What is the role of community advocates?

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Key roles

- Make the research better by:
  - Providing a community-centred critique of research plans at both big picture (macro) level and at specific community (micro) level
  - Facilitate communication between the broader community and the researchers/research sponsors to promote understanding and debate about research
  - Work with communities to increase research literacy and improve capacity to provide critical feedback on specific research projects
The effective community advocate

• Works at building networks (in communities and with researchers
• Asks questions
• Listens respectfully
• Is committed to learning across a range of subject areas
• Argues points
• Challenges fixed notions of the way research ‘has to be’
• Has a commitment to research, and a commitment to research meeting community needs
• Talks with her or his networks about research processes and designs, to tease out issues and learn for others’ wisdom and experience
Areas of work

• Mobilising communities around HIV biomedical prevention

• Protecting and promoting human rights, including those of sex workers, young people, and men who have sex with men

• Advocating with government to strengthen health systems and invest in prevention
SEXWORKERS RIGHTS = HUMAN RIGHTS