

Resume. Cheryl Overs



Summary

Cheryl Overs was born in Melbourne, Australia in 1957. She began her journey as a feminist and human rights activist in the early 1980s when she began activating for the rights of sex workers. In 1981 she founded the Prostitutes Collective of Victoria (PCV) which advocated for sex workers human rights and provided innovative health and welfare programmes including peer education and support; condom distribution, needle and syringe exchange and initiatives to address violence and discrimination.

As founder and director of the PCV Cheryl led advocacy which resulted in law reform in Victoria that extends significant labour and human rights to sex workers. In 1988 she organised a national conference, 'Prostitution and the Aids Debate 88', which led to the formation of the national federation of organisations working with sex workers groups, the Scarlet Alliance. As director of the PCV and Chair of the Scarlet Alliance, Cheryl worked on important emerging sex workers rights issues of the time including police corruption, violence, anti-drug user policy and HIV criminalisation. She established the Ugly Mugs List, which was an effective, sex worker controlled tool to prevent violence. Cheryl's work was central to developing Australia's rights based response to sex work and its harm reduction response to drug use which were important sources for informing HIV care and prevention globally.

Cheryl moved to Europe in 1989 to work within the UN agency responsible for developing the first responses to HIV/AIDS, the Global Program on Aids at the World Health Organisation. Over the next years she co-organised contributed to that process and to publications such as Harvard Aids Institute's 'Aids in the World'; International Aids conferences and helped establish the early networks of civil society addressing HIV including the International Council of Aids Service Organisations (ICASO).

In 1992, while living in Paris, Cheryl founded the International Network of Sex Worker Projects (NSWP) with Paulo Henrique Longo. It remains the global agency responsible for supporting new sex worker organisations and initiatives and leading global advocacy on sex workers human rights. As its first director Cheryl built the funding base of the NSWP and established offices in the UK, Brazil and South Africa; organised various conferences and meetings; created an information clearing house and international electronic discussion groups as well as organising delegations to attend conferences and other key events such as the Beijing Women's Conference, World Social Forums and the International AIDS conferences. An accomplished public speaker, Cheryl presented at several conferences and seminars in this time including to the World Health Assembly and USAID and with Longo she wrote the NSWP publication "Making Sex Work Safe; a guide for program planners, policy makers and field workers' in 1992.

After 2000 Cheryl worked on HIV programming and policy as an employee of UK based international agencies and as a self-employed consultant for governmental and non-government organisations in more than twenty countries.¹ Those roles involved conducting research; training; events management; organisational development; mentoring public health advocates and human rights defenders; resource mobilisation including proposal writing and reporting and providing technical support including monitoring and evaluation. She wrote various papers, book chapters, guidance manuals and tools in that time as well as managing production of a range of educational and advocacy materials.

Since 2010 Cheryl has divided her time between the Institute of Development Studies in the UK, where her family live, and the Michael Kirby Centre for Public Health and Human Rights at Monash University in Australia. In this time she has worked on both joint and separate projects of the two institutions which has included establishing and evaluating a legal service for sex workers and victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation in Cambodia; supporting lesbian and gay human rights defenders in Egypt, Uganda and Ethiopia; establishing an electronic data base on sex work and human trafficking (PLRI); conducting a study on the impact of law on sex workers in Burma, Ethiopia, Cambodia, and Fiji and developing a legal toolkit for human rights defenders working on sexuality. She also delivered a much praised plenary speech on human rights and HIV at the 2012 International Aids Conference in Washington DC (see video link listed below) and a presentation at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva. She has developed publications for peer review journals, taught post graduate students and researched issues including LGBT issues in Ethiopia, female genital mutilation; restorative justice, economic empowerment and social protection policy and responses to sexual violence in conflict settings.

¹ . These include Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Cambodia, Burma, Mexico, Thailand, Mongolia, Ukraine, Russia, Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Morocco; Madagascar, Ethiopia, Uganda, Pakistan, Hungary, Grenada, Barbados and Trinidad, USA, France, UK,.

Posts and Positions. 1984-2014

Year	Employer	Post	Country	Tasks
1984-88	Prostitutes Collective of Victoria . (now Resourcing Health & Education in the sex industry)	Director (Full time)	Australia	Established and lead a member based non-governmental organisation to provide social, legal and medical support to sex workers and advocate for sex workers human rights.
1988-1989	The Scarlet Alliance	Director (Full time)	Australia	Establish and develop national, member based federation of organisations working with sex workers throughout Australia. Establish office and organisational systems; fundraising; policy advocacy; community consultation; publicity; organise conferences and workshops
1989-91	London Lighthouse (NGO)	Trainer (Full time)	England	Provide training on HIV/AIDS prevention and care for injecting drug users; migrant populations and sex workers.
1991-93	AIDES Paris. (NGO)	Policy Advisor (Part time)	France	Support development of HIV prevention programming for vulnerable women and women living with HIV.
1992-95	Scottish Prostitutes Education Project SCOTPEP (NGO)	Organisational Development (Consultancies)	Scotland	Support organisational development including recruitment; training; technical information development strategic planning and M& E systems.
1993-1994	Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Community Health Authority. (UK local government)	Project Manager (Part time)	England	Manage drop-in centre and clinical outreach for vulnerable women in Streatham South London. Manage 5 person team; training; information materials and referral.
1991, 1992, 1993	The Global Program on Aids. World Health Organisation.	Advisor (Consultancies)	Switzerland	Advisor to Programme Director
1993-4	Dundee Drugs & Aids Advisory Project. (Governmental Organisation)	Trainer (Consultancies)	Scotland	Provide training for outreach and clinical service providers on working with men who have sex with men and sex workers who use drugs.
1993-4	Birmingham Health Authority (UK local government)	Project Development	England	Support development of program to address violence against women and SRH. Recruitment; training; technical information

		(Consultancies)		development strategic planning and M& E systems.
1992-4	Red Hot AIDS Charity. London, UK	Trustee. Voluntary	England	Grant making.
1994	European Symposium on Health and the Sex Industry	NSWP	Scotland	Organise European Regional Conference.
1994-1995	Programa Pegacao, Nucleo Orientacao de Saude Social. (NGO)	Technical Advisor (Full time)	Brazil	Support development of HIV prevention and human rights advocacy for men who have sex with men in Rio de Janeiro. Co- write manual on working with sex workers.
1996	AIDS Infoshare (NGO)	Technical Advisor (Consultancy)	Russia	Recruit and train team to conduct needs assessment among sex workers in Moscow. Human rights training.
1995-2000	International Network of Sex Work Projects. (NGO)	Executive Director (part time in 95-97 and full time 97-2000)	Brazil and England	Establish and manage international network to advocate on the rights of male, female and transgender sex workers. Fundraising; liaison with UN, civil society and governments; community development; research; advocacy; strategic development and communications. Organising and preparing delegations for major conferences on AIDS; women's rights and development. Communications including writing a book on sex work and HIV. Develop ways of using the internet for networking and advocacy.
1996	Soliciting for Change (Faith Based Organisation)	Conference Organiser (part time)	England	Develop the programme and manage logistics for a national conference of social workers, women's rights advocates, politicians; churches etc to discuss responses to sex work and violence against women.
1994, 1996, 1997	Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee and USHA Credit Cooperative (NGO)	Technical Advisor (Consultancies)	India	Support development of HIV prevention programming and human rights advocacy for and by sex workers in Kolkata. Including anti-trafficking; gender based violence and poverty reduction.
1997	Salaman Alapitvany Foundation (NGO)	Technical Advisor (Consultancies)	Hungary	Project design, organisational development and facilitate national meeting.
1997	ISWFACE (NGO)		USA	International liaison for cultural & educational development organisation including organising an international conference

				in Los Angeles
1999	Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance. (Khana) (NGO)	Technical Advisor (Consultancies)	Cambodia.	HIV programme design; training and strategic planning for community mobilisation. Monitoring and evaluation.
2000	Ministry of Health of Mongolia	Technical Advisor (Consultancy)	Mongolia	Human rights training for health workers.
2000	CARE Bangladesh	Technical Advisor (Consultancy)	Bangladesh	Provide technical inputs for mapping female sex workers.
1999-2000	Womyn's Agenda for Change (WAC) (NGO)	Technical Advisor (Consultancies)	Cambodia	Project design, organisational development and donor reporting for human rights advocacy for garment workers; sex workers and people living with HIV.
1996-2000 2006-2007	Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW) (NGO)	Technical Advisor (Consultancies)	Thailand, Burma, Cambodia	Training, resource mobilisation organisational development; donor reporting and sub-grant making and management.
1999-2002.	Population Council (International Health Agency)	Researcher (initially as a consultant for Population Council US and then as full time employee of the HIV/AIDS Alliance UK)	Washington D.C. USA and Brazil	Training, data collection and analysis for study of social capital, human rights violations and HIV vulnerability of female sex workers in Rio de Janeiro.
2000-2006	International HIV/Aids Alliance (International Health Agency)	Senior Programme Manager	England.	Provide technical and managerial inputs to Alliance grantees. Situation assessment and mapping; monitoring and evaluation design and implementation; administrative and organisational systems development. Extensive field work Bangladesh, India, Cambodia, Burma, Mexico, Thailand, Mongolia, Ukraine, Ecuador, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Senegal, Madagascar, Grenada, Barbados and Trinidad.

2004-2006	Global Coalition on Women and Aids. UNAIDS	Member Voluntary		Grant making.
2007	Caribbean Vulnerable Communities. (NGO)	Technical Advisor (consultancy)	Antigua	Conduct workshop on legal and social responses to sex work and human trafficking. Develop tools for community led situation assessment and conduct training of fieldworkers.
2007	Population Services International (International Health Agency)	Technical Advisor (Consultancy)	Burma	Support project design, organisational development and facilitate development of national network.
2007-9	DKT International (International Health Company)	Technical Advisor (consultancies)	Ethiopia	Establish and manage targeted HIV prevention and care programme. Including developing tools for community consultation; grant making and sub-contracting; conducting training; establishing M&E procedures and clinical protocols.
2008	International Planned Parenthood Federation (International Health Agency)	Trainer (Consultancy)	Uganda	Sexual and Reproductive Rights.
2008	UNICEF Pakistan	Trainer (Consultancy)	Pakistan	Human rights in the context of HIV.
2009-2010	International Aids Society.	Voluntary	Austria	Member of Community Organising Committee and Co-chair Global Village, International Aids conference Vienna. 2010
2008 - 2011	Paulo Longo Research Initiative (NGO)	Communications (Part time)	England and Cambodia	Develop website; communications strategy and advocacy materials for activists; students and human rights organisations concerned with sex work and trafficking.
2010-2012	Global Commission on HIV and the Law. (UNDP)	Member. Voluntary	USA	Research and advice
2008-present	Institute of Development Studies. Sexuality Programme Sussex University	Visiting Research Fellow	England	Contribute to the development of IDS studies of sexual rights in developing countries. Guest lectures.

		(Part time)		
2009-present	Michael Kirby Centre for Public Health and Human Rights . School of Preventive Medicine, Monash University	Senior Research Fellow (Part time)	Australia with fieldwork in Cambodia, Burma, Thailand, Ethiopia.	Lead on, and contribute to, MKC studies on human rights in the context of gender based violence; sex work and human trafficking. Contribute to communications on human rights and public health and support teaching in the schools Masters programme.

Selected Publications. 1989-2014

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