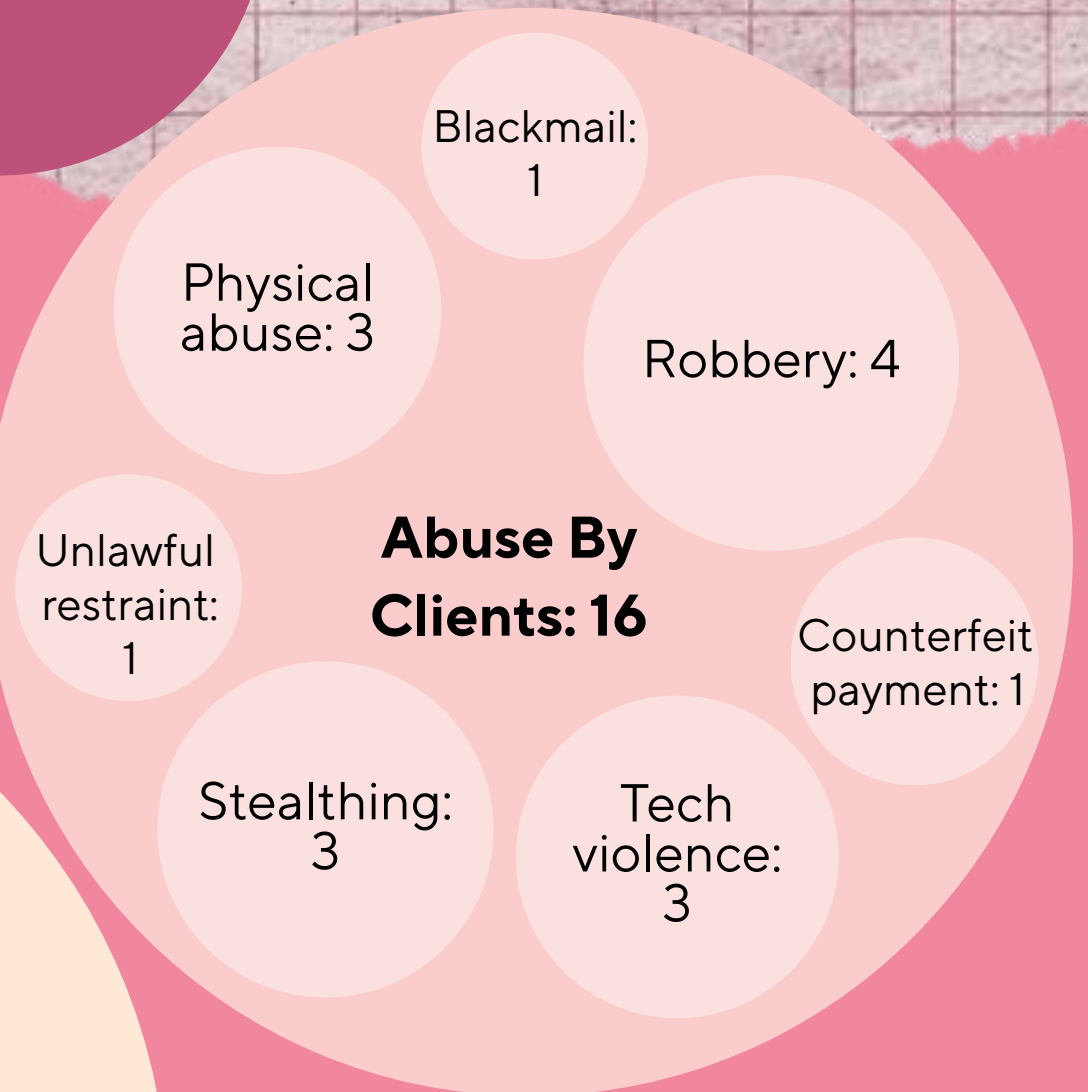


1 case was from a licensed brothel where the worker was allegedly not allowed to leave and she was abused by drunken customers.

**Forced to stay in Singapore:**  
**2**

**Social Welfare: 4**

**Sexual & Reproductive Health:**  
**23**



## Abuser Alerts

On our anonymous reporting form, sex workers separately logged **981** cases of abuse, of which **178** cases were self reported **level 4 and 5 for severity (18%)**.



# Talk & Art Therapy

Through talk and therapy sessions, Project X aimed to provide a safe space for sex workers to come together and express themselves in a safe and supportive environment, and to reduce their anxiety from work, communicate their concerns and process emotional loss and grief.

**In 2024, we provided:**

**30** Talk Therapy sessions  
over **41** hours for **5** clients  
with therapist Natalie

**34** Art Therapy sessions  
over **46** hours for **3** clients  
with therapist Mei Er





# The Next Step Programme

The Next Step is a social work programme funded by the National Council of Social Service that supports sex workers who wish to upskill or seek employment outside the sex industry.

TNS offers two tracks: clients can choose to take a course to upskill or follow the employment track. We currently partner with six employers and training providers who understand our clients' backgrounds and needs, and who offer supportive opportunities to explore different types of employment. This process allowed programme participants to explore their strengths and areas for growth, gaining valuable insights about themselves through hands-on experience.



**21**

**clients onboarded**

**78%** **gained employable skills**

**95%** **established a financial plan**



# The Next Step Programme

## EVENTS

### Tarot Card Reading



Sex workers were given the opportunity to their past, present, and future, read by a tarot reader.

### CNY Community Event



A financial advisor was in attendance to speak with sex workers 1-on-1 about their finances.

### Terrarium: A Small Business Workshop



Participants took home their own terrarium and skillsets to set up a small business.

### Introduction to Manicure & Pedicure



A professional nail technician taught participants how to do manicures and pedicures themselves.

### Introduction to Henna



We learned from Sarah about the history and evolution of henna and how to do henna ourselves.





# Community Engagement



# Internal Community Events

Project X regularly hosts community events that promote a safe space for the sex worker community to come together and meet new friends and allies. It is a platform that allows them to express themselves without fear of judgement, and understand they are not alone.

- 10 May - **Hari Raya & International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia** (11 attendees)
- 20 June - **Pleased To Meet You** (11 attendees)
- 13 September - **Sex Worker Pride** (20 attendees)
- 17 December - **International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers** (14 attendees)



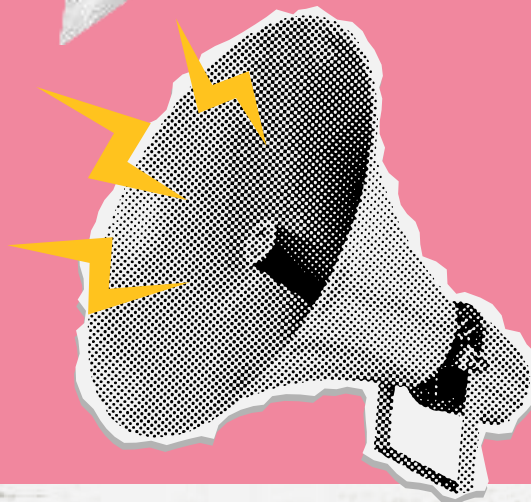


# External Community Engagement

External events allow us to raise to raise awareness about the issues sex workers face among the wider community, where we can build allies and create more sources of support.

## Booths

- 21 Jan - Speakeasy at The Commune (\$954 raised)
- 1 May - Labour Day
- 11 May - Diva Pole Fundraiser (\$1606 raised!)
- 15 Jun - Proud Spaces Open House
- 29 Jun - Pinkdot
- 31 Oct - Premiere screening of Anora at The Projector (\$768 raised)



## Engagement Events

- 20 Feb - Guest lecture at The Chain Reaction Project
- 27 Feb - Guest lecture at NTU, "*The Geographies of Uneven Development*"
- 8 & 10 Mar - Talk at Kaplan, "Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Guidance and Counselling"
- 29 Jun - Presentation on "Migration and Transnational Sex Work in Asia" at the **Asia Pacific AIDS & Co-Infections Conference (APACC)** in Hong Kong
- 23 Aug - **DSC Pharmacy** Students Orientation
- 16 Oct - Guest lecture at NTU, "*Invisible Health Communities*"
- 30 Nov - Community Speaker at **14th Singapore AIDS conference**: conferred **Red Ribbon Award**





# Social Media Wrapped

519

new  
followers

26

new  
posts

2000+

likes on our  
most liked post

@projectx.sg



# Project X in the Media

## THE STRAITS TIMES

"Outcry over mural of  
samsui woman with  
cigarette"

*22 June 2024*

"Helping Singapore's  
sex workers move to  
other work"

*1 July 2024*



"Vanessa Ho Spearheads  
Unconditional Support For  
Sex Workers"

*15 July 2024*



# Advocacy



## March

Mr Louis Ng's Parliamentary Questions regarding the detection of abuse of sex workers.

In-person meeting with Singapore Inter-Agency Taskforce on Trafficking in Persons, a taskforce that is co-chaired by Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Manpower.

## October

National HIV/AIDS Policy Committee Meeting - together with NCID, we presented on our findings from our 2023 sexual health survey to Ms Rahayu Mahzam and SMS Janil Puthuchery, and recommended strategies to prevent an STI resurgence in a low-level HIV epidemic environment.

## June

Published joint research paper with Massey University:

Dutta, M. J., Mahtani, R., Ho, V., Sherqueshaa, S., Thomas, S., Jalleh-Hosey, A. A., ... Elers, P. (2024). Culturally Centering the Voices of Transgender Sex Workers in Singapore: Health, Materiality and Violence. *Health Communication*, 40(5), 763-771.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2024.2365487>

## November

AICHR (ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights) Engagement with representatives Dr Shashi Jayakumar (Singapore Ambassador to Cuba) and Associate Professor Eugene Tan.

Asia-Pacific HIV Practical Course site visit to Project X.

**Mr Louis Ng Kok Kwang:** To ask the Minister for Home Affairs when vice workers are arrested (a) what processes do the Police have in place to systematically detect indicators of potential (i) physical, sexual and financial abuse and (ii) trafficking; and (b) if there are no such processes in place, whether the Police will consider implementing such processes.

Above: Screenshot from MHA Website: Written Reply to Parliamentary Question on Measures to Detect Abuse and Trafficking Among Arrested Vice Workers



# Advocacy

**The Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is an international treaty on womens' rights, overseen by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.**

**Project X views CEDAW as a useful framework to advance sex workers' rights and has taken several actions in support of this treaty:**

- **26 March: Constructive Dialogue with MSF and MOS Sun Xue Ling**
- **15 May: Lunchtime Meeting with CEDAW members**
- **16 May: CEDAW Session in Geneva**
- **12 September: CEDAW Next Steps Dialogue with MOS Sun Xue Ling**



**UNHRC**

**[Read our 2024 report](#)**





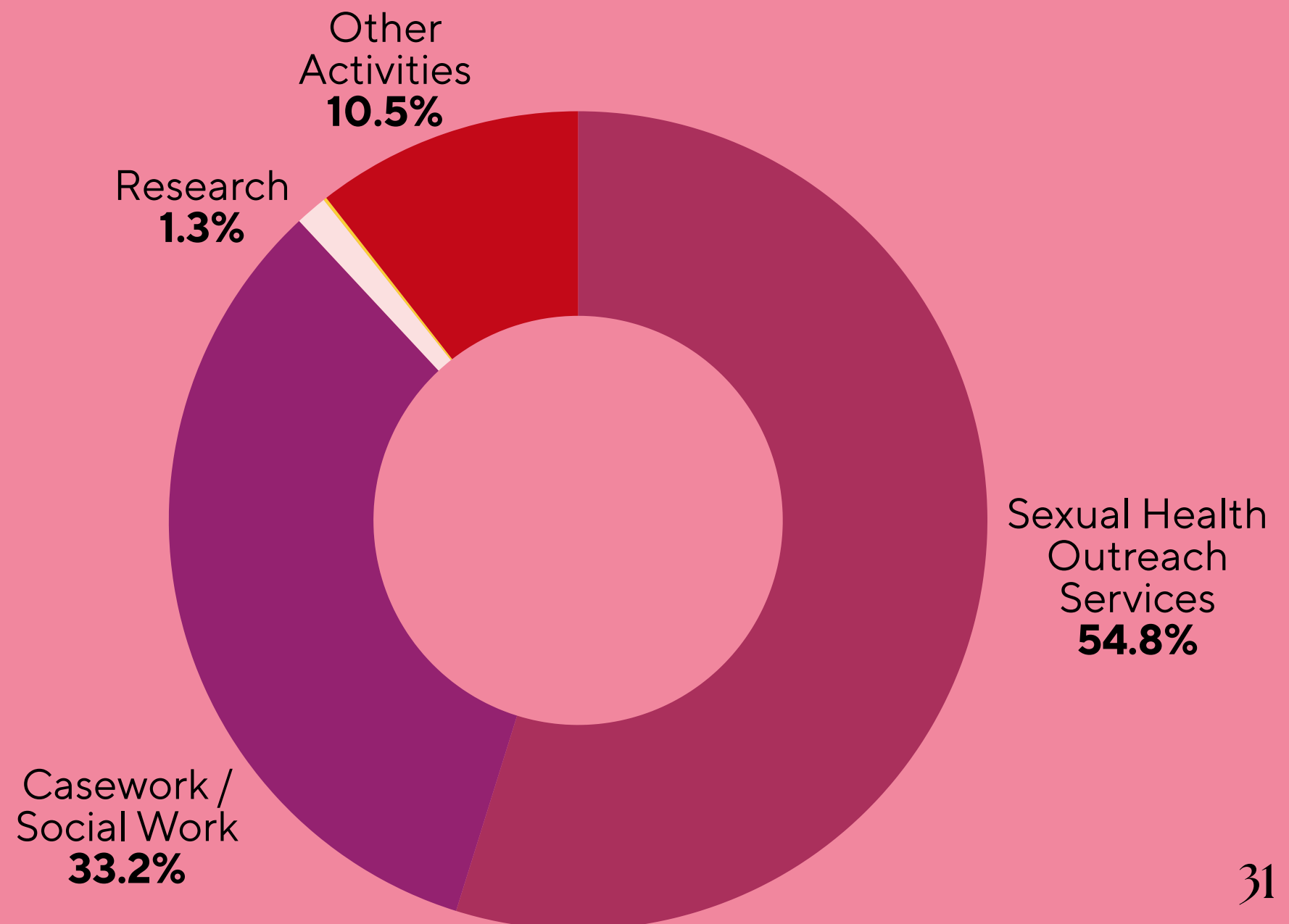
Finances



# Financial Report

## Breakdown of Charitable Activities

- Sexual Health Outreach Services
- Casework / Social Work
- Research
- Other Activities



Income:  
S\$577,571

Expenditure:  
S\$517,135

Grants for  
Charitable  
Activities:  
S\$527,956

Charitable  
Activities:  
S\$440,350

Others:  
S\$24,228

Donations:  
S\$25,387

Others:  
S\$135

Governance:  
S\$76,650



# Our Sponsors, Donors & Grants



National Youth Fund  
Youth Corps  
Community  
Internship



National Council of  
Social Services Tote  
Board Social Service  
Fund



Anglo American  
through the  
Ambassadors for  
Good initiative



Bridge the  
Digital Divide



Go With The  
Flow



Workforce  
Singapore



The Projector



Diva Pole Academy



Red Umbrella Fund



## Fundraising events:

- Club Chrome (S\$1606)
- Speakeasy @ The Commune (S\$954)
- Anora (\$768)

**And individual donors... who contributed \$25,387 in donations in 2024.**

*Project X extends our gratitude to all our sponsors who make our work possible.*



The image is a layered paper collage. The background is a solid bright pink. On top of this is a larger, irregularly torn piece of light pink paper. Centered on the light pink paper is a smaller, rectangular piece of white paper with deckled edges. The word "Testimonials" is printed in a black, serif font on the white paper.

# Testimonials



# Volunteers & Interns

**HELLO**  
MY NAME IS

**Keith**  
intern

Being a Project X intern was one of the most eye-opening experiences of my life, as I saw and experienced things I would never have gotten the opportunity to otherwise. It made me realise just how far the reality of sex workers' situations are from the narratives pushed in the media and the general perception by the public, and inspired me as a medical student to one day pursue a way to serve the medical needs of the sex worker community in Singapore.

**HELLO**  
MY NAME IS

**Tricia**  
intern

One of my favourite parts about interning with Project X is that you get to do a little bit of everything! Being able to take part in research, casework, outreach and so much more really challenges the way you see the world and unravels all preconceived notions you may not even realise you had. What I cherished most were the conversations I had with people and having the privilege of being on the receiving end of their kindness and wisdom.

**HELLO**  
MY NAME IS

**Siti**  
intern

Everything about my time at Project X was a very colourful one - its people, experiences and the work we did together. It completely changed the way I viewed the world and I never thought it could reignite a fiery passion in me for advocacy. The best part of my resume, truly.

**HELLO**  
MY NAME IS

**Bey**  
volunteer

Volunteering with Project X helped me understand the real challenges sex workers face, beyond the stereotypes. The team — Nayla, Kak Wan, and Elicia — each have their own unique way of doing outreach, and this experience is truly one of a kind.

SEX WORK  
IS  
WORK!



# Sex Workers

Project X's *The Next Step Programme* gives me the space to reflect on my personal values, skill sets, assets with practical needs/wants, so that I can make informed choices and have a better relationship with myself and work. I appreciate having alternative options to look at, having access to resources for upskilling and being connected to explore industries that I'm interested in. Can't imagine doing this all by myself

**HELLO**  
MY NAME IS  
**September**  
sex worker



Although I haven't been deeply involved in many of Project X's activities, I'm truly grateful for its presence in Singapore. I've personally benefited from the free STI and HIV testing provided to sex workers—a vital service that supports our health and well-being. I also took part in the Anora screening and deeply appreciated the open floor session, which created space for sex workers to share our lived experiences and voices. I believe there's important room for further dialogue on how sex workers navigate personal relationships; whether with romantic partners or family, as we, too, deserve understanding, recognition, and acceptance from the people we love.



# Get Involved



**Join Project X as a member,  
donor, volunteer or intern.**

Together, we can work towards a  
fair and safe sex industry for  
everyone involved, and a society  
that respects sex workers, their  
clients, partners, and family.

**DONATE**



Scan the QR code below using  
your bank's mobile banking  
app OR input our UEN  
number **T14SS0189D**



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+65 9060 9906



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