

VAMP
(Veshya Anyay
Mukti Parishad)
2009-2010

VAMP: UPDATES 2009-10

VAMP (Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad) is a collective of women in prostitution that manages a peer education and condom distribution program among 5,000 sex workers. VAMP continues to focus on increasing condom use with paying clients, lovers and *malaks* with the aim of reducing the transmission of STIs and HIV in the context of sex work. The program will continue to work towards creating a collective consciousness among women in sex work, to increase their ability to negotiate safely, independently, and be able to exercise their human rights in an atmosphere of intense social discrimination. Through the Transport and Migrant workers project, VAMP intervenes with truckers, migrant workers and auto-rickshaw drivers to access treatment for STI's/HIV. VAMP carries on with its advocacy campaign both with groups of people in the sex work community and the wider community. This involves raising awareness about HIV and the human rights of people in sex work amongst brothel owner, lovers and malaks, petty shop owners, police and other state officials and lodge owners. In addition, VAMP closely monitors and influences government policies on sex work and be involved in a local, regional, national and international campaign to ensure the rights of the sex workers are considered, thus creating supportive spaces where sex workers can raise their concerns and articulate their rights.

Activities:

1. This year there has been an increase in the amount of VAMP members voluntarily going to get tested for HIV.
2. Income tax registration under 12 A was applied for and obtained this year. SANGRAM and VAMP from April first will have separate bank accounts, books, projects and reports. VAMP finally moves out of the SANGRAM umbrella.

VAMP Member becomes Board Member of NSWP

The NSWP was established in 1992 as an informal alliance of sex worker rights activists working with sex work projects around the world. Since, NSWP has become a network of organisations with an established secretariat in the global north. It conducts activities in partnership with many organisations, always foregrounding the principle of the participation of sex workers in policy and programme development. In keeping with this, Meenakshi Kamble, of VAMP has become a board member of NSWP. This is the first time a representative from the sex worker community in India is on the board, and has positive ramifications for South Asian sex workers' to present their case for protection of human rights, at international forums.