

**Voices from the East
Health. Rights. Care.**



Sign on: letter to Minister Sigrid Kaag, Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Collaboration of the Netherlands.

The letter

The growing impact and voice of Key Population civil society in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) has been made possible by the commitment and investment of the Dutch Government; which over many years has led the development world in championing access to human rights protection and social and health care for key affected and marginalised communities in the region.

This is an important legacy of Dutch engagement, in particular the Bridging the Gaps (BtG) programmes which supported us as Key Population networks and civil society organizations in scaling up our work and addressing the health, social and harm reduction needs of our communities in the region. The AIDS2018 Conference in Amsterdam was a global forum for us to showcase this support in action; where our Key Population networks and communities were enabled to share their stories, successes and future ambitions. However just 2 years later the situation looks bleak for many of our CSOs and the Key Population communities we represent.

With no funding secured from the recent SRHR Partnership subsidy framework, it seems that Dutch development funding is explicitly pivoting away from the EECA region. This means a critical partner for Key Population SRHR programming and broadly public health and rights of key affected communities such as LGBT, sex workers, drug users, youth in crises is now lost. With the majority of international donors including the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria transitioning away from the region, the timing of this shift in Dutch development policy could not be worse. Indeed the PITCH-Bridging the Gaps Key Population funding report 'Off-Track' identifies globally that there is a "staggering gap of 80% between the budget needed for HIV programmes targeting key populations (\$6.83 billion) and the amount made available (\$1.31 billion)." Meanwhile Key Population communities across the EECA region are faced with an HIV epidemic which continues to deteriorate - in fact the region is now dealing with four epidemics

simultaneously – Coronavirus, HIV, MDR TB, and viral hepatitis. Stigma, discrimination and criminalization continue to be barriers preventing us from achieving important Universal Health Coverage, SDG health and rights equality targets. We are witnessing increasing state sanctioned repression to stifle civic society (in the guise of corona mitigation) and escalating geopolitical tensions in many countries. This is creating a perfect storm that threatens the hard-won progress of recent years. Vital HIV prevention and harm reduction services are being closed or scaled back. Important civil society expertise is being lost in real time with dire consequences for the health and well-being of men, women, trans people, adolescents and children living at the margins of society. This has immediate and longer-term risks for regional and European health and bio security efforts.

However, targeted funding now from the Dutch Government could allow us as responsible civil society partners, to manage this difficult transition period and help us to strengthen efforts to build alternative sustainable funding capacities and to support advocacy efforts of communities to sustain services and human rights protection.

This legacy investment would ensure that we have the means to build back better from Covid-19 and support our resilience and sustainability efforts to better position ourselves in a post-Covid-19 EECA health and rights landscape.

With growing alarm we urgently ask the Dutch Government to reconsider its decision to defund Key Population programming in the EECA region and reaffirm its global leadership in supporting the Sexual Health and Human Rights of socially excluded and stigmatized populations. As members and representatives of these Key population groups we ask the Dutch Government to once more step up, show solidarity for and defend our (SRHR) Rights. We reach out with this demand in the spirit of hope, trust and partnership.

Signed by the following 185 organisations from 34 countries

1. Ukrainian Network of People who Use Drugs (Volna), **Ukraine**
2. Charitable Fund "Hope and Trust", **Ukraine**
3. RPO "Tajik network of women living with HIV", **Tajikistan**
4. Ukrainian Network of Women who Use Drugs (UNWUD), **Ukraine**
5. PO Imron, **Tajikistan**
6. ANO SPN Project April, **Russia**
7. Woman for Freedom, **Georgia**
8. People PLUS, **Belarus**
9. Human to Human Initiative Group, **Russia**
10. NGO "Azbukah", **Russia**
11. Centre for social, psychological and cultural projects "Resource LGBTQIA Moscow", **Russia**
12. Republican Public Organization "Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs", **Belarus**

13. Public Health Poltava Regional Charity Fund, **Ukraine**
14. NGO Phoenix PLUS, **Russia**
15. TB people, **Kyrgyzstan**
16. PO "Jovidon", **Tajikistan**
17. Hous of hope, **Russia**
18. PF Answer, **Kazakhstan**
19. SPIN Plus, **Tajikistan**
20. Charitable Foundation for public health and development "Siberia-AIDS-Aid", **Russia**
21. Estonian Network PLWHIV (EHPV), **Estonia**
22. VEKLGHT, **Estonia**
23. Public Health and Social Development Foundation FOCUS-MEDIA, **Russia**
24. Charitable Public Foundation "Protection of children from AIDS", **Kazakhstan**
25. Center Womern and Modern World, **Azerbaijan**
26. NGO "Amali nek", **Tajikistan**
27. CO "Legalife-Ukraine", **Ukraine**
28. Hamroh, **Tajikistan**
29. Charitable Organization "Positive Women", **Ukraine**
30. Crisis centre "Zabota", **Kazakhstan**
31. Public Organization "Sudmand", **Tajikistan**
32. PO "Volunteer", **Tajikistan**
33. Assistance fund, **Russia**
34. NGO "Right of everyone", **Russia**
35. PO Liga, LGBT Association, **Ukraine**
36. RuNPUD /Russian network people who use drugs, **Russia**
37. NGO "Cohort", **Ukraine**
38. Public Foundation "Ganesha", **Kyrgyzstan**
39. Tanadgoma, **Georgia**
40. International Charitable Foundation "AIDS Foundation East-West" (AFEW-Ukraine), **Ukraine**
41. Harm reduction network association, **Kyrgyzstan**
42. PO Volunteer, **Tajikistan**
43. Rostov AIDS center, **Russia**
44. Kharkiv Charitable Foundation "Parus", **Ukraine**
45. HPLGBT, **Ukraine**
46. NGO "SAFI", **Tajikistan**
47. Public Organization "Self Help Club "Life plus", **Ukraine**
48. SWON Plus, **Tajikistan**
49. LGBT social movement "REVERS", **Russia**
50. TB Europe Coalition, **the Netherlands**
51. Doverie Plus, **Kazakhstan**
52. Public Association "Equal to Equal Plus", **Kazakhstan**
53. Public association "Supporting people living with HIV "Kuat", **Kazakhstan**
54. NGO "Preventive Medicine" of the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, **Kyrgyzstan**
55. Public fund "Gerlita", **Kazakhstan**
56. KOS KANAT GETYSU, **Kazakhstan**

57. PLUS centre, **Russia**
58. DUNews, **Ukraine**
59. Charitable Organization "Network of 100 percent life Rivne", **Ukraine**
60. Public fund "You are not alone", **Kazakhstan**
61. NGO "Center for Development and Social Assistance of the Population", **Kazakhstan**
62. City AIDS Center, **Kyrgyzstan**
63. Vertae, **Uzbekistan**
64. Tsentri SIBALT, **Russia**
65. ALE «Central Asian Association of People Living with HIV», **Kazakhstan**
66. New Vector, **Georgia**
67. Nasha dopomoga, **Ukraine**
68. Future without AIDS, **Ukraine**
69. Equal Opportunities, **Tajikistan**
70. Youth View, **Tajikistan**
71. Equality, **Tajikistan**
72. UNDP GF, **Tajikistan**
73. Center for AIDS prevention and control, Shymkent city, **Kazakhstan**
74. TAC Care Foundation, **Russia**
75. Public foundation "Positive dialogue, **Kyrgyzstan**
76. New Life PLUS, **Kazakhstan**
77. Era of mercy, **Ukraine**
78. Charitable organization "That percent of life, Chernivtsi, **Ukraine**
79. Phoenix, **Uzbekistan**
80. NGO "New Generation Humanitarian", **Armenia**
81. NGO "Mission AID and Development", **Armenia**
82. NGO "Buzurg", **Tajikistan**
83. FENIX 2009, **Georgia**
84. GENPUD, **Georgia**
85. Public Union Against AIDS, **Azerbaijan**
86. Public Association "Amelya", **Kazakhstan**
87. Public fund "ANSWER", **Kazakhstan**
88. Public Organization SUDMAND, **Tajikistan**
89. Women of Western Donbass, **Ukraine**
90. Republican Centre "AIDS", **Kyrgyzstan**
91. Charitable Organization "Network of 100 percent life Dnipro", **Ukraine**
92. Hepa Plus, **Georgia**
93. Public Organization "Perspective", **Ukraine**
94. MSM CLUB Nsk, **Russia**
95. New veqtor, **Georgia**
96. "Positive Dialogue", **Russia**
97. Charitable society "All-Ukrainian network of people living with HIV/AIDS" of Lviv city, **Ukraine**
98. Novomoskovs'k District NGO "Family Support Center", **Ukraine**
99. Public Foundation "Believe in yourself", **Kyrgyzstan**
100. NGO "Ishonch va Hayot", **Uzbekistan**

101. Humanitarian project, **Russia**
102. Eurasian harm reduction association, **Lithuania**
103. Public Foundation "Health and Education of Youth in the 21st Century", **Kyrgyzstan**
104. AntiAIDS Association, **Kyrgyzstan**
105. Russian Sex Workers Forum, **Russia**
106. Charitable organization "Meridian", **Ukraine**
107. Svitanok Club, **Ukraine**
108. ANO «Russian social project «For live», **Russia**
109. Ijitsa, **Uzbekistan**
110. Open Medical Club Charitable Foundation, **Russia**
111. Gender and Development, **Azerbaijan**
112. Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS, **Georgia**
113. Public fund "Sanat Alemi", **Kazakhstan**
114. BMG, **Uzbekistan**
115. NPO "Rising Light" social support center, **Russia**
116. CF "Blago", **Ukraine**
117. TGBL initiative group "Expansion", **Russia**
118. NGO Fresh Start, **Russia**
119. ENPUD, **Georgia**
120. Community BerLUN, **Germany**
121. Irkutsk Regional Public Organization "Center for Social Support Navigator", **Russia**
122. RSO Kovcheg-AntiSPID, **Russia**
123. Mothers FOR life, **Moldova**
124. AFEW International, **the Netherlands**
125. "VirusOFF", **Ukraine**
126. Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health, **Russia**
127. Union for HIV prevention and Harm Reduction, **Moldova**
128. Krater Produkties, **the Netherlands**
129. Young Generation of Tajikistan, **Tajikistan**
130. Young Generation of the World, **Tajikistan**
131. Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network, **the EECA region**
132. Social Rights Service, **Azerbaijan**
133. Correlation-European Harm Reduction Network, **the Netherlands**
134. EuroNPUD - European Network of People who Use Drugs, **United Kingdom**
135. HESED, **Bulgaria**
136. Elnura Foundation, **the Netherlands**
137. New Generation Humanitarian NGO, **Armenia**
138. PeerNUPS, **Greece**
139. PHESTA, **the Netherlands**
140. Saglyk, **Turkmenistan**
141. Ending Prohibition and Finding Honest Treatment, **USA**
142. Harm Reduction International, **United Kingdom**
143. Mainline, **the Netherlands**
144. Oxfam Novib / Hivos, **the Netherlands**

- 145.PUD.UA, **Ukraine**
- 146.Asian Harm Reduction Network, **Myanmar**
- 147.Foundation Friends of Pryluky, **the Netherlands**
- 148.Polish Drug Policy Network, **Poland**
- 149.Alliance for Public Health, **Ukraine**
- 150.Hiv Vereniging (Dutch Association of people with HIV), **the Netherlands**
- 151.Science for Democracy, **Belgium**
- 152.Associazione Luca Coscioni, **Italy**
- 153.Eumans, **Italy**
- 154.International Network of People who Use Drugs, **United Kingdom**
- 155.Eurasian union of adolescents and youth Teenergizer, **Ukraine**
- 156.Eurasian Key Populations Health Network, **Poland**
- 157.Students for Sensible Drug Policy, **Austria**
- 158.HIV Justice Network, **the Netherlands**
- 159.Feministive community, **Russia**
- 160.Aidsfonds, **the Netherlands**
- 161.Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation, **Canada**
- 162.Nai Zindagi Trust, **Pakistan**
- 163.Medical University – Varna, **Bulgaria**
- 164.Drug Policy Network South East Europe, **Serbia**
- 165.AIGHD, **the Netherlands**
- 166.International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC), **South Africa**
- 167.Metzineres. Environments of Shelter for Women who Use Drugs Surviving Violences, **Spain**
- 168.EATG, **Belgium**
- 169.Dance4Life, **the Netherlands**
- 170.Nova+, **Serbia**
- 171.Sex Work Polska, **Poland**
- 172.UNAIDS Belarus, **Belarus**
- 173.International Child Development Initiatives, **the Netherlands**
- 174.ECUO, **Ukraine**
- 175.AIDS Action Europe, **Germany**
- 176.European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC), **the Netherlands**
- 177.Global Health UMCG, **the Netherlands**
- 178.SOPADAS, **Democratic Republic of Congo**
- 179.RNW Media, **the Netherlands**
- 180.NGO Re Generation, **Serbia**
- 181.STOP AIDS, **Albania**
- 182.ARAS - Romanian Association Against AIDS, **Romania**
- 183.Center Women and Modern World, **Azerbaijan**
- 184.Association of HIV affected women and their families, **Lithuania**
- 185.Association for Support of Marginalized Workers STAR-STAR Skopje, **North Macedonia**