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Stigma against prostitutes lifted by move

WASHINGTON: American groups working to end HIV worldwide will no longer be forced to take a pledge against prostitution, after the Supreme Court ruled this week that it was a violation of free speech. The decision lifts the stigma surrounding sex workers and their role in the world's 30 year-long HIV epidemic, and will allow scientists to talk more openly about effective ways to combat the virus. "This was a very stigmatising law against one of the most vulnerable population in the epidemic," said a spokesman at amfAR, Foundation for AIDS Research. **Agencies**