Reviewer’s report

Title: Experiences of gender-based violence among female sex workers, men who have sex with men, and transgender women in Latin America and the Caribbean: a qualitative study to inform HIV programming

Version: 0 Date: 11 Apr 2018

Reviewer: Joseph De Santis

Reviewer's report:

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Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

This manuscript reports the mixed method findings on a paper that compares gender based violence among various populations in a few selected countries. Overall, this is a well-written and concise paper. I have made a number of comments directly to the Editor regarding this manuscript.

In my opinion, there are a number of areas that need to be addressed before the manuscript is suitable for publication. I have broken these down by the section of the paper.

1) Abstract and introduction are adequate.

2) Sample: This is a very interesting and diverse sample. Although the diversity of the sample could be a strength of the study, it could also be a limitation. What was the rationale for the various sites included? How did the author arrive at the current sample size? It might be helpful to provide a sample size calculation.

3) Method: The authors report that this is a mixed methods study. What specific mixed method design was used? What was the timing of data collection (quant, qual--when were these data collected). From the appearance of the manuscript, I am not that is truly was a mixed method design. The authors need to state the study design used.

4) Results: How were the qualitative data analyzed? Were there any methods of rigor employed to ensure that the data were interpreted without bias? If this was not done, it might constitute a fatal flaw in the study.
5) Results: Because of the diversity of the sample, why didn't the authors do some comparisons among the various sites and populations?

6) There are too many tables in the manuscript. The reader gets overwhelmed by the amount of data presented.

Other sections of the manuscript are adequate. I believe that it important for the authors to address these suggestions.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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