Author’s response to reviews

Title: Does the Stockholm Syndrome Affect Female Sex Workers? The Case for a "Sonagachi Syndrome"

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Version: 1 Date: 11 Oct 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

October 10th, 2017

To the Editors of BMC International Health and Human Rights,

Please find attached the following edits to our manuscript, “Does the Stockholm Syndrome Affect Female Sex Workers?” which has been submitted as a “Debate” article.

1. Our declarations section was moved to the end of the manuscript just before the references section.

2. We included the website of Apne Aap Women Worldwide, specifically the “Red Light Dispatch” section which contains the raw data that we analyzed.

3. As requested by reviewer 1, we added further explanation of the cognitive mechanisms of Stockholm Syndrome. We also explained further regarding our methodology for data extraction. Note that we have a much longer methodology section for a different full research manuscript that explored mental health more generally in this population. We are submitting this piece specifically on the Stockholm Syndrome portion, and because it was submitted as a “debate” article, we did not include the full methods section.

4. As requested by reviewer 2, we added in further clarification in the background section regarding what the research question is specifically

5. Reviewer 2 also requested a further elaboration of methods, which we have added as explained above in point #3.

6. We agree with reviewer 2 that the introduction of complex PTSD in the last paragraph as it was done previously was confusing and did not fit well with the remainder of the manuscript. We have instead introduced complex PTSD in the background and integrated what Stockholm Syndrome would add to this as well.
We would very much like to publish our piece as a Debate article, as we believe it will introduce a very interesting point of conversation for experts to further build upon in the field of human rights and international health. The topic is one that has not been studied well, and has important implications for a very vulnerable population. We welcome any additional recommendations and hope the article is accepted.

Sincerely,

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