



International Network of People who Use Drugs

## Members Update: July - August 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 July through August 2022.

## Global Advocacy and Events

### AIDS2022 Conference

The International AIDS Conference 2022 (AIDS2022) took place in Montreal, Canada between 29th July and 2nd August. Despite discrimination in the visa application process which prevented many community members from the Global South to attend the conference, there was nevertheless a strong presence by people who use drugs at the conference.

[Click here](#) for some of the most notable highlights from AIDS2022, including:

- Calls for action on the 10-10-10 and 80-60-30 community targets key populations fought for in the Global AIDS Strategy and 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS
- Call for donors such as PEPFAR and the Global Fund to redefine what it means to work with community, and to invest in peer-led harm reduction services and advocacy.
- Launch of the new [WHO consolidated guidelines for key populations](#), and discussion of the [community-led consultations](#) which informed the new guidelines
- Launch of the “[Not a Criminal](#)” campaign, alongside GNP+ and other key population networks
- Community meetings in the Global Village on pandemic preparedness and responses
- Presentations on how to articulate a global HIV response which is community-led and community-accountable
- Many more presentations and calls to action

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

On International Drug Users Remembrance Day (21 July), INPUD hosted a webinar on how the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (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. CEDAW is a key human rights mechanism established to monitor and defend the human rights of women in all their diversity. The webinar familiarised networks and communities of women who use drugs with the concept of CEDAW, presented the value it brings to the community, and shared practical tips for conducting advocacy around CEDAW. Alongside INPUD, presentations were given by Asteria Kyrgyzstan, CEDAW Committee member Genoveva Tisheva, IWRAW Asia Pacific, and Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS.

[Click here to watch the full recording of the webinar.](#)

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

The African Network of People who Use Drugs (AfricaNPUD) and INPUD hosted a webinar discussing human rights violations against people who use drugs in Sub-Saharan Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this webinar AfricaNPUD, with speakers from the community as well as UNAIDS and IDPC, [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.

[Click here to watch the full recording of the webinar.](#)

## **100 Community and Human Rights Groups Urge UN Action to Halt Imminent Executions in Singapore**

INPUD joined the Network of Asian People who Use Drugs, Harm Reduction International, the International Drug Policy Consortium and 100 community and human rights organisations in urging the UNODC and OHCHR to intervene and halt two executions in Singapore. [These two open letters](#) called on the UNODC and the OHCHR to take the appropriate action to halt these executions. More information can be found in the [press release by Harm Reduction International here](#). Unfortunately, despite the advocacy efforts, Kalwant Singh and Norasharee bin Gous were executed in July.



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## Letter of Concern: ARV Stockout in India

The ongoing shortage of antiretroviral drugs for people living with HIV in India has become a crisis. The community anticipated stockouts since December 2021 but the India National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) has continued to fail in their responsibility to procure ARVs for people living with HIV. In response, [INPUD sent a letter](#) to Mr. Alok Saxena, Director General of NACO, expressing our concern and our solidarity with the Delhi Network of Positive People along with all other people living with HIV affected by the stockout.

## Publications

### Digital High-Level Advocacy Tip Sheet

Conducting advocacy in online environments is more important than ever. While this shift has brought certain advantages, it also brings problems and limitations, especially for drug user organisations operating within spaces which are hostile to our community. With this in mind, [INPUD has developed this tip sheet on conducting digital high-level advocacy as people who use drugs](#). This can include meetings at the global level, such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) or High-Level Meeting (HLM) on HIV/AIDS, as well as meetings at the national level such as drug control meetings or technical working groups on HIV and harm reduction. These tips were developed in consultation with drug user advocates within the INPUD global network. The strategies and advice captured here are intended to amplify the impact and effectiveness of digital advocacy efforts.

### Media and Social Media Advocacy Tip Sheet

Media and social media are powerful tools for strengthening advocacy efforts among drug user-led organisations. Effective media advocacy can sway public opinion and influence decision makers, while social media can help with communications, building communities and inspiring action. However, due to an often hostile environment for people who use drugs, conducting media and social media advocacy can be difficult for our community. [This tip sheet has been developed](#) in consultation with drug user advocates to support community-led organisations seeking to expand their effectiveness in media and social media advocacy.



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## Programmatic and Administrative Updates

### Olga Szubert Joins the INPUD Secretariat

Olga joined the INPUD Secretariat full-time in August and is responsible for programme oversight. Previously Olga worked as Senior Policy Officer at Harm Reduction International (HRI) where she undertook original research and policy analysis of emerging and current priorities for harm reduction funding, developed advocacy recommendations for the UN and governments and managed HRI's campaign for a redirection of funds from ineffective drug law enforcement to harm reduction. Prior to HRI, Olga worked as International Officer at Stonewall – leading LGBTQI organisation in the UK, and as Policy Officer at Frontline AIDS. Between March and August 2022, Olga worked for a Polish humanitarian organisation supporting Ukrainian refugees.

You can contact Olga by emailing her on [olgaszubert@inpud.net](mailto:olgaszubert@inpud.net).

## Coming Up

### NFM4: How People who Use Drugs can Meaningfully Engage

27<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

16.00 – 17.30 CEST

[Click here to register](#)

In preparation for the Global Fund 2023-2025 grant cycle (New Funding Model 4/NFM4), INPUD is organising a webinar to introduce people who use drugs to NFM and particularly NFM4 with the aim to mobilise the community to engage in the processes on national level and influence their outcomes. The webinar will take place over one and a half hours. Discussion and Q&A from the audience will follow presentations by speakers from INPUD, the Kenya Sex Workers Alliance, PKNI, the Global Fund and UNAIDS

### INHSU 2022

19 – 21 October, 2022

SEC, Glasgow & Virtual

The 10th International Conference on Health and Hepatitis Care in Substance Users (INHSU2022) exists to unite researchers, clinicians, people with lived experience, policymakers, and community organisations to improve the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs. [Learn more about the conference and registration here.](#)

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