Yale Global Health Justice Partnership

**Sex Worker Health and Rights Projects: Spring 2020 Call for Applications**

The [Global Health Justice Partnership](https://global.yale.edu/ghjp) (GHJP) is a program hosted jointly by Yale Law School and Yale School of Public Health that tackles contemporary problems at the interface of global health, human rights, and social justice. **For spring 2020, the GHJP is looking for a few graduate or professional school students to join our projects on sex worker health and rights for course credit. Applications are due by Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 11:59PM.**

**OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS**

For the past several years, the GHJP has been engaged in global, national and local work to support the health and rights of people involved in the sex sector. The GHJP seeks to approach its work in politically ethical ways: collaborative projects are developed with sex workers and other marginalized communities, with awareness of our structural and individual positions as Yale academics in New Haven.

Since 2017, we have been working in collaborative partnership with the [Sex Workers and Allies Network](https://www.swannewhaven.org) (SWAN) of New Haven, a grassroots advocacy and direct service organization rooted in harm reduction principles and led by and for people with lived experience in street-based sex work. Our projects with SWAN evolve each semester according to SWAN’s interests and needs as well as in response to changes at local, state and national levels in policies and programs affecting sex workers. Collectively, our work with SWAN and allied groups seeks to remove or minimize the harms of policing and criminal legal regulation on people in street economies, while simultaneously advocating for power and resources to be redirected to community-led services and efforts.

For spring 2020, the GHJP will continue working with SWAN and allied partners on the projects outlined below. Generally, students work in interdisciplinary teams and focus on one of the projects, though there are opportunities for cross-project learning and collaboration.

**Spring 2020 Projects**

1. **Watchdogging local policing and criminal legal system practices, including a pre-booking “diversion” program:** This involves research, analysis and advocacy around policing practices and criminal legal system programs in New Haven, with a focus on a pre-booking “diversion” initiative known as Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD). The GHJP supports SWAN in developing engagement and advocacy strategies with LEAD in order to increase the accountability and transparency of the City, police and other actors (see our [watch site](https://global.yale.edu/ghjp)). Next semester, we also aim to develop rights-based materials on how sex workers and street-based groups can navigate encounters with law enforcement and criminal legal system authorities.

2. **Generating evidence and advocating for improved structural conditions and non-penal service accessibility for street-based groups:** Students will support SWAN and allied groups in gathering, analyzing and mobilizing data on the New Haven service landscape and gaps in social and structural resources for street-based communities. This project includes (1) analytical work with data from surveys and key informant interviews and translation of findings into advocacy materials, (2) literature
reviews of models and principles for efficacious, respectful and harm reduction-oriented social service delivery, and (3) theoretical work building rights-based, justice-informed rubrics to evaluate the impacts of service delivery in coercive contexts (e.g., in the context of pre- and post-booking diversion programs).

3. **First phase of research and planning with SWAN for a future coalition-led campaign to decriminalize sex work in CT:** In fall 2019, we began exploratory research to understand legislative and political attitudes in CT towards the sex work sector. In the spring, we will continue gathering information, conducting informational interviews, mapping allies and opposition, and creating and disseminating public education materials across CT about sex work, in hopes of raising awareness of sex worker issues and laying the groundwork for a possible coalition to form around a law reform campaign to decriminalize sex work.

**COMMITMENT AND DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

We seek graduate and professional school students to join these projects in fall 2019 (undergraduates may not apply). While this call is only for work in the spring semester, we will give preference to non-graduating students who are interested in continuing project work for additional semesters. The projects are designed to engage public health, legal, and policy approaches, though students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply.

Accepted students will enroll in *Advanced Global Health Justice Practicum: Fieldwork* at Yale Law. The number of credit units is determined in consultation with the course supervisors and is dependent on the project and student’s workload (generally, students receive 1 YSPH credit or 2-3 YLS credits). There is no seminar component, but we meet regularly (1-3x/week) for individual team supervision and full clinic meetings. The time commitment, including supervision and project activities, is 8-12 hours per week.

While the qualifications vary by project, in general, we are looking for students who have:

- Interest in learning about local city politics and institutions from a health justice perspective
- Interest in harm reduction, sex worker rights and criminal legal system policies and practices
- Competency in engaging ethically with community-based groups and an understanding of the dynamics and histories of structural oppression, criminalization and over-policing, trauma, and addiction that may impact people who trade sex, use drugs, and/or are houseless, etc.
- Interest in working with an interdisciplinary team to address questions of health and rights justice
- Ability to work collaboratively as well as independently on quick-paced, time-sensitive projects
- Specific projects may require specific skill sets (e.g., for the needs assessment, experience using Qualtrics and conducting qualitative and quantitative data analyses may be helpful)

While we are looking for strong interest in this work, prior experience or issue expertise are not required. New students will complete a required onboarding/training in the spring (dates and times TBC).

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:** To apply, please send your resume as well as a brief statement of interest and qualifications (max one page single-spaced) by Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 11:59PM to alice.miller@yale.edu (GHJP Co-Director) and poonam.daryani@yale.edu (GHJP Clinical Fellow). Not required, but if you are interested in a specific project/s, please note that in your statement.