



Australian Sex Workers Association

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST 6 MONTH PLACEMENT with EMPOWER FOUNDATION, THAILAND Intake 26 (Sept/Oct 2009 departure) Deadline for EOI: Thursday 30th April 2009

Position Title: HIV and Rights Trainer, Female Identifying

Assignment Location: Chiang Mai, Thailand

Assignment Duration: 6 Months

Limiting Requirements: Sex workers only can apply. Applicant must be under 30 years of age in May 2009 and comfortable with disclosing their sex worker status in peer education and advocacy environments.

Essential Minimum Qualifications:

- Communication skills
- Writing and Computer skills
- Documentation skills
- Experience community education

Essential Minimum Experience:

- have participated in volunteering or working for a similar organisation in Australia, for the period of 1 year at time of departure (September 09)
- is a maximum of 30 years old at time of application (May 09)
- is eligible for membership to Scarlet Alliance
- communication skills
- computer and internet skills
- documentation skills

Desirables:

- an interest in art and performance
- an interest in working with international networking
- language skills, and an interest in developing those language skills
- friendly, enjoys new experiences
- curious about other cultures
- likes to have fun and is easy going
- can enjoy being part of a loud, noisy family

**Call for Expression of Interest
Volunteer for Empower Foundation, Thailand
Facilitated by Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association**

Accommodation: Empower is happy to offer secure and affordable housing either in a single room flat in a complex or a rented room in a shared house or in one of the many guesthouses in the city.

Pay (all amounts are in \$AUS) :

Pay is determined by location:	Monthly Living Allowance	Monthly accommodation Allowance	Total monthly allowance
Rest of Thailand	850	250	1100
Bangkok	825	375	1,200

You will also receive small establishment, resettlement and assignment support allowances.

AYAD volunteers will receive the following support from the AYAD Program:

- Pre-departure training mid – September in Canberra.
- Pre-departure medical examination and vaccinations
- Comprehensive insurance (travel/medical/professional)
- Travel to the host country and back to Australia
- In-country support from the In Country Manager (ICM)
- Post placement medical examination
- Debrief on return from assignment

Information about Empower Foundation:

Empower Foundation is a Thai organization promoting opportunities and human rights for sex workers. Empower provides access to education; occupational health and safety; legal and social advocacy.

To date Empower has centres in four provinces reaching some 30,000 sex workers i.e. Phuket, Bangkok, Chiang Mai and on the Thai Burma border of Chiang Rai. In 2009 – 2010 Empower will open another 6 drop in centres throughout the country.

Each centre has a unique character but all share the same goals and similar activities. Each centre offers language classes; internet skills; access to government school qualifications; health counselling; referral and education; a space to share experiences; build strength; formulate and implement advocacy campaigns; a community to belong to; to celebrate; mourn and mark important events and life's milestones.

Empower regularly uses art and culture to encourage society to see issues from a new perspective.

Empower began in 1985 in Patpong, Bangkok as a small group of sex workers and activists sharing experiences, life skills and life views. Soon after they began, the group, Empower, recognized an urgent need to address HIV issues in Thailand. Those issues concerned not just the threat of the virus itself but the accompanying stigma and blaming. Empower was the first organization to begin public education about HIV/Aids in Thailand. Since then Empower has been a major force for the creation of HIV /Aids organizations and networks, nationally, regionally and internationally.

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In 2006 Empower began to focus more of our advocacy and skill building efforts on the issues of occupational health and safety standards within the entertainment industry, including but not limited to safer sex and HIV prevention.

In 2008 – 2009 Empower has produced new documentation and projects focusing on HIV in the context of human rights and sex workers.

Assignment Focus:

- a. Service Delivery: Updating HIV information and establishing resource centre for sex workers
- b. Service Delivery: Building human rights documentation ability for sex workers
- c. Service Delivery: Building on use of art and culture for HIV education

Assignment Description:

- Participate in formal and informal health skills exchange with sex workers
- Help compile, sort and organize HIV resource center
- Assist in trainings and developing skills for documentation and information storage
- Help design and implement art performance for education on HIV/Aids
- Exchange experiences of sex worker organization
- Promoting the work of Empower back to Australian counterparts

Assignment Outcomes:

- Establish HIV and Rights resource center in Empower
- Sex workers have skills in documentation and information organization
- Two new art performances designed and developing
- Two community workshops on sex worker HIV and rights issues
- Participated in information sharing workshops with sex worker leaders in Thailand, by communicating about similar education projects of Australia
- Gain an understanding of Empower's community, work practices and outreach style
- Run a presentation upon return back in Australia

Selection Criteria:

Demonstrated ability to

- Share health information and skills among sex workers
- Share safer sex skills among sex workers
- Participate in formal and informal health skills exchange with sex workers
- Sharing experience of community building and outreach (formal and informal)
- Participate in sex worker health outreach
- Give a community education presentation about sex work

An interest and demonstrated understanding of:

- Contrasting and comparing OH&S conditions in Australia v.s. Thailand
- Designing and implementing training for sex workers in safer sex skills
- Exchanging experiences of sex worker organization
- Sharing information about health projects in Australia

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Hey! I want to apply! What do I do next?

- Write a 2 page Expression of Interest and send it to the Scarlet Alliance office before the Thursday 30th April. In your Expression of Interest you should address the selection criteria, describe your interests and past experience, and show you have the skills to fill this position.

The successful applicant will have to fill out the AYAD application form to be assessed. THIS INCLUDES A POLICE RECORD CHECK. Police history will not necessarily preclude you from being a volunteer. Scarlet Alliance does not approve of the police record check process, but unfortunately does not have any control over that part of the application. WE STRONGLY URGE EVERYONE WHO MEETS THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE TO APPLY, REGARDLESS OF POLICE HISTORY.

You should consider that as the successful applicant you will have to fill out the AYAD application form. Check out the AYAD Application form on this page http://www.ayad.com.au/web/public/forms_downloads.aspx.

Remember the closing date is Thursday 30th April 2009 Good luck!

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