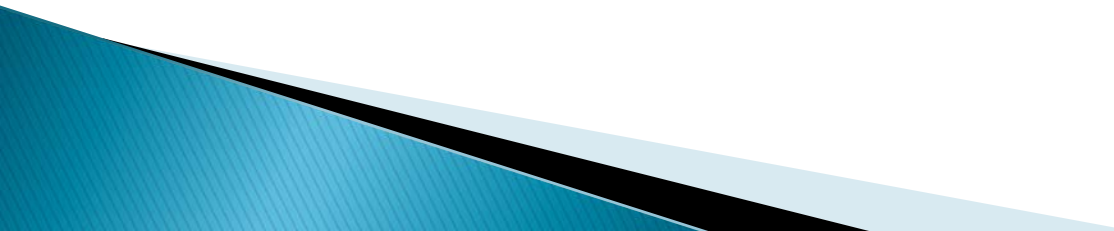


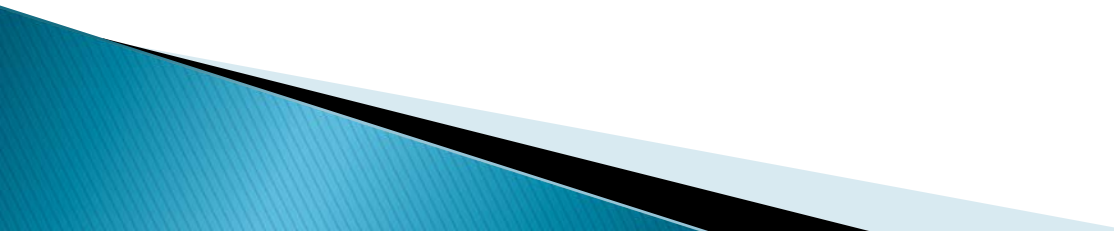
Transgender violence and HIV

HeJin Kim
International AIDS Conference 2012
July 22 - 27 Washington DC

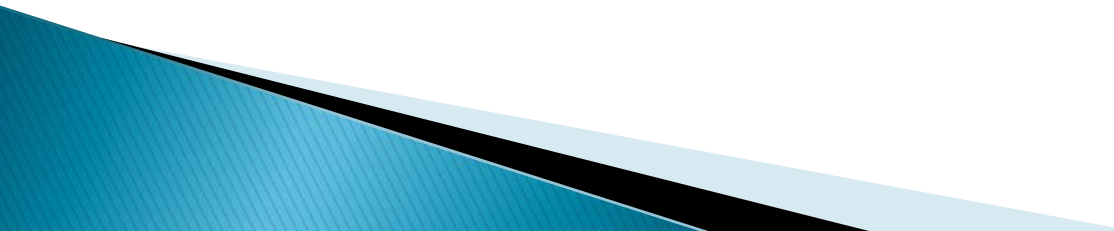
Transgender violence and HIV

- ▶ Transgender people are acknowledged as being a most at risk population in South Africa in the most recent National Strategic plan
 - ▶ Transgender people are one of the most widely stigmatised populations, and often one of the least understood
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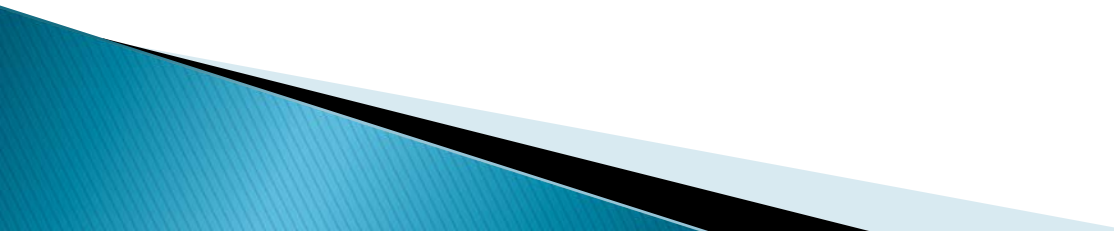
Transgender violence and HIV

- ▶ Lack of information and research
 - ▶ Lack of access to services
 - ▶ High incidence of violence, including sexual violence and rape
 - ▶ High incidence of sex work and transactional sex
 - ▶ Prevailing stigmatisation
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Transgender violence and HIV

- ▶ Transgender people face violence because they don't conform to traditional/cultural gender norms
 - ▶ Face stigma and violence in all sections of society (family, public, etc.)
 - ▶ Often targeted in harassment and violence by law enforcement
 - ▶ Intersections with other high risk populations
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Transgender violence and HIV

- ▶ The majority of respondents in a recent research reported abusive behaviour from health service providers
 - ▶ Service providers had almost no understanding of transgender issues, or their rights
 - ▶ Few transgender people get tested regularly, or manage to access ART
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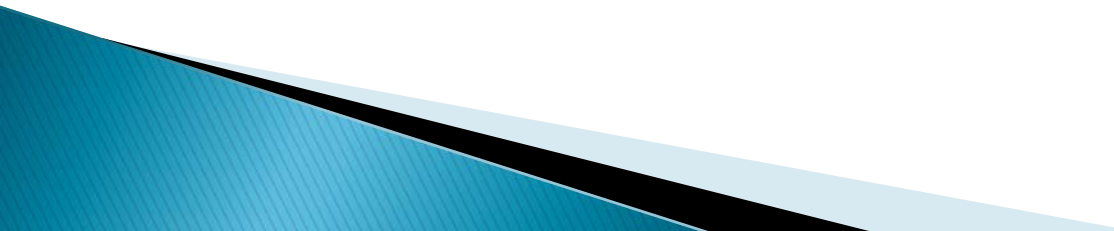
Transgender violence and HIV

‘They treat us like we are not human and they tell us all about God and what we did’

‘They write out on the card male or female and laugh out in my face.’

‘He left me and called his colleague to come and look at me as if I was on show’

Transgender violence and HIV

- ▶ Sex work and transactional sex is common among transgender women, and has been noted among transgender men
 - ▶ Within the sex industry transgender people are often one of the most stigmatised populations
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Conclusions

- ▶ Poor understanding of transgender issues leads to poor behaviour towards transgender issues
 - ▶ Gender based stigma needs to be addressed
 - ▶ Intersections with other high risk populations must be understood and addressed
 - ▶ Decriminalisation of sex work will greatly benefit transgender people's health
 - ▶ Human rights based approach is essential
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