

The Law Enforcement and HIV Network: Growing police support for HIV prevention



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HIV in the world ...



A Snapshot of where we are up to:

- 35,000,000 people are living with the virus
- Over 6.6 million people on life-saving treatment
- 2007 to 2014: treatment coverage went from 33% to 42%
- New HIV infections have fallen by 38% since 2001
- **AIDS has:**
 - demanded the participation of those affected
 - demanded inclusive governance
 - driven down prices of essential medicines
 - contributed to advancing the human rights agenda

Success in the AIDS response has been driven by **human rights ...**

UNDP: Punitive Laws, Human Rights and HIV prevention among MSM in Asia Pacific
High Level Dialogue Report, International Day Against Homophobia, May 17, 2010 (updated)

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HIV in the world



A Snapshot of where we are up to:

“Despite some remarkable successes in the AIDS , a rising tide of punitive laws, polices, and practices that violate human rights is jeopardizing progress and blocking the achievement of the universal access targets and the MDGs ...

“It is becoming increasingly clear that successes in HIV prevention, treatment and care can only be sustained and scaled up if they are underpinned by legal, regulatory and social environments that advance human rights, gender equality and social justice goals.”

Michel Kazatchkine, UN Special Envoy on AIDS for EECA:

“Whereas remarkable progress has been achieved globally, the world has failed in dealing with ‘concentrated’ epidemics”

Failures to advance human rights, gender equality and social justice goals



MSM everywhere: increasingly criminalised, stigmatised
– even *invisible*

HIV in Asia and Eastern Europe: driven by injecting drug use

- Universally criminalised, demonised, brutalised ... by police
- No human rights, no drug treatment, no harm reduction ...
→ continuing HIV epidemics: 30% of all new HIV infections outside SS Africa are among IDUs

HIV in Southern and Eastern Africa: sexual Tx and violence

- Alcohol-fuelled violence increasing HIV vulnerability among women esp SWs
- No police response against domestic/GB violence
“Describes police culture” – alcohol, violence against women

Marginalisation and HIV



- HIV affects the marginalised, the poor – those who participate in marginalised activities and those who are marginalised because of it:
 - Marginalisation per se increases HIV risk
 - Marginalisation increases risk of participating in risk behaviours
- Police are very often part of marginalising process:
 - Police behaviours often interfere with HIV prevention
- Criminalisation of illicit DU, SW, MSM:
 - sets police against communities in need of protection rather than discrimination, arrest or incarceration

Police impact on HIV vulnerability



Driving at-risk people away from HIV services:

- reluctant to identify to providers of HIV services:
 - fear of discrimination
 - fear of information being recorded or disclosed to police or media.
- Police abuses:
 - decrease control that at-risk people have over their lives
 - increase stigma
 - alienate people from society
 - more difficult to reach with services

Police impact on HIV vulnerability



Impeding prevention activities

- HIV prevention services are interrupted as a result of police harassment of outreach workers, many of whom are peer educators
- HIV prevention education activities are restricted by police on the grounds that the activities encourage or 'aid and abet' illegal acts
- Condoms, lubricants, N&S are confiscated by police as evidence of sex work, injecting drug use, illegal male-to-male sex
- HIV materials are censored, and police raids occur on events and venues where HIV education takes place

The Police Role in the HIV Response



- Police have a mandate to prevent harm to the community:
 - saving lives and preventing injury and harm among the *whole* community
 - this is *the* critical issue

Melissa Jardine. What does World AIDS Day mean for police?
LEAHN Newsletter 1 Dec 12014

- For HIV prevention to be effective, we need to move police from being



ENEMIES → NEUTRAL → FACILITATORS → LEADERS

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The Police Role in the HIV Response



How can we change police behaviour?

- Reform laws – but must ensure reformed “laws on the books” lead to reformed “law on the streets”
- Empower communities: strengthen their capacity in struggle with police – rights education, free legal aid etc
- Change police behaviour – training, sensitization, SOPs, orders, promotion goals ...
- **Change police culture** – peer advocacy and education, liaison and partnership with marginalised communities

The Police Role in the HIV Response



LEHRN (2004-2008): Cambodia, Viet Nam, Lao PDR
-Studied the impact of harm reduction on policing ...

<http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/series/policing>

Lessons from LEHRN :

1. The involvement of law enforcement is critical to the success of harm reduction programs at all levels – regional, national and local.
2. There is a pressing need for law enforcement agencies and authorities to share ownership of harm reduction.
3. Police must be engaged early by harm reduction programs; not as a subsidiary but as a core partner.



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The Police Role in the HIV Response



Lessons from LEHRN (2004-8):

4. There is a need to document the experiences of LE and HR working together, at all levels, both positive and negative.
5. Involvement of LE at local level must be through effective community partnerships based on mutual understanding and respect
6. There need to be **multi-sectoral operational** structures among all key agencies involved at all levels
7. Police and other LE need adequate resourcing to fulfil a harm reduction mission and be effective partners
- from within budget ...

The Police Role in the HIV Response



Lessons from LEHRN (2004-8):

8. Harm reduction activities must be integrated into police planning, and be congruent with other government
9. Political awareness and support are fundamental to the success of LE and HR partnerships and programs
 - must be matched by government leadership and investment in harm reduction.
10. Solutions must be *practical* and be *seen to be of worth by police*
 - “what’s in it for them?”

The Police Role in the HIV Response



What we need right now:

- a better understanding of incentives for LE to have a greater stake in HR
- better documentation and evaluation, measuring outcomes against strategies
 - e.g. impact of engagement versus confrontation
- new and innovative approaches to partnership building

Strategies to scale up effective police involvement in the HIV response ...

What we are doing ...



➤ The Law Enforcement and HIV Network

➤ LEAHN is a global network of police and health professionals focused on HIV prevention:

- LEAHN provides peer advocacy, education and support for police working for change
- LEAHN helps professionals understand the role of law enforcement in public health
- LEAHN helps both police and public health appreciate the importance of collaborative responses in improving community safety and reducing the incidence of HIV.



Harm Reduction cannot and will not work without the active participation of police.

The Law Enforcement and HIV Network



Elements and activities:

Communications:

- Websites – English and Russian
- E-newsletters, published articles, videos
- Social media – Twitter, Facebook

National advocacy and education:

- Country Focal Points (CFPs)
 - 20+ in 18 countries so far
- National communications strategies

Global advocacy:

- Statement of Support – UNCCPCJ
- Amsterdam Declaration

Technical assistance:

- Training
- Technical review (e.g. For UNODC)



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Police can be the best friend or the worst enemy of HIV prevention and harm reduction.

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Coverage of CFPs:

Asia

- Viet Nam, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Nepal, Bangla Desh

Eastern Europe/Central Asia

- Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Ukraine, Tajikistan

Southern and Eastern Africa

- Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Ethiopia, Zambia

Latin America

- Brazil

Still to come:

More countries, many with multiple CFPs
MENA, Pacific, Caribbean, SE Europe



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The Law Enforcement and HIV Network



**The International Police Advisory Group (IPAG)
of the Law Enforcement and HIV Network (LEAHN)**

**Statement of Support by Law Enforcement Agents
for Harm Reduction and Related Policies for HIV Prevention**

This Statement of Support is signed by serving and former law enforcement agents in support of policies and practices for effective policing of communities for controlling the epidemic of HIV among key populations and the broader community, ameliorating harmful impacts of the inappropriate application of criminal and administrative laws, stigmatization and discrimination to which key populations are exposed.

Launched by a Police Delegation from Australia, Thailand, Kyrgyzstan and Ghana at the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Vienna, April 2013



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UNODC and LEAHN Working together



Workshops for LE and CS:

- UNODC and LEAHN have conducted sensitizing workshops for police, CSOs and CBOs
- to create a space for LE officials and CSOs to share respective positions, concerns and ideas,
- 16 countries to date
 - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippine, Vietnam, India, S Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Brazil



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India: Civil society organizations and law enforcement officials unite to deliver health services for drug users



November 2013: Kolkata, India.

"Enhancing Partnerships between Law Enforcement and Civil Society Organizations in the context of Drug Use and HIV"

The UNODC workshop aimed at

- sensitising LE officials about harm reduction services in the context of HIV; and
- building capacity of CSOs to advocate for greater access to harm reduction services for drug users.

Brazil: Civil society organizations and law enforcement officials unite to deliver health services for drug users



September 2013: Manaus, Brazil.

“Workshop on law enforcement and prevention and treatment for HIV/AIDS in the context of drug use”

The UNODC Workshop brought together health managers, public safety professionals, law enforcement officials and civil society members:

- to promote dialogue between the health and justice sectors
- to foster debate on the needs of drug users and people living with HIV.

UNODC and LEAHN Working together



Workshops at Conferences:

IAC 2014, Melbourne: UNODC and LEAHN organized the capacity building workshop:

“The critical partnership for HIV prevention: building positive relationships with police to support civil society and HIV programmes”

LEPH2014, Amsterdam: concurrent UNODC/LEAHN/EHRN session “Critical partnership for harm reduction ”

LEAHN Consultation on Police and HIV, Amsterdam 2014
UNODC support and participation



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LEAHN growth and future:

1. Capacity building for CFPs:

- Local support networks
- Training in leadership, communications, management
- Conference presence, presentations, skills-building

2. Building of national LEAH networks

- Implementation of national communications strategies

3. Regional and global Consultations

- LEAHN CFPs and other police
- Civil society organisations and networks
 - MoUs for collaborations
- INGOs, IGOs, NGOs, multilaterals, bilaterals



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LEAHN growth and future:

4. Partnership with UNODC

- Consultations and joint workshops
- Resource development
- Training

5. Durban IAS Conference 2016

- Global Consultation Satellite
 - review of progress since Amsterdam 2014
- Launch of special issue of JIAS
 - showcasing police-health collaborations in HIV response
 - review of evidence ...



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LEAHN – www.leahn.org
CLEPH – www.cleph.com.au

