

# GLOBAL SIGN ON: Letter to Minister Sigrid Kaag, Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of The Netherlands

The Netherlands has been a global leader for ensuring the health and human rights of people who use drugs and has contributed significant funding over the past decade for harm reduction and drug policy reform. Within this frame, recent funding decisions signify a withdrawal from this critical agenda. This letter calls on the Dutch government to recommit to their brave and long-standing political and financial support for harm reduction and drug policy advocacy and to continue to build on their significant investment in this issue.

FOR ORGANISATIONAL SIGN ON ONLY: DEADLINE MIDNIGHT CET 16TH JULY 2020

See the full text of the letter below and form to add your sign-on at the bottom.

Dear Minister Kaag, Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation,

**CHANGE IN DUTCH FUNDING PRIORITIES WILL SIGNIFICANTLY DISRUPT GLOBAL HIV AND HEPATITIS RESPONSE FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS**

The Netherlands has been a global leader for ensuring the health and human rights of people who use drugs and has contributed significant funding over the past decade for harm reduction and drug policy reform. Within this frame, the Netherlands has steadfastly aimed to shift the focus of drug policies away from counterproductive and damaging punitive measures, towards ensuring the primacy of human rights, health and development commitments for people who use drugs. In particular, since the inception of harm reduction as a response to drugs in the late 1970s, the longstanding and continuous leadership of the Netherlands in championing this approach has been unparalleled. The Dutch global leadership in the harm reduction movement throughout the past two decades has saved thousands of lives and positively influenced countries towards adopting health, human rights-based and evidence-based approaches to drug use.

Just two years ago, at the 2018 AIDS Conference, hosted by the Netherlands in Amsterdam, there was a special focus on Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA), where HIV is predominantly driven by unsafe injecting drug use. The Dutch government used the opportunity to re-iterate its commitment to harm reduction and to addressing the HIV epidemic in EECA. Consistent with this commitment, the current policy 'strengthening civil society' ( Health, rights and drugs: harm reduction, decriminalization and zero discrimination for people who use drugs. UNAIDS (2019)) and in the Ministry's SRHR Theory of Change, prioritises people who use drugs and mentions harm reduction explicitly.

In sharp contrast to this, the latest round of funding decisions under the SRHR Partnership Fund represents a drastic shift away from these long-standing and critical priorities. None of the selected partnerships include comprehensive, consistent and high-quality harm reduction service delivery or advocacy for drug policy reform. Moreover the selected programmes that include HIV as a topic do not substantially include regions such as EECA, the Middle East and South-East Asia – where HIV incidence among people who use drugs is still rising.

There are an estimated 15.6 million people around the world who inject drugs. Just 1% of them live in countries with high coverage of harm reduction services . People who inject drugs are 22 times more at risk of HIV compared with the general population. The 2018 research report 'the Lost Decade' ( The Lost Decade: Neglect for harm reduction funding and the health crisis among people who use drugs. Harm Reduction International (July 2018). ) demonstrated there had been a 24% decrease in harm reduction funding from international donors between 2007 and 2016; amounting to a shocking 87% shortfall in funding for harm reduction in low- and middle-income countries. In this context, the Dutch have stood out for its ongoing and outstanding commitment to funding harm reduction in low- and middle-income countries. Until now.

The ramifications of the current Dutch funding decision are wide and far-reaching. This letter makes an urgent appeal to the Dutch government, to continue funding life-saving, rights-affirming interventions and drug policy reform work.

The undersigned call on the Dutch Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation to validate a strong Dutch tradition of promoting a human rights and public health approach. And with that we urge the Netherlands to recommit the brave and long-standing political and financial support for the health and rights of people who use drugs.

Signed by the following **330 organisations from 95 countries**:

1. Acción Técnica Social (ATS), Colombia / México
2. Act for Change Organization, Rwanda
3. Action pour le Développement du Sahel (ADESA), Niger
4. AFEW International, EECA region
5. Africa Japan Forum, Japan
6. African Law Foundation (AFRILAW), Nigeria
7. African Network of people who use drugs (AfricaNPUD), Kenya
8. Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento (APDES), Portugal

9. AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA), Namibia
10. AIDS Solidarity Movement, Cyprus
11. Aidsfonds, The Netherlands
12. AILES, Mauritius
13. Aksi Keadilan Indonesia (AKSI), Indonesia
14. Aksion Plus, Albania
15. akzept e.V. Bundesverband für akzeptierende Drogenarbeit und humane Drogenpolitik, Germany
16. Alcohol and Drug Foundation, Australia
17. Alliance for Public Health, Ukraine
18. Alliance Nationale des Communautés pour la Santé (ANCS), Senegal
19. Alternative Georgia, Georgia
20. Andrey Rylkov Foundation, Russia
21. Ánh Dương - Quảng Ninh, Vietnam
22. APCASO, Thailand
23. APCOM Foundation, Thailand
24. ARAS - Romanian Association Against AIDS, Romania
25. Arusha Mental Health Trust, Tanzania
26. ARK-Antiaids, Russia
27. ASA, Associazione Solidarietà AIDS, Italy
28. Asia Catalyst, International
29. Asian Harm Reduction Network, Myanmar
30. Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ANPUD), Thailand
31. Asociación Cívica Soluciones, Peru
32. Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas (ACEID), Costa Rica
33. Association de Lutte Contre le Sida (ALCS), Morocco
34. Association for Safer Drug Policies, Norway
35. Association Guyanaise de Réduction des Risques, French Guyana
36. Association Guinée pour la promotion des énergies renouvelables (AGUIPER), République de Guinée
37. Association of SMT participants of Ukraine, Ukraine
38. Association sénégalaise pour la réduction des risques (ASRDR), Sénégal
39. Association of Young Psychologists and Doctors "Xenon", Georgia
40. Ateneo Human Rights Center, Philippines
41. BABSEACLE, Thailand
42. Balance Promocion para el Desarrollo y Juventud, Mexico
43. Burundi Network of People who Use Drugs (BAPUD), Burundi
44. Bemoni Public Union, Georgia
45. Bendery City Society, Moldova
46. Bensther Development Foundation, Nigeria
47. Blue Cross Society of Tanzania, Tanzania
48. Blue Sky Club Social Enterprise, Vietnam
49. Brukaranhörigas Riksorganisation, Sweden
50. FEDITO BXL, Belgium
51. Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, Canada
52. Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Canada
53. Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CSSDP), Canada
54. Cari Innovation, Uganda

55. Caribbean Harm Reduction Coalition, Saint Lucia
56. CBO ALO BOY, Vietnam
57. CD Global Consulting, Australia
58. Center for Training and Research on Substance use and HIV, Hanoi Medical University, Vietnam
59. Centre for Humane Policy, Bulgaria
60. Centre for Law Enforcement and Public Health, Australia
61. Centre of Excellence for Research in AIDS (CERIA), Malaysia
62. Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation (CDPE), Canada
63. Centro de Convivência "É de Lei", Brazil
64. Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral (COIN), Dominican Republic
65. Centre Women and Modern World, Azerbaijan
66. Charity Foundation "Vita Valens", Ukraine
67. Checkpoint Zurich, Switzerland
68. Child Space Organization, Kenya
69. Christian Industrial Training Centre, Kenya
70. Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign, Ireland
71. CLB Gia đình trẻ PC HIV xa Đại Hợp - Kiến Thụy, HP, Vietnam
72. Cliëntvertrouwenspersoon, The Netherlands
73. Club "Eney", Ukraine
74. Club "Svitanko", Ukraine
75. Coast General Hospital, Kenya
76. COC Nederland, The Netherlands
77. Coletivo Papo Reto, Brazil
78. Collectif Urgence Toxida (CUT), Mauritius
79. Controlling Chemsex CIC, United Kingdom
80. Convictus Ukraine, Ukraine
81. Coral Property, Kenya
82. Corporación Temeride, Colombia
83. Corporación Viso Mutop, Colombia
84. Correlation – European Harm Reduction Network (C-EHRN), The Netherlands
85. Creating Opportunities for Disadvantaged Persons (CODaP), Sierra Leone
86. Crew 2000, United Kingdom
87. CVO - Research & Consulting, The Netherlands
88. Czech AIDS Help Society, Czech Republic
89. Decent Conversations Foundation, Kenya
90. Detroit Sober House, Tanzania
91. Dokters van de Wereld, The Netherlands
92. Dristi Nepal, Nepal
93. Drog Art, Slovenia
94. Drogenpolitik, Germany
95. Drug Policy Advocacy Group (DPAG), Myanmar
96. Drug Policy and Harm Reduction Platform, Malawi
97. Drug Policy Australia, Australia
98. Drug Policy Network South East Europe (DPNSEE), Serbia
99. Ecotalent Platform, Kenya
100. Education for Africa, Kenya
101. EJA Surabaya, Indonesia

102. El Punto en la Montaña, Puerto Rico
103. Engage Jamii Initiatives, Kenya
104. Equal International, South Africa / United Kingdom
105. Era of Mercy, Ukraine
106. ESE Association, North Macedonia
107. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA), Lithuania
108. European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), Belgium
109. Fieldwork Netherlands, The Netherlands
110. Foundation Against Illicit Drug and Child Abuse (FADCA), Liberia
111. Foundation for Professional Development, South Africa
112. Free Clinic, Belgium
113. Friends of Pryluky, The Netherlands
114. Frontline AIDS, United Kingdom
115. Fundación Latinoamérica Reforma, Chile
116. Fund of Women Living with HIV in Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan
117. Gadejuristen/The Street Lawyers, Denmark
118. Gay Men's Health Collective (GMHC), United Kingdom
119. Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance, Canada
120. Georgian Network of People who Use Drugs (GeNPUD), Georgia
121. Georgian Harm Reduction Network, Georgia
122. Glink Vietnam, Vietnam
123. Global Eye Foundation, The Netherlands
124. Global Network of People living with HIV (GNP+), The Netherlands
125. Groupement Romand d'Etudes des Addictions (GREA), Switzerland
126. Grove Specialist Drug Service, United Kingdom
127. Hai Phong City Rehabilitation Program, Vietnam
128. Harm Reduction Australia, Australia
129. Harm Reduction International (HRI), United Kingdom
130. Harm Reduction Malta, Malta
131. Health Equity Alliance, United States
132. Health Poverty Action (HPA), United Kingdom
133. Helping Hand, Kazakhstan
134. Help Not Harm, Ireland
135. Hepatitis Education Project, United States
136. HIV Justice Network, The Netherlands
137. Holy Ghost Fathers Technical Institute, Kenya
138. Home Recovery, Indonesia
139. Hope in Life, Kenya
140. HPLGBT, Ukraine
141. IDUCARE, Philippines
142. India HIV/AIDS Alliance, India
143. Indonesian Coalition on Drug Policy Reform, Indonesia
144. Indonesian Harm Reduction Network (Jangkar), Indonesia
145. Institute Utrip, Slovenia
146. Instituto para el Desarrollo Humano, Bolivia
147. Integrative Health Solutions Ltd, Kenya
148. Intercambios A.C., Argentina
149. International Association for Cannabinoid Medicines, Germany

150. International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), United Kingdom
151. International HIV/AIDS and TB Institute, Ukraine
152. International HIV Partnerships (IHP), United Kingdom
153. Institute for Social Development Studies, Vietnam
154. International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC Global), South Africa
155. IROO Center for Social Support Navigator, Russia
156. IWRAP Asia Pacific, Malaysia
157. KANCO, Kenya
158. Karibu Kenya, The Netherlands
159. Karitas Sani Madani Foundation, Indonesia
160. Kenya Harm Reduction Network, Kenya
161. Kenya Network of People who Use Drugs (KeNPUD), Kenya
162. Kenya NGO Alliance Against Malaria, Kenya
163. Key Populations Consortium of Kenya, Kenya
164. KH Legal Advice, The Netherlands
165. KHANA, Cambodia
166. Kherson Regional Charity Fund "Mongoose", Ukraine
167. KORSANG, Cambodia
168. Kwale women fighting against HIV and drug abuse, Kenya
169. LaSky Network, Russia
170. Lembaga Persaudaraan Korban Napza Makassar (L-PKNM), Indonesia
171. LBH Masyarakat (LBHM), Indonesia
172. LEAP UK, United Kingdom
173. Legalize NL, The Netherlands
174. Life Foundation, Pakistan
175. Lighthouse Social Enterprise, Vietnam
176. London Friend, United Kingdom
177. Maahad Daawah, Kenya
178. Magarini, Kenya
179. Mai Mai Hoang Mai, Vietnam
180. Mainline, The Netherlands
181. Malaysia Society of Awareness, Malaysia
182. Mauritius Network of People who Use Drugs (MauNPUD), Mauritius
183. M-Coalition (The Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality), Lebanon
184. Medecins du Monde, Global
185. Metta Development Foundation, Myanmar
186. Metzineres, Spain
187. Middle East & North Africa Harm Reduction Association (MENAHR), Lebanon
188. Mindbrouwerij, The Netherlands
189. Mistletoe Community Health and Rights Initiative (MCHARI), Nigeria
190. MOPESUN, Kenya
191. MozPUD - National Aid Network for People who Use Drugs, Mozambique
192. MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights, United States
193. MUCD, Mexico
194. Muslim Education and Welfare Association (MEWA), Kenya
195. NACOSA, South Africa
196. Nai Zindagi, Pakistan
197. NAM aidsmap, United Kingdom

198. National AIDS Trust, United Kingdom
199. National Needle Exchange Forum (NNEF), United Kingdom
200. National Users Network of Nepal (NUNN), Nepal
201. NC Survivors Union, United States
202. New Generation Humanitarian NGO, Armenia
203. New Zealand Drug Foundation, New Zealand
204. NEXT Harm Reduction/ NEXT Distro, United States
205. NGO UMIT, Kazakhstan
206. Nhóm :Sống Để Yêu ,mạng lưới SW, Vietnam
207. Nhóm Biển Xanh Cẩm Phả, Nước Vietnam
208. Nhóm Hạ Long Xanh, Vietnam
209. Nhóm Hương Quỳnh thuộc mạng lưới VNSW, Vietnam
210. Nhóm Niềm Tin Hải Dương, Vietnam
211. Nhóm Nơi Bình Yên, Vietnam
212. Nhóm sóng biển NT, Vietnam
213. Niềm tin Tiên Du thuộc mạng lưới người nhiễm HIV, Vietnam
214. NoBox Philippines, Philippines
215. Norwegian Association for Humane Drug Policies (FHN), Norway
216. Nur Outreach Programme for Drugs Education and Reintegration, Nigeria
217. ODRI Intersectional Rights, Peru
218. OnderwijsBovenwijs, The Netherlands
219. ONG REVS PLUS, Burkina Faso
220. Open Faces, Kazakhstan
221. Outreach Coalition for Harm Reduction, Estonia
222. Our Help, Ukraine
223. Ozone Foundation Thailand, Thailand
224. Pakistan Association of People Living with HIV (APLHIV), Pakistan
225. Paroles Autour de la Santé (PAS), International
226. Penington Institute, Australia
227. Pensioen, The Netherlands
228. Perkumpulan PEKA, Indonesia
229. Perle Sociale ONG, Bénin
230. Perspective Healthcare Kenya, Kenya
231. Poltava Regional Public Health Charity Fund, Ukraine
232. Positive Initiative, Moldova
233. Positiiviset ry, HivFinland, Finland
234. Positive Voice, Greece
235. Poz&Proud, The Netherlands
236. PREKURSOR, The Netherlands
237. Prévention Information et Lutte contre le Sida (PILS), Mauritius
238. Public Association Amelia, Kazakhstan
239. Public Association "DEF" (Protection), Russia
240. Public Association Kuat, Kazakhstan
241. Public Defender Association, United States
242. Public Foundation "Alem-Spas Charity Fund, Kazakhstan
243. Public Fund 'Ganesha', Kyrgyzstan
244. PULS, Moldova
245. Pwani One Shilling Foundation, Kenya

246. RAISSS, México
247. Re Generation, Serbia
248. Reachout Center Trust, Kenya
249. Recovering Justice, United Kingdom
250. Recovering Nepal, Nepal
251. Red Ribbon Istanbul, Turkey
252. Release, United Kingdom
253. Reproductive Health Uganda, Uganda
254. ReShape, United Kingdom
255. Return to Life, Ukraine
256. Rights Reporter Foundation, Hungary
257. Romanian Harm Reduction Network, Romania
258. Rumah Cemara, Indonesia
259. S Red group, Vietnam
260. SAfAIDS, Zimbabwe
261. SAIDE community, Kenya
262. SANANIM, Czech Republic
263. South African Network of People who Use Drugs (SANPUD), South Africa
264. Sarmad David Legacy Fund, Global
265. Save Lamu, Kenya
266. Save Our Youth, Kenya
267. Schwulenberatung Berlin, Germany
268. Scottish Drugs Forum, United Kingdom
269. Second Life, Ukraine
270. Sikkim Drug Users' Forum, India
271. SIMBA Queens, Kenya
272. Sindh Green Development Organization, Pakistan
273. Sinteze, The Netherlands
274. Skoun- Lebanese Addiction Centre, Lebanon
275. Social Linkages for Youth Development and Child Link, Sierra Leone
276. Soma projects, Kenya
277. Southside Harm Reduction Services, United States
278. Społeczny Komitet ds. AIDS, Poland
279. Stanlovenie, Russia
280. STEPS for people, Greece
281. Stichting ICEERS, The Netherlands / Spain
282. Stockholms Brukarförening, Sweden
283. Stop Overdose Now, The Netherlands
284. STOPAIDS, United Kingdom
285. StoptheDrugWar.org, United States
286. Students for Sensible Drug Policy, International
287. Success Capital, Botswana
288. Sukry Connections, Kenya
289. Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI), Vietnam
290. Survivors Organization Busia, Kenya
291. Survivors Self Help Group, Kenya
292. SWON Plus LLC, Tajikistan
293. Tanzanian Network for People who Use Drugs (TaNPUD), Tanzania



294. TB HIV Care, South Africa
295. Teens Watch Centre, Kenya
296. Kwale Network of People who Use Drugs (KwaNPUD), Kenya
297. Temblores, Colombia
298. Association for Safer Drug Policies, Norway
299. Vijana Network, Kenya
300. The Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), United States
301. Toi Du Monde, Senegal
302. Transform Drug Policy Foundation, United Kingdom
303. Transnational Institute (TNI), The Netherlands
304. Treatment Action Group (TAG), United States
305. Trimbos Institute, The Netherlands
306. Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN), Uganda
307. Ukrainian Network of People who Use Drugs, Ukraine
308. Unheard Voices Afrika, Kenya
309. UNIDOS - National Network for Drugs and HIV, Mozambique
310. United for a purpose Brigade, Seychelles
311. Union for HIV prevention and harm reduction, Moldova
312. Viet Nam Network of People who Use Drugs (VNPUD), Vietnam
313. viRo, Germany
314. Voices of Community Action and Leadership (VOCAL-KE), Kenya
315. Washington Heights CORNER Project, United States
316. We Can Organization, Kenya
317. West Africa Behavioural Health Addictions & Recovery Management (WABHARM), Ghana
318. West Africa Drug Policy Network (WADPN), Ghana
319. Women Against Rape Inc. (WAR), Antigua and Barbuda
320. Women and Harm Reduction international Network (WHRIN), International
321. World Hepatitis Alliance, Switzerland
322. Yayasan Karisma, Indonesia
323. Yayasan Kesehatan, Indonesia
324. Young Wave, Lithuania
325. Youth Organisations for Drug Action, Poland
326. Youth RISE, International
327. YouthAid-Liberia (YAL), Liberia
328. YouthRISE Nigeria, Nigeria
329. Zanzibar Network of People who Use Drugs, Tanzania/Zanzibar
330. Zimbabwe Civil liberties and Drug Network, Zimbabwe