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FIGHTING DISEASE

Anti-AIDS measures

WHEN the needle-exchange scheme for intravenous drug users and condom distribution, for those likely to get AIDS through sexual contact, was first mooted under the harm-reduction programme, there was much opposition from some quarters.

However, it is generally accepted that these programmes have the effect of reducing the spread of AIDS through sexual contact, which remains a major mode of the spread of the disease.

The licensing of sex workers is also something worth seriously looking into.

Licensed sex workers can be confined to specific areas of the city where the activities of brothels can be monitored and regulated. Sex workers can be required to undergo periodic medical screening for sexually transmitted and infectious diseases as a condition of their licence. The premises can be checked for required standards of hygiene.

Only "freelance" sex workers should be licensed, to eliminate pimps and criminals living off the sex trade.

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