

Annual Report 2022



Reflections from WHRIN Board, the Strategic Advisory Body and Secretariat

WHRIN chair message

It is an honour to Chair the Board of WHRIN, a network that contributes much for women who use drugs across the globe. I'm very proud of what WHRIN has accomplished over 2022 in the face of many challenges. Highlights include the WHRIN small grant support for campaigns that focus on women who use drugs, the crisis shelter project, webinars and extensive advocacy. There is much work to be done to achieve WHRIN's goal to improve the availability, quality, relevance and accessibility of health, social and legal services for women who use drugs – it is wonderful to be part of a team striving for this goal.

Ananda Maudy

WHRIN Coordinator message

WHRIN again experienced a significant growth spurt over 2022. This would not have been possible without the active involvement of the Strategic Advisory Body, Board and WHRIN allies around the world. When I recall the beginnings of WHRIN back in 2009 and how very far we have come, the faces of so many women (too many to list) loom large as those who have made this possible. WHRIN has always been, and remains as powerful as the sum of and engagement from our allies.

Another key ingredient supporting the expansion of WHRIN secretariat and activity over 2022 is of course our donors – the Robert Carr Fund providing core support through this critical growth period, ViiV and Frontline AIDS. Much work has been done to extend and diversify the WHRIN funding base, and we do anticipate additional future support. As you will see in this report, much of the potent action has hinged on collaborations with partner organisations who have variously engaged in WHRIN activities such as joint briefing paper development, advocacy opportunities, internships and more. We look forward to building on all of these exciting engagements in 2023 and beyond. Thanks everyone!

Ruth Birgin

WHRIN governance

To ensure our governance systems align with Indonesian Foundation regulations, WHRIN has formed a new, amalgamated 'Strategic Advisory Body' (SAB). The SAB provides input and collaboration with the Board, reviews WHRIN products, helps develop WHRIN policy, assists with building partnerships and monitoring regional and national level trends and provides strategic direction to the network. Please learn more about the WHRIN Board on the 'about us' page [here](#).

The WHRIN Board and SAB met monthly (with separate quarterly or as needed Board meetings) to provide vital oversight, policy development and other active contributions to WHRIN workplan activities, product development and review and strategic planning.

A big thank you is extended to previous Board members Astried Permata, Alfiana Qisthi and Rosma Karlina and a warm welcome to Ananda Maudy, Eva Dewa Masyitha and Sulis Setyaningsih as the newest WHRIN Board members who are poised to steer the network in collaboration with the Strategic Advisory Body, through this year and beyond.

To learn more about our amazing Board and advisors, see [here](#).

Strategic Advisory Board reflections:

- *“There is no way to describe 2022 other than it was not an ordinary year for the strategic advisory board members. Our monthly meetings presented a great opportunity for cross-learning, innovation, team work and capacity strengthening that was at the same time building on past achievements. I am particularly happy and grateful for the efforts and work done around intersectionality throughout the year centering women and gender diverse people, sex workers, young people who use drugs in all diversities in our advocacy. None of this could have been possible without the extraordinary women at the heart of WHRIN. Looking into a future of sustaining and strengthening work that the Strategic Advisory Board achieves.”*
- *“Being a member of the WHRIN SAB this past year has been both an honour and a privilege. My fellow SAB and Board members are truly inspiring. However, WHRIN wouldn't have succeeded without our (growing) group of diverse, knowledgeable and talented allies from across the globe. I am very much looking forward to seeing what more amazing work WHRIN can achieve in 2023. Thank you all so much!”*
- *“It's been a wonderful opportunity to expand my knowledge. I got the opportunity to review documents, participate in the selection committee and represent WHRIN on the Youth Rise Board. It's been amazing to be a part of such a diverse and talented group of people from all around the world working together.”*
- *“In 2022, WHRIN began to roll out the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights workshops which has been a great experience because a lot of critical new knowledge is being transferred to the grassroots. It has also been great to be part of activities in Indonesia, where WHRIN is registered and increasingly included in relevant dialogues at the national level.”*
- *“Volunteering on the WHRIN SAB has been a rewarding challenge. I have learned from exposure to new and diverse perspectives and issues faced by people who use drugs around the world.”*

Secretariat update

This year, WHRIN is welcoming – and farewelling – workers according to programme and other changes.

With support from ViiV, **Wangari Kimemia** began work with WHRIN from early in the year as Advocacy and Capacity Building Officer. Wangari's work, currently centred around sexual and reproductive health for women and gender non-conforming people who use drugs, is described in more detail below.

“Being part of the rolling out of the SRHR toolkit has been an exciting experience for me. It has also brought a moment of realisation of the great gap that exists in harm reduction programming for women who use drugs. Despite challenges, the passion and determination of women who use drugs is greatly motivating and inspiring”.



Indi Hanifah started work with WHRIN as Social Media and Finance Officer in September.

“As the new social media and finance person, my new work with WHRIN has been a unique experience for me. I was grateful to benefit from a comprehensive transition period as there was much to learn. It has also been good to have support in understanding the functions of WHRIN, to learn more about harm reduction and to be welcomed as part of a powerful team effort in this important work.”



Celine Debaulieu was engaged with WHRIN for much of 2022 as the RCF WHRIN Shelters Project Officer. Please read more about this important project in this report.

“I collaborated with WHRIN in 2022 to open shelters for women who use drugs in 3 different countries. I was honoured being able to join this project, as it was bringing a concrete answer to emergency housing for women who use drugs and developed a strong advocacy tool to enable shelters for women who use drugs to become a reality in more countries. As a harm reduction activist, I was glad being able to take part in this contribution; it has been a brilliant journey.”



WHRIN allies

In 2022 64 new allies joined WHRIN. They are from India, Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Netherlands, Kenya, Italy, USA, Malta, South Africa, Nigeria, Costa Rica and notably include the first member from Eswatini! We are very grateful to all our allies, old and new for participating in the network.

Your engagement in WHRIN's work is vitally important, and we encourage all of our allies to continue to post and share via our email list and our social media channels.



WHRIN allies now include 320 people from 49 countries

Small Grants Campaigns

WHRIN coordinated two small grants schemes prioritizing leadership from women and gender non-conforming people. These campaigns have grown exponentially each year, challenging selection committees to apportion available funds to strongest proposals. This work is a key community engagement element in the WHRIN workplan which we aim to build on as possible in coming years.

Support don't Punish with a Focus on Women and Non-Binary people

The Support don't Punish with a Focus on Women and Non-Binary People [call for proposals](#), selection and implementation in July, went smoothly.

Small grants were awarded to: Club Eney, (Ukraine); CounterFIT, (Canada); QuIVVA/QUIHN (Australia), AILES (Mauritius), CKPOR (Malawi), BAPUD (Burundi), SANPUD (South Africa), WomxnVoice (Indonesia), Colectiva de Mujeres en Contra de la Guerra de las Drogas Las Borders Clínica Wound Clinic (Mexico), Gender and Child Protection Centre (Pakistan), and Misbah (India).

Please see the 2022 Support don't Punish with a Focus on Women and Non-Binary People [summary activity report](#) for more details and photos.



Elimination of Violence Against Women who Use Drugs (EVAWUD)

WHRIN and partners, EuroNPUD, YouthRISE and EWNA, launched the [Elimination of Violence Against Women who Use Drugs campaign toolkit](#) in September. EVAWUD22 campaign participants (across 21 countries) included: Club Eney (**Ukraine**); Womxn Voice (**Indonesia**); **Kenya** Consortia led by Women Nest (with Women in Response to HIV/AIDS and Drug Addiction (WRADA), Women in Global Health (WGH), Western Kenya Sex Workers Alliance (WEKESWA) and Kisumu Initiative of People who Use Drugs (KINPUD), Kwale Network of People who Use Drugs (KwanPUD); Metzineres (Barcelona, **Spain**); **Nigeria** Consortia led by YouthRISE Nigeria (with Global Care for Health Support Initiative and Autamaimasa Health Foundation); PeerNUPS, (**Greece**); Journal l'Arbre À Palabres, (**France**); Regent Park Community Health Centre and CounterFIT (**Canada**); CASO (**Portugal**); GAT (Portugal); Centre for Key Populations Rights (**Malawi**); Re Generation (**Serbia**); Chemical Sisters (**Italy**), Peer Based Harm Reduction WA (**Australia**); **Uganda** Harm Reduction Network; and the Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (**Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine** and **Estonia**).

Please see the EVAWUD22 global round-up report [here](#)



Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

In line with the WHRIN Strategic Plan, 2022 saw increased activity around CEDAW with particular investments according to CEDAW review rostered countries and WHRIN ally representation and capacity in respective countries. In addition to consultation with Metzineres over the Spanish shadow report, WHRIN collaborated with allies in Portugal and Ukraine to research, compile and deliver, in person at the CEDAW sessions in Geneva, shadow reports on the situation of women who use drugs.

Results were mixed. We are waiting for CEDAW acceptance of the briefing proposal to collaborate with some partner organisations to provide a briefing to the CEDAW committee (including its 5 newest members) on women who use drugs and harm reduction in 2023.

Portugal

It was a great experience to work with Consumidores Associados Sobrevivem Organizados (CASO) and Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamento (GAT) in Portugal on a shadow briefing report for CEDAW.

The collaboration involved a literature review, qualitative participatory research and finalisation of the [briefing paper](#) and lots of unexpected strategic planning. This activity was followed by very powerful in-person interventions by Ligia Parodi of GAT and WHRIN, who presented [key points](#) at two critical CEDAW [forums in Geneva](#).



Ligia Parodi in Geneva, presenting the CEDAW shadow report on the situation of women who use drugs in Portugal

Ukraine

WHRIN partnered with Club Eney in Ukraine to, despite the Russian invasion, ensure that women who use drugs are heard during the scheduled CEDAW review of Ukraine. This was done by jointly producing a [shadow report on the situation of women who use drugs in Ukraine](#) delivered to CEDAW with an in person intervention from Club Eney in October.



Vieta Parhomenko on behalf of Club Eney and WHRIN at the Ukraine

The subsequent concluding remarks from the Committee were a great step forward for harm reduction and PUD network advocates in Ukraine. Remarks included:

- ✓ 30 (e) The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all women and girls victims of gender-based violence in the State party have access to adequate shelters, legal assistance, if necessary free of charge, health care, especially mental health services, including ... women who use drugs.
- ✓ 40. (a) The Committee recommends that the State party reduce unemployment among women, including through targeted measures ... with an emphasis on unemployed ... women who use drugs.
- ✓ 46 (c) The Committee recommends that the State party provide support to mothers ... who use drugs and refrain from automatically depriving them of custody of their children.

Projects

Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) toolkit rollout

The toolkit *Integrating Harm Reduction and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights* was developed as a 'stage 2' initiative from the 2020 Frontline AIDS and WHRIN product: *Advancing the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Women Who Use Drugs* (available also in [Indonesian](#), [French](#) and [Portuguese](#)).

The SRHR toolkit for women and non-binary people who use drugs is being rolled out with workshops across 10 countries. The main goal of the workshops is to increase integration of SRHR for women and gender nonconforming people into harm reduction programmes. The project method includes 3 activities per target country: a 3 day workshop; group discussions with women and gender non-conforming people who use drugs; and a community-led national advocacy activity.



India community discussion in November

In 2022, workshops were conducted in 4 countries (Indonesia; Nigeria; Mexico and India) with a total of 67 harm reduction service providers. Discussion groups were conducted in Indonesia; Nigeria; Mexico and India with a total of 63 women and gender nonconforming people who use drugs, generating advocacy priorities and planning.

Advocacy activities were implemented in Nigeria and Indonesia.

- ❖ In Nigeria, 5 women who use drugs successfully coordinated and led a meeting with 7 healthcare decision makers advocating for increased access to cervical cancer screening for women who use drugs.
- ❖ In Indonesia a talk show and [event campaign](#) were carried out by 8 women from the community providing information and education on stigma and discrimination in public health services and the right to health for women who use drugs.

Gratitude to Frontline AIDS for support in expanding reach for the toolkit by boosting the translation and interpretation budget.



Putri Tanjung representing WHRIN in a talkshow about sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Shelters for women who use drugs

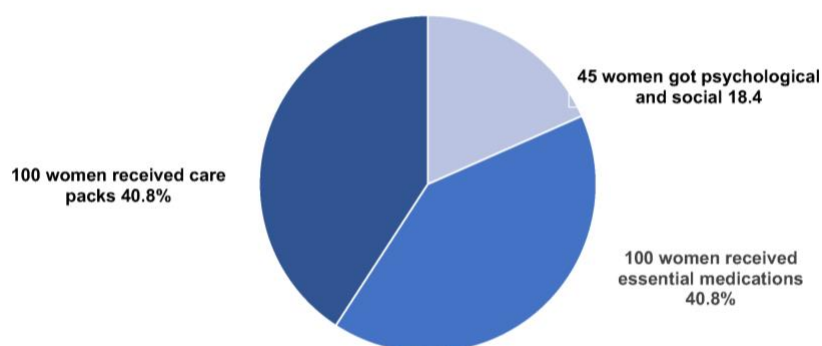
Women who use drugs are subject to extraordinary types and rates of violence. In the context of COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns, WHRIN instituted a two-prong approach: developing an advocacy toolkit and establishing a peer-led demonstration shelter model. Gratitude to the Robert Carr Fund COVID short term grant initiative for supporting this.



Three demonstration shelter model sites were established in Nairobi, Abuja and Kyiv, with guiding policy and procedures providing a framework for low threshold and peer led accommodation for women who use drugs. In Nairobi, 3 shelter buildings are operating in 2 different informal settlements, Mathare and

Kawangware. In total, the 3 sites can accommodate 20 clients. In Abuja, the shelter suffered establishment delays but was immediately utilised once opened at near full capacity with partner organisations referring potential clients to the service.

In Kyiv, due to the military invasion, shelter opening was delayed and then relocated. The strength and energy of Ukrainian harm reduction activists allowed the shelter to open and be functional, accommodating women together with children and a cat. Additional funds were secured to boost Kiev shelter action by providing relief packs of food and medicine to approximately 100 women over a 1 month period. The results are shown in this graphic and programme communication note from implementing partner in Kyiv, Club Eney:



The full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into our country on February 24, 2022, endangered the lives of thousands of people. Clients of our organization, women who use drugs, were left without means of daily living items and medicines. Women lost their jobs along with social benefits for people with disabilities and large families. Thanks to the decisive and quick help of this grant, we helped save women's lives and health.

Women who use drugs have received:

- psychological and medical care, help to access shelter, medical, social and legal services through peer social consultants.

- delivery of necessary medications and care supplies.

Your help in the darkest hour is an invaluable contribution to the indomitability of the Ukrainian nation!

The shelters were equipped with basic necessities. Collaborative partnerships were built with relevant local service providers, establishing referral pathways at all shelter sites. Shelter policy and procedures stipulate admission criteria - that clients be women or gender non-conforming people who use drugs experiencing or at risk of violence and/or homelessness or unstable housing. Template data, safety planning, risk management, disruptive incident and other operational forms are included. Shelters reflect the needs of clients and are designed to be as responsive as possible, recognising and supporting client autonomy.

Initial outcomes showed the benefits for clients accessing shelter services with opportunities for referrals and time to organise themselves for the next steps in their lives, in a secure environment. No adverse incidents were reported. Examples of situations faced by clients accessing shelter:

- In Kyiv, one woman in her early 40s accessed the shelter with her 2 daughters (10 and 14 years old) and 2 cats – she was not from Kyiv so transport had to be organised. It seemed that she had experienced sexual assault from Russian soldiers and faced physical and psychological violence from her intimate partner. She wanted to leave the relationship and the shelter was able to provide respite and time for her to plan next steps.
- In Nairobi, one young woman came to the shelter as she was sexually harassed by her landlord after not paying her rent for 2 months. She was able to use the shelter to find other options and, when ready, left with friends.

The Empowering the Voiceless model in Nairobi, Kenya

There is a paucity of insight into the harm reduction service needs of sex workers who use drugs in the Global South. First implemented in Indonesia, the Empowering the Voiceless model was adapted in Kenya with GFATM short term technical assistance. The purpose of the project was to explore barriers and challenges as well as opportunities for sex workers from different backgrounds in relation to access to harm reduction services, as well as to inform advocacy to address identified disparities.

The approach applies a peer-to-peer community based participatory research framework to identify and analyse gaps and opportunities for improved access to harm reduction services for sex workers who use drugs.

In Kenya, WHRIN, YAKEBA and Women Nest held a 5-day workshop on the Empowering the Voiceless approach for sex workers in Nairobi. Held in April 2022 it was facilitated by experienced Indonesian peers, partners and external resource people.



Kenya-Indonesia peer research

The workshop goal was the capacitation of peer researcher sex workers who use drugs in all aspects of community based participatory research. This included study reasoning, context analysis, instrument development, protocol design, ethical fieldwork, and respondent mapping/recruitment. Follow through activity included capacity building of peer researchers in qualitative data analysis and development of recommendations that reflect the authentic voices and aspirations of the respondents in the data collection process. Peer researchers then presented their key findings at a well-attended community dialogue meeting involving a number of relevant government and NGO stakeholders.

Project partners in Kenya included NASCOP, Kenya Sex Workers Alliance (KESWA), SWOP, JINSIANGU, Women Nest and WRADA. The findings showed an overwhelming paucity of mainstreamed, cross-sectoral, horizontally linked services that respond to the changing services needs of people who use drugs engaged in sex work in Nairobi. The main recommendations of the study included :

- Decriminalise drug use and sex work urgently.
- Reduce barriers to access,
- Meaningful involvement and peer-led service provision,
- Scale-up ,greater resourcing and tailoring of both sex worker and harm reduction services to reform to meet the needs of people who use drugs and sex workers
- gender transformative actions,
- violence prevention and other services,
- build intersectional focus and reduce siloed planning and programming
- greater investment in harm reduction services.

Publications, resources, position statements

WHRIN allies, networks and organizations are invited to draw on these and all other WHRIN resources as they may be useful in amplifying your advocacy work. All resources can be found on the [WHRIN website](#).

Advocacy brief: Women who Use Drugs: Intersecting Injustice and Opportunity

As a result of the WHRIN collaboration with UN Women, an [Advocacy brief: Women who Use Drugs: Intersecting Injustice and Opportunity](#) was developed and launched at the CND in March.

At least one third of all people who use drugs are women: An estimated 88 million women use drugs worldwide including millions who inject drugs¹

Higher disease burden

Women who use drugs were more likely to be living with HIV and have higher mortality rates than their male peers³



Women who inject drugs have significantly higher Hepatitis C Virus associated risk exposures than men⁴

Bangkok Rules undermined

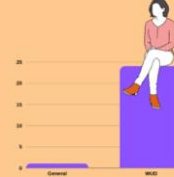
The number of women in prison increased by 50% between the year 2000 and the year 2015.¹



- 714000 women are prisoners globally, with 35% serving drug related sentences (much higher than the 19% among men²)
- 76 out of the 83 women on death row in Thailand are sentenced for drug offences²
- Imprisoned women have less access to opiate agonist treatment than male prisoners⁶

Gender-Based Violence

Women who use drugs subject to rates of violence 24 times that experienced by women who do not⁵



Gender impact of prohibition

- Higher levels of social disapproval, stigma and discrimination
- Worse access to harm reduction and treatment services
- Less control over access to drugs and injecting equipment
- Victimized and punished in gendered ways¹



Gender inequality

Harm reduction services are generally designed for men or gender blind.



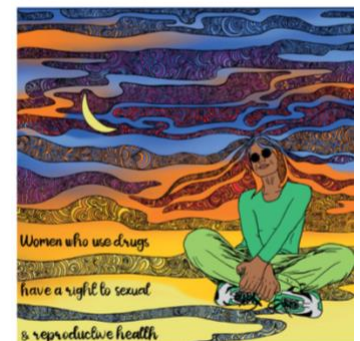
Approaches used are rarely relevant to the needs of women¹

Sexual and reproductive health rights toolkit

Please find the link to: [A facilitator's guide integrating harm reduction and sexual and reproductive health and rights](#). Associated programmatic work is described above under 'projects'.

A FACILITATOR'S GUIDE:

Integrating harm reduction and sexual and reproductive health and rights



The Shelter Toolkit

As part of the Shelters Project, a workshop toolkit has been built for community activists and advocates. This aims to encourage and enable the policy and practice reform required for emergency or domestic violence accommodation services to be inclusive for women and non-binary people who use drugs. The workshop toolkit provides adaptable materials for rollout in any country. Indeed it appears that unfortunately there is no country in the world that would not be requiring this initiative. Missing is high-level recognition, government accountability and resourcing for improved shelter access for women and non-binary people who use drugs.

The [Addressing Inclusion of Women who Use Drugs in Shelters](#) workshop tool, launched on International Drug Users Day, identifies and addresses common exclusion factors and functions to support policy and practice reform and capacity building. It includes case studies and is designed to be practical and geared for affecting real change. It is composed of two 4 hour sessions. The first session addresses barriers to shelter access that women and gender non-conforming people who use drugs face. It aims to assist participants understand their own fears and unpack stereotypes. The second session introduces effective tools to enable inclusion of women and gender non-conforming people who use drugs by integrating harm reduction approaches.

Shelter toolkit training of trainer workshops were conducted in Kenya and Ukraine. Feedback on toolkit contents and exercises largely confirmed both the need for this resource and the kit contents and pitch.



Shelters toolkit ToT participants, Ukraine August

Good Practice Series on Gender Sensitive Harm Reduction Programming

The [Good practice series on gender sensitive harm reduction programming](#) provides a compilation of harm reduction services designed specifically for women. A common thread through the strongest and most efficient approaches is demonstrated meaningful involvement of women who use drugs in planning and delivering services.

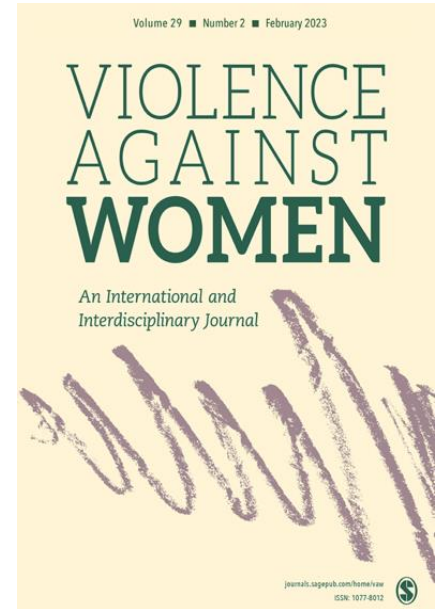


Women Mobilizing for Change: Resisting State Violence from Repressive Drug Policies

WHRIN collaborated on this paper with colleagues from the International Drug Policy Consortium and the Washington Office on Latin America. We hope allies will find it a useful reference. The abstract is provided below and the full paper can be found [here](#).

Punitive drug laws have had a differentiated and violent impact on women. State-driven stigma, criminalization, and abuse act as major barriers between women who use drugs and critical services, causing disproportionate health and safety harms. At the same time, women involved in illegal drug activities suffer the brunt of disproportionate drug laws that exacerbate poverty and intersecting forms of discrimination. Globally, this has increased dramatically the number of women behind bars.

This paper highlights that affected women have mobilized to affirm their rights and vindicate their experiences even though UN fora and women's rights organizations have paid little attention to their situation,. Women have stepped in to provide the support that States have failed to deliver. Decriminalisation, reforms of draconian drug laws, gender-sensitive harm reduction services, and peer-led initiatives are essential to tackle violence against women.



Living mapping projects

Global Mapping of Harm Reduction Services for Women who Use Drugs

Last year the 'Global Mapping of Harm Reduction Services for Women who Use Drugs' was launched. A well-attended webinar was held by WHRIN member representatives who presented and discussed results from 5 regions.

The final report provides a summary of results by region, common global trends and a worldwide listing of harm reduction services for women and nonbinary people. It is available in 9 languages: Indonesian, Thai, Swahili, Ukrainian, Spanish, Russian, French, Arabic and English.

This 'living' report will be updated regularly with encouragement for anyone with feedback on new services or changes to existing services to [get in touch](#).



Harm reduction responses to COVID-19 for women who use drugs

Country Examples of COVID Harm Reduction Responses for Women who Use Drugs, documents harm reduction responses to COVID conditions for women who use drugs. It aims to collate all such efforts around the world. If you have any additions, corrections, updates of better links, please get in touch with ruth@whrin.site to ensure these documents remain up-to-date and comprehensive.

Statements

International Women’s Day: “When there are two wars”

On March 8, International Womens Day 2022, WHRIN released “*When there are Two Wars*” particularly mindful of our sisters in Ukraine, Myanmar, Afghanistan and all locations impacted by humanitarian crises. When supply channels are disrupted, mechanisms and frameworks to ensure emergency provision of OAT, ARVs, TB, hepatitis treatment supplies and naloxone are lacking. This causes delayed response, immense suffering and death.

Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and other recent humanitarian emergencies show repeatedly that protected supply chains, community involvement, low threshold service access, take home OAT dosing, emergency shelters and other targeted relief measures are required and effective in ameliorating predictable and preventable hardship experienced by displaced women who use drugs.



Criteria that excludes women who use drugs from access to emergency housing and shelters must be removed. International bodies, aid agencies, the United Nations and governments must to work together with drug user networks to support service continuity, including for the internally displaced and those seeking shelter at refugee sites.

Transgender Day of Visibility statement

For the international Transgender Day of Visibility, on March 31, WHRIN launched this [statement](#) with practical tips for inclusion of trans and nonbinary people in harm reduction services and PUD networks.



International Sex Worker Day statement

On June 2, WHRIN released this [statement](#) for International Sex Worker Day. It will be linked to future advocacy.



Breastfeeding and drug use best practice

For International breastfeeding Week (August 1-5), WHRIN ran a social media blitz on drug use and breastfeeding facts.

  		
Substance	Best practice	Evidence
 <p>Alcohol</p>	Pump or feed before you drink. Wait 3-4 hours after each alcohol serving before providing milk to the baby.	Alcohol is present in human milk and has been linked to many of the same problems seen with prenatal exposure. Alcohol does not increase milk production or let-down.
 <p>Benzodiazepines</p>	Take medication as prescribed. Feed the baby. Watch for signs of sedation.	Most benzodiazepines are considered safe or moderately safe at therapeutic doses. Infants exposed to benzodiazepines via breastmilk may exhibit signs of sedation, such as apnea
 <p>Cannabis</p>	It is safest to reduce or eliminate use during the lactation period. However, in the case of continued medical or recreational use, experts agree that the proven benefits of human milk likely outweigh the risk of cannabis exposure. It is unacceptable to withhold lactation support.	Cannabis transfer rate into human milk is estimated to be 0.8-1% of maternal dose. Bioavailability is incomplete in infants' GI tract. So infants absorb 0.1% of the parent's dose. Little data on the effects of exposure via breast milk, with inconclusive results.
 <p>Opioids</p>	Long- or short-term opiate use is not a contraindication to breastfeeding, regardless of dose. Because of individual differences in metabolism, codeine is not recommended while breastfeeding, due to risk of infant overdose	Most opioids transfer into human milk at rates estimated at 1-3 % of maternal dose. Because bioavailability is poor in infants' gastrointestinal tracts, it is likely that even less is absorbed.
 <p>Stimulants</p>	Abstinence during lactation is recommended. In the case of a relapse, wait 24 hours after cocaine use and 48 hours after methamphetamine use to provide milk. Caffeine doses of 200mg are considered safe for lactation.	Caffeine, cocaine, and methamphetamine are present in the human milk of parents who use them. Infant exposure should be limited by feeding or pumping before use.
 <p>Smoking</p>	Despite the risks, breast/chestfeeding while smoking is considered safer than formula feeding while smoking because of the proven health benefits of human milk, including a 50% reduction in the incidence of SIDS.	Smoking during lactation has been associated with decreased milk supply, shorter lactation duration, altered composition of milk, increased incidence of SIDS, and asthma in offspring.

Abortion statement

WHRIN first posted our [statement](#) to protect the right to abortion for marginalised women in August in reaction to the decision to overturn *Rowe vs Wade* in the US - and recirculated it on International Safe Abortion Day (September 28).

Partnerships and collaborations

Indonesian Network for Drug Law Reform

In March, Putri and Astrid from WHRIN Board attended a national meeting of the Indonesian Network for Drug Law Reform reviewing Indonesian drug law. They reported on related WHRIN activity and contributed information regarding opportunities for legislative reform.

UN Women

As a result of WHRIN collaboration with UN Women late 2021 and into early 2022, a new section was added to the [UN Women web portal](#) titled "women who use drugs". This portal now includes the WHRIN good practice series featuring the work of allies in Myanmar, South Africa, Australia, Indonesia, Mexico, Canada, US, Ukraine and Kenya. The series can also be found on the [website blog page](#). The portal also includes other WHRIN products, recent and key selections from other sources.

International Community of Women Living with HIV

From February 1-14, WHRIN partnered with the International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW) with [love positive women](#) activity. We were delighted to be able to contribute to:

- an artist workshop, dinner and arts exhibit in Nigeria with poz women who use drugs and their children
- a family day documenting joy with poz women and their children – ‘a gift to our children so they remember the happiness and love in Belarus’
- a legal/health rights workshop and documentation followed by a love and stopping stigma gathering for poz women who use drugs in Tanzania

WHRIN has formed linkages with key feminist organisations such as Women Deliver, International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP), Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW), UN Women, the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), and the CEDAW4change network. A WHRIN sponsored an Internship Program places WUD activists in women's organisations. This aims to build capacity of both WUD activists and women's organisations and to strengthen communications between organisations that work on women's rights and harm reduction/drug policy organisations.

The Program builds on similar endeavours from 2020 and 2021 with the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP), and UN Women. This year WHRIN partnered with ICW on an internship programme to develop joint advocacy and knowledge products and activities related to the issues of HIV/AIDS and women who use drugs. The intern carried out a series of community and stakeholder interviews to help inform knowledge products including:

- on-line ‘teach-ins’ for ICW member organizations on harm reduction and eliminating violence against women who use drugs
- blogs
- a joint briefing paper.

Harm Reduction International (HRI)

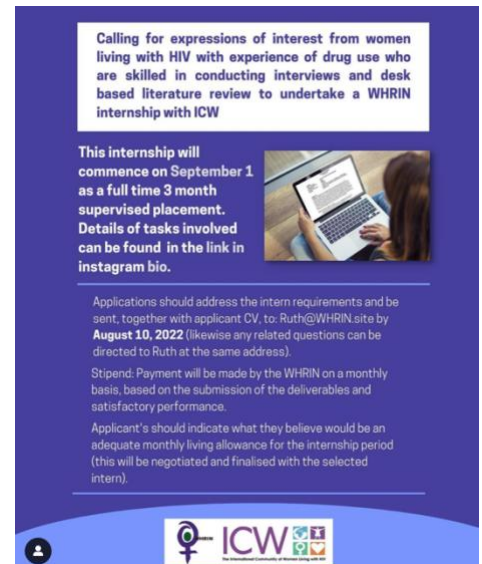
HRI in partnership with WHRIN developed a short new survey on the impact of COVID-19 regarding disruption of harm reduction services for women who use drugs and ethnic/racial/gender minorities and indigenous groups. The resulting brief can be found [here](#).

UK Consortia – safer injecting resource

Negotiations with partners in UK to collaborate on an internationally applicable set of resources for and by women who use drugs progressed well. The result is an animated tool which will be launched, in different languages, in 2023. All products will be promoted through WHRIN social media for you to share through your networks.

Global Coalition Against the Death Penalty and Anti-Death Penalty Asian Network

In September, WHRIN became a member of ADPAN (Anti-Death Penalty Asian Network), and worked with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty to include specific mention of drug offences not constituting most serious crime, in their [statement for abolition](#).




Calling for expressions of interest from women living with HIV with experience of drug use who are skilled in conducting interviews and desk based literature review to undertake a WHRIN internship with ICW

This internship will commence on September 1 as a full time 3 month supervised placement. Details of tasks involved can be found in the link in instagram bio.

Applications should address the intern requirements and be sent, together with applicant CV, to: Ruth@WHRIN site by **August 10, 2022** (likewise any related questions can be directed to Ruth at the same address).

Stipend: Payment will be made by the WHRIN on a monthly basis, based on the submission of the deliverables and satisfactory performance.

Applicant's should indicate what they believe would be an adequate monthly living allowance for the internship period (this will be negotiated and finalised with the selected intern).

 ICW

Association for Women's Rights in Development

WHRIN have undertaken joint activities strengthening working partnerships with the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID). A virtual 'teach-in' in four languages was held in October for women who use drugs to talk about why resisting the war on drugs is a feminist issue. AWID member participants from Ecuador, Canada, Kyrgyzstan, Spain, Congo, Cameroon, Kenya, Myanmar, Ukraine, Greece, US, Argentina and so many other places around the world joined the teach-in. In total 63 participants and 15 AWID staff and interpreters attended.

The Indonesian Institute for Criminal Justice Reform

The Indonesian Institute for Criminal Justice Reform partnered with WHRIN to analyse opportunities arising from the new Indonesian Sexual Violence Bill. The aim was to expand access to gender based violence services for women who use drugs. The Bill introduces an obligation to improve safety for all women however contradictions remain evident when considering conflicting priorities posed by punitive drug policy.

WHRIN also collaborated in an advocacy project exploring the new 2022 Sexual Violence Law . This promoted access to women's shelters and was in tandem with current review of National drug policy. We aimed to identify opportunities for improved safe spaces and shelters for women and non-binary people who use drugs. Partners were the Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (ICJR) and other community partners under the network for Indonesia's Drugs Policy Reform (JRKN).

The resulting [report \(available in Indonesian and English\)](#) will form the basis for ongoing advocacy, introducing focus on women who use drugs. Meetings will be coordinated with the Woman Caucus of Parliament in early 2023 to present the policy brief and obtain support from the caucus for Narcotic Law reform.

The image is a screenshot of a webinar interface. At the top, it reads 'Keadilan bagi Perempuan Pengguna Narkotika SEBAGAI KORBAN KEKERASAN BERBASIS GENDER DENGAN UU TPKS' and 'SENIN, 5 DESEMBER 2022 | 14.00-16.30 WIB'. Below this, there are six circular profile pictures of speakers with their names and titles: Taufik Basari, S.H., S.Hum., LL.M. (Anggota DPR RI); Theresia Iswarini (Komisaris Komnas Perempuan); Putri Tanjung (Women Harm Reduction Indonesia Information Network (WHRIN)); Ratna Susianawati, S.H., M.H.* (Deputi Bidang Perlindungan Hak Perempuan); Ana Abdillah (Women Crisis Center); and Girlie LA Ginting (Peneliti ICJR). A 'MODERATOR' section lists Moidina Rahmawati (Peneliti ICJR). At the bottom, it says 'LIVE ZOOM LIVE YOUTUBE ICJRid' and 'REGISTRASI: BIT.LY/WEBINARREVISINARKOTIKA *Masuk dalam tahap konfirmasi'.

Putri Tanjung representing WHRIN Board in discussion in justice for women who use drugs as victims of gender-based violence with the Law on Sexual Violence Crimes

Advocacy events

The 65th Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was largely virtual in March this year. Coinciding with the military invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the tone was clearly one of admonishment and dismay, expressed clearly throughout proceedings. WHRIN were involved in three side events:

- *Women who use drugs: intersecting injustice and opportunity.*
- *The Global Drug Policy Index 2021: A Global Tool for Evaluation and Accountability* with Harm Reduction Consortium partners
- *Young Women who Use Drugs - Breaking the Silence* with YouthRISE.

WHRIN coordinated all logistics for the very well attended ***intersecting injustice and opportunity*** event, with support from the Australian government, UN Women and UNODC. Of note, this event was a first for UN Women in having a presence at CND.



If you missed the session, you can still follow activity as follows:

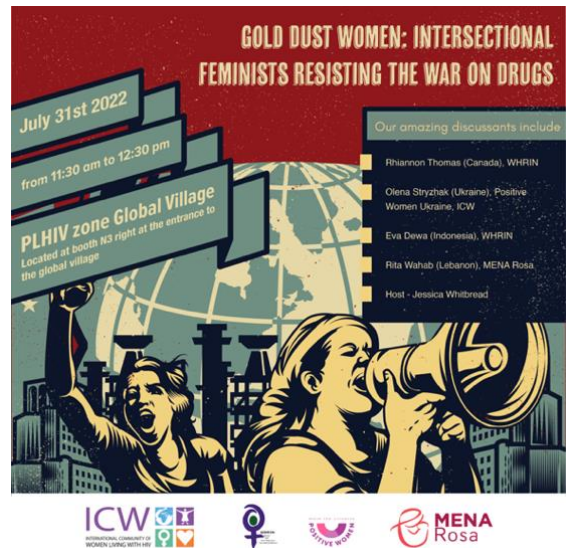
- Christine Clarke, Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls. Keynote
- Poll results
- Video recording

24th International AIDS Conference, Montreal

Representing WHRIN, Eva and Rhiannon joined ICW and other partners at the AIDS Conference in Montreal to talk about feminists resisting the war against drugs. To read more from Rhiannon and Eva about this experience, please see their [blog](#).



Rhiannon and Eva from WHRIN in the Global Village with ICW at the AIDS Conference



Dialogue on women and non-binary people, drugs and aging

To draw attention to important research, data gaps and core issues relating to aging, women, gender diverse people, and drug use, WHRIN coordinated an inter active dialogue (to watch the recording, click [here](#)).

The well attended dialogue would not have been possible without the amazing panel who explored issues around service access, menopause, pleasure, stigma and more. A subsequent paper addressing the same themes will be released in early 2023.

Dialogue on Women and Non-Binary People, Drugs and Aging

Joelle Puccio: Academy of Perinatal Harm Reduction, WHRIN SAB
Louise Vincent: Urban Survivors Union
Daphne Chronopoulou: EuroNPUD
Nancy Poole: Centre of Excellence for Women's Health
Patricia Zuniga: Wound Clinic, Casa del Centro, UCSD Owen Clinic, WHRIN SAB



Webinar panellists

Upcoming International Harm Reduction Conference, Melbourne

WHRIN have assisted with coordination of numerous abstract proposals relating to women and harm reduction in the lead up to the 27th International Harm Reduction Conference in Melbourne. This included support to allies who were new to abstract proposals or who wanted to discuss concept pitch etc. We are grateful to the conference organisers for providing a WHRIN allies meeting room for lunchtime during the final day of the conference (Wednesday, 19 April – please add to your 2023 calendar!) and look forward to seeing those of you who gather there.

Social media performance

WHRIN has been busy with our WHRIN social media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and the elist. Engagement analysis revealed particularly strong overall interest over the international trans day statement, the CND intersections side event, and EVAWUD.

The WHRIN Facebook page has attracted growing attention this year. Of note, CEDAW activity in Portugal with CASO and GAT reached 2231 people with 33 shares. The advertisement for the WHRIN dialogue on women and non-binary people who use drugs and aging was also much visited. 62.9% of those visiting the page were women.

WHRINs Instagram account experienced a 156% follower growth in 2022 compared to the previous year. Most visits (84.8%) to the account were from women.

In 2022, the WHRIN Twitter account had an average of 2197 impressions each month. Position statements such as the international trans day of visibility statement garnered most attention. Over the year, the WHRIN account attracted 322 new followers.

The most engagements on LinkedIn centred around posts relating to WHRIN activity at the AIDS conference with ICW, our death penalty statement, the SRHR facilitators guide launch, and the Ukraine CEDAW shadow report.

WHRIN social media continues to grow year on year.

*'Every WHRIN conversation, task or project is undertaken with the intention to realize the vision of a world where every woman and gender non-conforming people who uses drugs will enjoy human rights without diminishment from stigma, discrimination or criminalisation'.
Nothing for Us Without Us*

<http://whrin.site>