

# Sandra Ka Hon Chu

Director of Research and Advocacy at Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network / Réseau juridique canadien VIH/sida

Toronto, ON, CA

Human rights advocate for people living with, affected by and vulnerable to HIV.

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## Description

Sandra is the Director of Research and Advocacy at the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, where she first started working as a senior policy analyst in 2007.

At the Legal Network, Sandra works on HIV-related human rights issues concerning prisons, harm reduction, sex work, women, and immigration. She has authored numerous publications, including an innovative legislative resource on women's rights in the context of HIV, a compendium of affidavits describing prisoners' experiences with injection drug use behind bars and briefing papers on sex work, and HIV and the law in Canada and internationally. She has also led the Legal Network's involvement in lawsuits challenging the Canadian government's failure to adopt prison-based needle and syringe programs and criminal laws governing sex work.

Previously, she worked in The Hague for the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, an international women's human rights organization advocating for gender-inclusive justice before the International Criminal Court. Her broad international experience has also included assignments for development, human rights and UN agencies in Libya, Timor-Leste, Hong Kong and Vancouver.

Sandra holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of British Columbia, an LL.B. from the University of Toronto and an LL.M. from the Osgoode Hall Law School of York University. She was called to the bar of British Columbia in 2003.

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## Industry Expertise

Women, Judiciary

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## Topics

Hiv / Aids, Prison health, Drug Policy, Harm Reduction, Sex Work and Prostitution Law, Immigration and HIV, HIV criminalization, Gender-based violence and HIV

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## Affiliations

Board member, Mukomeze Foundation

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## Past Talks

**On Point: making prison needle and syringe programs work in Canada**

On Point: making prison needle and syringe programs work in Canada

## **Education**

**Osgoode Hall**  
Master of Laws Law

**University of Toronto**  
LLB Law

**University of British Columbia**  
BA Sociology

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## **Accomplishments**

### **2016 Zenith Award Winner: Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion**

As Director of Research and Advocacy for the Canadian HIV/ AIDS Legal Network, Sandra Ka Hon Chu works to advance the rights of sex-trade workers, drug users and prisoners. Sandra's work includes leading litigation against the Government of Canada for failing to provide needle and syringe programs in prisons.

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