



International Network of People who Use Drugs

## Members Update: March - April 2022

INPUD's bi-monthly members updates are intended to keep our members and supporters informed about INPUD's recent activities, as well as updates from national/regional networks and relevant news in drug policy.

The following updates cover March through April 2022.

## Global Advocacy and Events

### 65<sup>th</sup> Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

This year's CND took place [14-18 March](#) both online and in Vienna. Due to restrictions in both travel and the number of civil society organisations permitted to attend in person this year, INPUD only attended CND virtually.

The impact of Russia's invasion in Ukraine was heavily felt at this year's CND, with many Member States condemning Russia's aggression and express solidarity with Ukraine. Russia withdrew many of their planned side events as well as its own resolution after the US, Canada, Australia, UK and EU countries stated Russia's aggression made it impossible for them to act in good faith during negotiations. Additionally, Russia's candidate for representation in the UNODC financing working group (FINGOV) lost overwhelmingly to the Latvian candidate in a vote which would normally be decided by consensus. Throughout the week Russia responded to this condemnation by throwing around accusation of other States "politicising" the CND forum, alleging that there were state-linked underground drug laboratories in Ukraine, and even accused Latvia of glorifying Nazism, all which prompted walkouts from Western countries.

Despite these tensions, two resolutions were adopted by consensus at this year's CND:

- A [Mexican-sponsored resolution](#) calling on greater international focus, including from civil society, on the links between trafficking of drugs and firearms
- A [US-sponsored resolution](#) on trafficking and chemical precursors which engages implementation of the 1988 UN Convention and promotes international cooperation

Two other resolutions (one on alternative development and drug control, another on drug prevention) were tabled but not adopted.

INPUD's side event, [Ending Inequalities for People who Use Drugs: How the Global HIV Response can Transform Drug Policy \(and vice versa\)](#), occurred the first day of CND.

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During the panel we brought together speakers from the community, UN agencies and government to review the critical advocacy work by peers last year around the Global AIDS Strategy and 2021 Political Declaration, and why the key targets in each document are important for governments in consideration of drug policy. Panellists also discussed specific interventions and policies Member States can take to integrate these targets into national drug policy strategies. The event was co-sponsored by Medecin du Monde, UNAIDS, UNODC HIV/AIDS Section, Netherlands and Australia. Everyone can now watch the side event on our [youtube channel by clicking here](#).

In addition to our side event, INPUD also made a virtual [intervention](#) during agenda item 7: inter-agency cooperation and coordination. Our intervention called for coordination between all global stakeholders and the community of people who use drugs to embrace the targets set forth in the Global AIDS Strategy and 2021 Political Declaration.

### **Joint Statement by INPUD, HRI and NSWP for INB Public Hearing**

This [joint statement](#) was submitted by INPUD, HRI and NSWP to the public hearings regarding an international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (INB) which was held by the WHO on 11-12 April, 2022. Our statement urges this instrument to build upon and enhance human rights protections, including:

- Incorporating international standards on derogations to human rights in public health emergencies, highlighting legality, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination;
- Explicitly express limitation on the role of law enforcement in pandemic response;
- Explicitly acknowledge need for specific protections for communities who face heightened vulnerability;
- Including meaningful participation of communities in the design implementation and evaluation of the instrument.

## **Publications**

### **Surviving and Thriving: Lessons in Successful Advocacy from Drug User-Led Networks**

Our newest case study report, [Surviving and Thriving](#), showcases what local and regional drug user-led networks can do when they have adequate resources through accessible and sustainable donor funding. The networks featured in these case studies took on projects that confront the most pressing issues of our time, such as COVID-19,

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government crackdowns on human rights activists and gender power imbalances. Having directly experienced and survived harms that include discrimination, incarceration, police violence and overdose, people who use drugs and their advocacy networks are uniquely positioned and motivated to implement community-response work. These projects have restored dignity and purpose to the lives they have saved.

Featured case studies include:

- **South Africa Network of People Who Use Drugs** – Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre, Durban, South Africa
- **Eurasian Network of People Who Use Drugs** – Gains in OAT Access in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Peers as Experts
- **Urban Survivors Union (United States)** – Narcofeminism Storyshare Project: Developing Alternative Narratives, Producing New Knowledge, and Ensuring More Responsive Advocacy
- **Indian Drug Users' Forum** – Budget Advocacy leading to \$10 million dollars for key populations through C19RM

### **Video: The Wall of Shame – Why Crack Consumption Rooms are Needed in Paris**

An estimated thirteen thousand people use crack cocaine in the wider Paris region. Recently the police, who have been harassing the community over the last three decades, even built a wall to block people who use crack from the rest of society. This wall – an ugly and very physical manifestation of the authorities' attempts to separate these crack users from the rest of society – has been nicknamed the Wall of Shame. [This new documentary](#), co-produced with ASUD and DrugReporter, explores the history of crack in Paris, and amplifies the voices of experts and residents who call for a better solution: safe crack consumption rooms.

### **Video: The Narcofeminism Storyshare Model**

In this [powerful new video](#) with DrugReporter and the North Carolina Urban Survivors Union, womxn who use drugs share stories about pregnancy, parenting & drug use. The story share model is an important tool for deconstructing the internalized narratives around the drug war. Traditional story share models often reinforce tropes and stigma we find in existing cultural narrative projects. Reproductive Harm Reduction is an inclusive powerful new paradigm focused on pregnant and parenting people who use drugs, and it was born from the Narcofeminism story share experience.

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## **Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM): Guide for People who Use Drugs**

This new [Global Fund resource](#) aims to help our community better understand how Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) work and how we can become meaningfully engaged in CCM processes. CCMs play a crucial role within the Global Fund model. However, too often Global Fund programmes implemented at the national level and overseen by CCMs do not perform as well as expected and do not meet the needs of key populations. The main aim of the CCM Evolution project is to equip and strengthen the way CCMs work and operate – including its grant oversight and engagement functions with communities and key populations – in order to make CCMs fit for purpose, maximise their impact, and change a business-as-usual approach. The CCM Evolution builds on a pilot project which was rolled out in 18 countries in 2018 and presents an opportunity for people who use drugs to effectively influence Global Fund programming by identifying gaps, blockages, and bottlenecks to meaningful community participation often experienced within CCMs. Through this process, we can document and propose solutions to strengthen CCMs work so the voices of people who use drugs are listened to, heard, and respected, and our health and rights needs are met.

## **Global Fund’s Community, Rights and Gender (CRG) Strategic Initiative: Short-Term Technical Assistance**

The Global Fund’s Community, Rights, and Gender Strategic Initiative (CRG SI) offers short-term peer-to-peer technical assistance to communities and civil society, including key population-led organisations and networks, to ensure that barriers related to community engagement, human rights, and gender equity are addressed. The CRG SI consists of three components:

1. Short-term technical assistance;
2. Long-term technical capacity strengthening (provided by INPUD among others);
3. CRG regional platforms.

[This guide](#) focuses specifically on how to access the first component – short-term technical assistance (TA).



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## Programmatic and Administrative Updates

### Global Fund Complaints Mechanism: How can people who use drugs use it effectively?

As a part of the Global Fund's CRG Strategic Initiative, INPUD organized a Peer Technical Support Hub on the topic of the GF Complaints Mechanism and how it works for the communities. The webinar familiarised networks and communities of people who use drugs with the concept of the GF Complaints Mechanism and Office of Inspector General (OIG), what value it brings to the community and how peers can get more engaged in these GF-related processes when reporting fraud, abuse and human rights violations. The full video can now be watched [online here](#).

## News and Other Updates

### Welcoming Rico Gustav and Annie Madden to the INPUD Secretariat

INPUD is thrilled to announce two incredible additions to our team:

Rico Gustav joins us as a Senior Technical Advisor under the RCF project, where he will work on strategic analysis and positioning of INPUD, global advocacy and provide technical assistance to networks within the movement. Rico is an Indonesia health and development activist working on issues related to AIDS, drug use and marginalised populations since 1999. Rico was most recently the Executive Director of the Global Network of People living with HIV (GNP+), chair of Strategy Committee of the Global Fund and has also served as the Board Member of Communities Delegation to the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) since February 2014 and was a member of the Strategy Committee to the Board of GFATM.

Annie Madden will be working as the RCF Exceptional Opportunity Project Lead, where she will oversee projects under the RCF EOF grant which includes INPUD, ENPUD and SANPUD. Annie is a long-time drug user activist from Australia who has dedicated her professional career to promoting the health and human rights of people who inject drugs. Annie is currently a PhD candidate, Community Engagement & Liaison Officer and Research Assistant at the Centre for Social Research in Health (CSRH) at University of New South Wales. Prior to this, Annie was the CEO of the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) until April 2016 and the EO of the NSW Users & AIDS Association (NUAA). She is also a founding member of Harm Reduction Australia.

Welcome to both Rico and Annie, we are excited to have you both on the INPUD Secretariat!

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## Coming Up

### Webinar: Engaging in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

On 25<sup>th</sup> May, 13:00 CEST, INPUD will be hosting a [webinar on the Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#), a key human rights mechanism where the human rights record of States are reviewed by other States as well as through civil society contributions such as shadow reports. Recommendations from UPR rarely address human rights concerns from people who use drugs, in large part because there have been very few drug user-led networks which have engaged in the UPR process. This webinar will feature a speaker from one drug user network which has (Recovering Nepal) as well to recount their experience as well as other speakers who will provide an overview of UPR and guidance on how to maximise engagement. [Registration is now open here.](#)

### Register for AIDS 2022 and INHSU 2022

The 24<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2022) will take place 29 July – 2 August in Montreal as well as online. Registration is now open for both virtual and in-person attendance. [Find more information about the conference and registration here.](#)

The INHSU 2022 conference will be a hybrid event taking place in Glasgow and online from 19 – 21 October 2022. Early Bird registration for the conference will be open until 31 July. [Learn more about the conference and registration here.](#)