



Plenary Speaker Bios

Elena REYNAGA (Argentina)

Sex Work

Elena Eva Reynaga is a Female Sex Worker (FSW) born in San Pedro de Jujuy, Argentina. She started working as a social activist in 1994, together with other FSWs, to denounce the violation of their human rights by the police and government. She became a point of reference both nationally and internationally with regard to sex work related issues, including HIV/AIDS, violence, gender, human rights and labor rights. Ms. Reynaga is the Founder and Executive Secretary of AMMAR, the Argentine Association of Female Sex Workers. Its major achievements have been the elimination of police edicts (minor laws) which criminalized sex work, and the establishment of a syndicate, which gives FSWs the status of workers. About 1,700 FSWs living in 11 provinces of Argentina are affiliated with AMMAR. Her work is considered good practice throughout the Latin America and Caribbean region and in some European and North American countries. Ms. Reynaga is a member of the National Board of the Argentine Workers' Centre, Executive Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Female Sex Workers, and a member of the Latin American HIV/AIDS Networks Initiative. In 2006 Ms. Reynaga was a speaker at the United Nations High Level Meeting and at the Women Deliver Conference in London.