



## Statement

The International AIDS Society (IAS) is very concerned about the decision of the Chinese authorities to block sex worker rights activist Ye Haiyan from travel to Melbourne to attend the 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014).

According to Human Rights Watch, Ms. Ye Haiyan had her passport seized by the Chinese authorities. Additionally, it appears that a no-travel restriction is preventing her from leaving mainland China.

Ye Haiyan is a prominent female and sex worker rights activist. In 2006 she started the first website and hotline for sex workers to provide information and counselling support. In 2008 and 2012, she established two organizations in Hubei and Guangxi Province to provide sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV education and prevention services for sex workers. She publicly advocated for the recognition of legal rights for sex workers in China.

We believe the Chinese government should promote the rights of those providing support and information to Key Affected Populations, such as sex workers, instead of following policies that undermine human rights.

Travel restrictions are one of the many barriers denying access to HIV prevention, care and treatment and are a major step backwards in the global response to HIV.

Activists and representatives of key affected populations are a pivotal part of the International AIDS Conference and its programme. We therefore ask that the decision to bar Ye Haiyan from travelling be reversed.

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