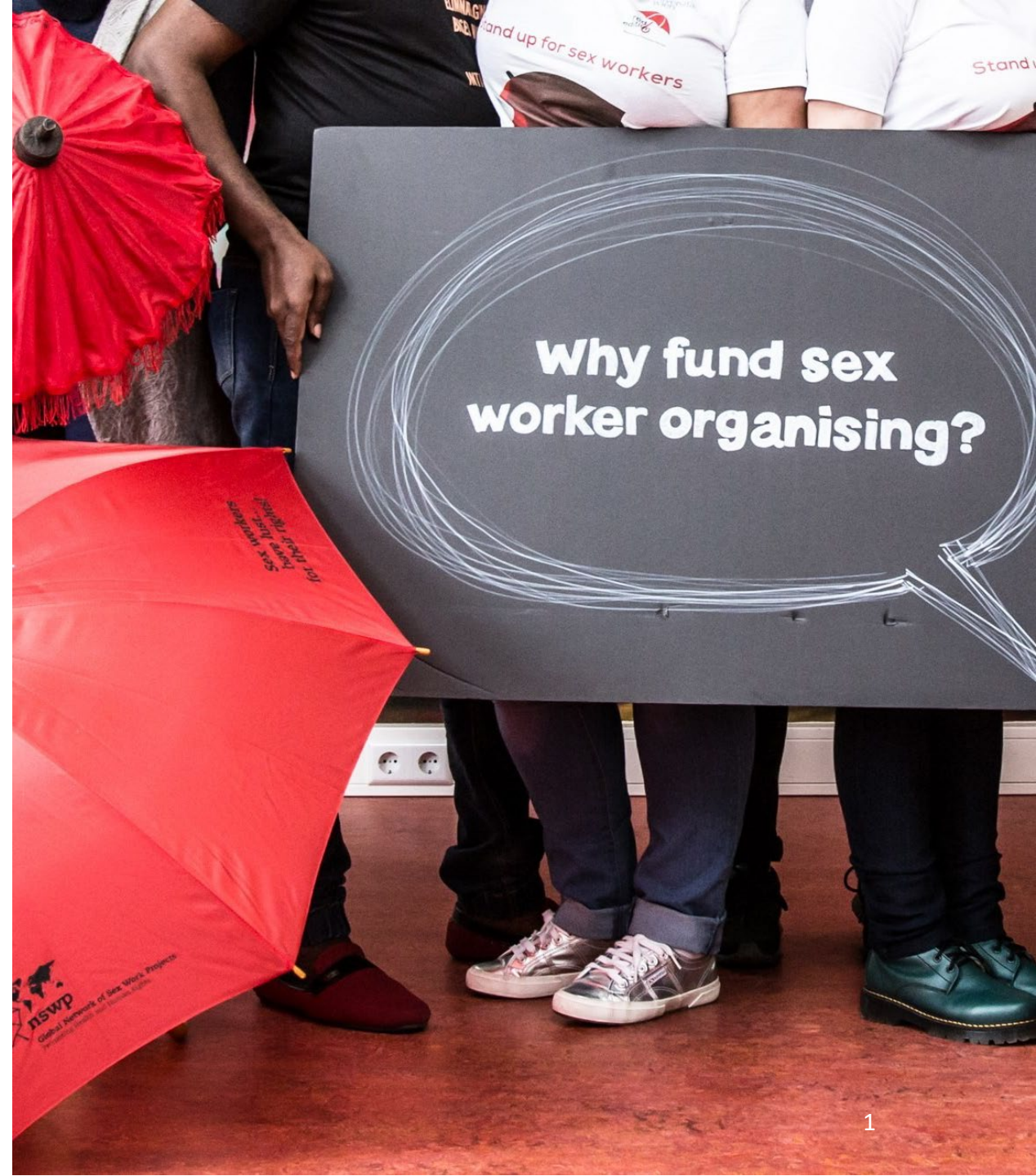
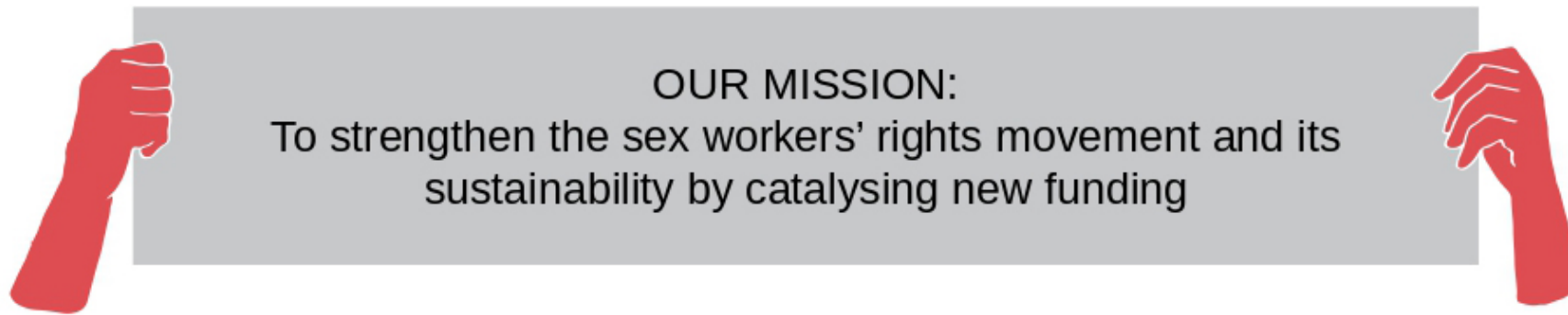




Red Umbrella Fund



We are... the only global participatory grant-making  
mechanism  
led BY and FOR sex workers!









Since our launch in 2012, Red Umbrella Fund has made 217 grants representing a total grant amount of **5,651,000 EUR** in more than 60 countries worldwide.

In short, Red Umbrella Fund is led by a partnership of sex workers and donors, with significant sex worker majorities in both grant decisions and overall governance.


# Who are sex workers?





-  “Sex workers include “female, male and transgender adults and young people over 18 who receive money or goods in exchange for sexual services, either regularly or occasionally...”
-  Sex work varies between and within countries and communities.”
-  Stigma, violence and criminalisation are putting sex workers in serious danger. Published research has shown that up to 75% of sex workers experience violence during their lifetime.
-  One study on violence against sex workers in Africa showed not only how violence against sex workers is left unsanctioned, but also that sex workers have very limited access to health services, such as experiencing denial of treatment for injuries.
-  Most countries in the world have laws that criminalise sex work which compromises their health, well-being and denies them equal protection under the law.
-  The World Health Organisation (WHO), UNAIDS, prestigious health publications, sex workers and human rights organisations have found that criminalisation of sex work has a serious negative impact on sex workers’ rights to health and justice. In short, criminalisation makes sex work unsafe.


# Who funds sex workers?



 The latest data available from the Human Rights Funding Network showed that sex workers' rights funding represented less than 1% of foundations' human rights funding in 2018.

 Similarly, a study published in 2020 by Aidsfonds , showed that “in 2018 sex workers accounted for 6% of all new HIV infections globally. [...] Yet programmes for sex workers received only 0.6% of all HIV expenditure”.




 A recent reporting also highlighted that between 2015-2016 and 2017-2018, LGBTI funding increased by 11% globally. In the same period, funding for LGBTI sex workers decreased by 6%. In Asia Pacific and at the same period, overall LGBTI funding increased by 38% but decreased by 18% for LGBTI sex workers.

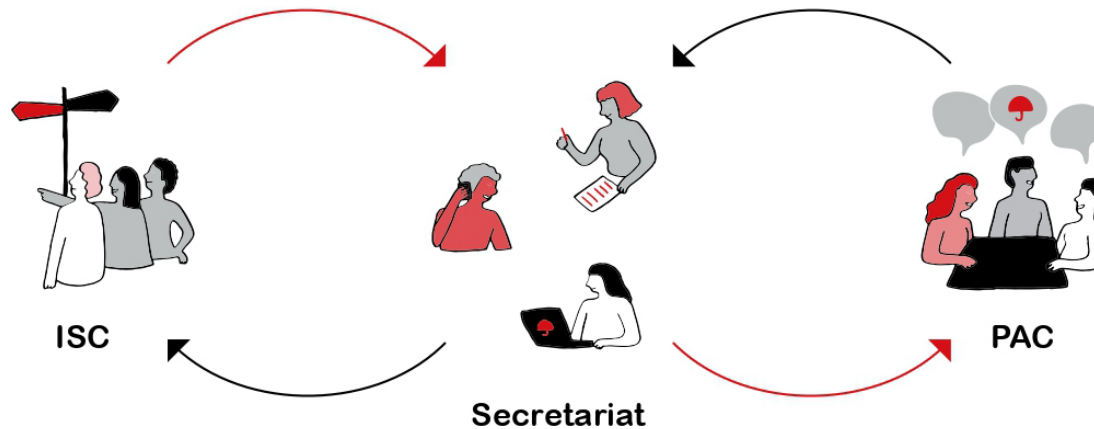
 COVID: sex workers continue to be excluded from government relief and protection measures.

 Red Umbrella Fund: a drop in the ocean.

# Participatory grantmaking: how we do it

## Structure


-  International Steering Committee: responsible for making strategic decisions. (7 to 11 Members)
-  Programme Advisory Committee: grants review panel that selects the organisations to fund. (7 to 11 Members)
-  Secretariat: responsible for the daily operations and financial sustainability. (4 Members)



# Participatory grantmaking: how we do it

## Principles

 Geographic, lived experience diversity, marginalisation.

 A fund from and by the movement: reducing the tensions when funding and collaborating (references, strengthening advocacy)

 Learning and committing to shifting power.

