



International Network of People who Use Drugs

## Members Update: May - June 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 May through June 2022.

## Global Advocacy and Events

### Global Fund Catalytic Investments are Central to 'Putting People and Communities at the Centre'

Prior to the Global Fund Board meeting which took place 12 – 13 May, INPUD prepared two position papers – one jointly with Harm Reduction International and Eurasian Harm Reduction Association, and the other by INPUD. Both position papers were shared with the Global Fund Board. The focus of the meeting was on the 2023-2025 allocation methodology and prioritisation of catalytic investments (CI), which in the absence of a dedicated key population funding stream, are vital for sustaining drug user-led networks who are on the frontlines of advocacy, service delivery, research and monitoring of harm reduction, health, and legal services. Our position papers ([which can both be read here](#)) called for improved allocation and monitoring models for CI to ensure they can adequately fund community-led responses to HIV around the globe.

### Webinar - Engaging and Impacting the Universal Periodic Review: Guidance for People who Use Drugs

On 25<sup>th</sup> May, INPUD hosted a webinar discussing the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a key human rights mechanism where the human rights records of States are reviewed. The webinar gave an overview of the UPR review cycle, its usefulness for people who use drugs and tips on how to begin planning a UPR submission. A presentation was given by Bishnu Sharma of Recovering Nepal detailing their experience with UPR over the past few years, and additional speakers from the OHCHR and civil society gave their own recommendations and best practices for engaging with UPR. [A recording of the webinar can be viewed here.](#)

As INPUD looks to amplify the work of our global community in high-level decision-making forums, INPUD will be holding additional webinars and publishing resources on UPR and other human rights mechanisms in the coming months.

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## **Webinar - Human Rights Violations against People who Use Drugs in Sub-Saharan Africa**

On 28<sup>th</sup> June, The African Network of People who Use Drugs (AfricaNPUD) and INPUD hosted a webinar with speakers from the community as well as UNAIDS and IDPC discussing human rights of people who use drugs in Sub-Saharan Africa. During this webinar AfricaNPUD, launched a landmark report documenting this situation which can inform future drug laws and policies and enhance human rights advocacy among people who use drugs in Africa. [That report can be viewed by clicking here.](#)

The full recording of the webinar can be watched [by clicking here.](#)

## **Webinar - Global Fund Complaints Mechanism: How can People who Use Drugs Use it Effectively?**

As part of the Global Fund's CRG Strategic Initiative, INPUD organised a Peer Technical Support Hub in April 2022 on the topic of the Global Fund Complaints Mechanism. The webinar introduces the concept of the GF Complaints Mechanism and Office of Inspector General (OIG), explains what value it brings to the community and how peers can get more engaged in these Global Fund-related processes when reporting fraud, abuse, and human rights violations. [The full recording of the webinar can be watched here.](#)

## **INPUD Interventions at the 50<sup>th</sup> UNAIDS PCB – Addressing Methadone Crisis in Ukraine & UBRAF**

The 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) was held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June. During the meetings Aditia Taslim, representing INPUD, delivered two interventions. The first addressed the ongoing methadone crisis in Ukraine as a result of the war with Russia. INPUD reminded UNAIDS of the 2014 Crimea Annexation disaster which led to many deaths in our community from similar stockouts and called to not let history repeat itself. The second intervention called on UNAIDS, the Joint Programme Member States, donors and other stakeholders to invest in key population-led networks, as well as to remove laws, policies and practices that deny people access to services in line with the 10-10-10 global HIV targets. [Both interventions can be read in full by clicking here.](#)



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## Publications

### Women who Use Drugs in Kyrgyzstan: Experience of Writing and Working on a CEDAW Shadow Report

Over the last several years the Kyrgyzstan organisation [Asteria](#), led by women who use drugs, has been engaging in the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), with the support of INPUD. Asteria partnered with a coalition of NGOs to develop and submit a [shadow report documenting and visibilising rights violations against women from key populations](#). The shadow report also included recommendations for concrete actions that the CEDAW can recommend to the State concerning women from key populations.

This case study ([available in English and Russian](#)) documents the experience of Asteria planning, writing and submitting this shadow report to CEDAW, and is intended to be used as a resource for other networks of people who use drugs who are considering engaging with CEDAW or other human rights mechanisms.

## Programmatic and Administrative Updates

### 'Our Rights, Every Body's Rights' Workshop – Indonesia

In June, INPUD partnered with the Indonesian drug user-led network PKNI for the first national workshop in the 'Our Rights, Every Body's Rights' project funded by UNAIDS. These workshops aim to catalyse advocacy on the 10-10-10 societal enabler targets and the 80-60-30 targets on community-led responses. These targets, which notably include commitments towards decriminalisation of drugs, can help drug user activists at the national level create a roadmap for decriminalisation which will improve the health and rights of people who use drugs. Photos from the workshop can be viewed on [PKNI's facebook page](#) and a summary report will soon be available.

### Balancing the Scales

*Balancing the Scales* is a methodology which seeks to create a stronger movement by politicising self-care and building a positive drug user identity. It was developed in partnership with Frontline AIDS and Alkimia and designed to be rolled out across different countries in order to foster resilience within communities of people who use drugs. It is based on the Looking In, Looking Out (LILO) model designed by Positive Vibes for marginalised communities to address self-stigma and internalised stigma, by digging deep to understand where these negative perceptions come from while at the

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same time identifying internal resources to reframe personal narratives. Until now, this approach has never been applied to people who use drugs.

After the successful pilot workshop in January, a training of facilitators was held May 2022 in Kenya. This workshop aimed to train facilitators who can in turn conduct further *Balancing the Scales* trainings in their countries and communities. It was attended by members of the Kenya Network of People who Use Drugs, Network of Asian People who Use Drugs, South African Network of People who Use Drugs, Empower Cameroon, Drug Harm Reduction Advocacy Network Nigeria, and International Network of People who Use Drugs.

[Read more about Balancing the Scales and the next steps of the project by clicking here.](#)

## News and Other Updates

### Announcing the Winners of the Jude Byrne Emerging Female Leaders Award

INPUD and the International Network on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users (INHSU) are excited to announce the recipients of the inaugural Jude Byrne Emerging Female Leader Award, which was announced in October last year to honour the memory of legendary drug user activist and former INPUD Chair Jude Byrne.

Congratulations to the two inaugural recipients: **Danielle Russell (USA)** and **Yatie Jonet (Malaysia)**!

Danielle and Yatie will now embark on a nine-month mentorship program, delivered by INPUD, that will be co-created in partnership with them and supported with an award of \$10,000 each. They have also received full scholarships to attend the INHSU 2022 conference in Glasgow this October. [Get to know Danielle and Yatie and their plans for the mentorship programme by clicking here.](#)

## Coming Up

### Webinar – Engaging with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW): Guidance for Women who Use Drugs

21<sup>st</sup> July, 14:00 CEST

[Click here to register](#)

CEDAW is a key human rights mechanism established to monitor and defend the human rights of women in all their diversity. The objective of the webinar is to familiarise networks and communities of women who use drugs with the concept of CEDAW, what value it brings to the community, and to share practical tips for conducting advocacy

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around CEDAW. On the International Drug Users Remembrance Day, join INPUD alongside Asteria Kyrgyzstan, IWRAW Asia Pacific and UN human rights defenders for a discussion on how CEDAW can be utilised by drug user advocates to address human rights violations in our communities and amplify the specific impacts of drug policy on women and gender-diverse people who use drugs.

### **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. Late registration is still 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 to 21 October 2022. Early Bird registration for the conference will be open until 31 July. [Learn more about the conference and registration here.](#)