



*to
safety*

EVAWUD25 - Global Action Report

**Elimination of violence against women and
gender diverse people who use drugs**

The campaign to eliminate violence against women and gender diverse people who use drugs (EVAWUD) coincides with the annual United Nations 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign (25 November to 10 December). However, the United Nations effort has not historically highlighted the extreme rates of violence experienced in all its manifestations by women and gender diverse people who use drugs. The EVAWUD campaign aims to correct this failure.

EVAWUD is growing year on year with a stunning and unprecedented record participation this year – in the face of concurrent financial and ideological challenges. This report signals sharply that women and gender diverse people who use drugs will not be intimidated by anti-gender ideology nor the curtailing of resources. It demonstrates the resilience of our communities united in indignation to spotlight and end gender-based violence.

The following summary (with embedded hyperlinks) features 43 different actions performed by women and gender diverse people who use drugs and allied organisations around the world in the EVAWUD25 Campaign (in Nigeria, Costa Rica, Ukraine, Greece, Philippines, Nepal, Mauritius, Spain, Benin, Burundi, Italy, South Africa, Pakistan, France, USA, Poland, Brazil, Kenya, Indonesia, Lebanon, Portugal, Norway, Mexico, Australia, Cameroon, Bolivia, Uganda, Myanmar – and at global and regional levels with South Asia, Europe {EuroNPUD SisterWUD}, South East Europe).

Prohibition combined with patriarchy and gender inequity either directly causes or greatly exacerbates conditions for violence against our community, yet gender-based violence cannot be eliminated if those most affected are not explicitly and meaningfully involved in relevant policy and programming. Women and gender diverse people who use drugs are boldly stepping out to take a place in efforts to protect our communities. Collectively we and our allies call for governments to end the gendered, failed and murderous policy of drug prohibition as part of essential gender equality goals.



Maudy, the Chair of WHRIN, shares this message with the conclusion of EVAWUD25: *“The urgent truth is that punitive drug policies endanger communities by fuelling gendered stigma and violence”.*

To hear the full message, click [here](#).

Acknowledgement and thanks to Isabel Denommé for the EVAWUD25 poster artwork.



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Nigeria

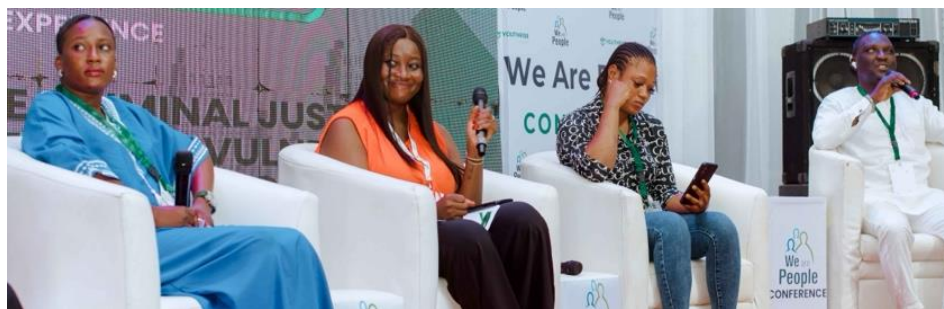
YouthRISE Nigeria



The YouthRISE Nigeria EVAWUD25 campaign adopted a strategic advocacy approach by leveraging key sessions at the National We Are People Conference (WAP25). The conference provided an influential platform to spotlight the barriers faced by women who use drugs before high-level stakeholders and decision-makers, including the Federal Ministry of Health, National Human Rights Commission, UNAIDS, Nigerian Police Force, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, UNODC, Harm Reduction International, and other relevant partners.

Women who use drugs participated in a session themed “*Criminal Justice and Young People*,” with a lived experience session sharing firsthand experiences of interactions with law enforcement and the criminal justice

system, drawing attention to the urgent need for rights-based protections. This was followed by a high-level panel discussion focused on the vulnerabilities of young people within the criminal justice system and the reforms needed to address them. Panellists included representatives from the NHRC, Nigerian Police Force, civil society implementers and legal aid providers. A significant outcome was the commitment by the Nigerian Police Force to prioritize restorative justice over punitive approaches, particularly for people who use drugs.



A second session “*We Belong Too*” highlighted the exclusionary barriers experienced by women who use drugs and called for the adoption of inclusive policies and programs to address these gaps. During this session, evidence of best practices was shared with advocacy for their scale-up to promote inclusion, protection, and equitable access to services for women who use drugs.

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and open messaging were used to share activity pictures, videos and a press statement for increased visibility. The combination of conference advocacy and digital engagement ensured wider visibility and reinforced the call for policies and programs that protect and empower women who use drugs. Check more on YouthRISE EVAWUD activity on [Instagram](#).

Women & Girls Capabilities & Empowerment Organization



Media engagement activity was conducted on the need for non-exclusion of women and adolescent girls who use drugs through discussion led by the Executive Director of Women & Girls Capabilities & Empowerment Organization. In her interview, she advocated on the need for a national policy on protection and assistance to women and girls who use drugs through non-derogatory social programs that cater for their health and well-being.

Milestone Initiative for Human Rights and Empowerment (MIHRE)



MIHRE, with support from Heartland Alliance-Nigeria LTD-GTE, joined the National Human Rights Commission to officially flag off the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Uyo.

Women who use drugs are among the most invisible and unprotected, facing layered violence, physical, sexual, emotional, economic abuse, stigma, criminalisation, and rejection from families, communities, and systems meant to protect them. MIHRE urged to:

- Challenge harmful norms, stigma, and discrimination
- Protect women who use drugs from exploitation, abuse, and neglect
- Provide safe, confidential, and survivor-centered services
- Hold perpetrators accountable and strengthen justice systems
- Create safe reporting pathways without fear, shame, or punishment
- Build communities where every woman is safe, valued, heard, and respected

"Silence gives violence power. Your voice can break it"

Together, we can create a world where no woman including women who use drugs lives in fear. Check more of MIHRE's activity on [Facebook](#).

Centre for Population Health Initiatives (CPHI)



CPHI conducted safe spaces outreach within Lagos State and Ojo Local Government Area, drawing 85 participants including women and gender-diverse individuals who use drugs, community volunteers, and local influencers. The initiative focused on reducing violence against women and gender-diverse drug users by increasing community participation, raising awareness, and creating environments where people can openly discuss their issues and seek help safely.

Participants described experiencing physical abuse, discrimination, eviction threats, and harassment, especially from security agencies such as the Nigerian Police Force and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency. The safe-space dialogues enabled survivors to share their stories, understand their rights, and obtain guidance on available health, psychosocial, and harm-reduction services. Many participants expressed relief at being listened to and supported in a

non-judgmental environment. CPHI also provided free, voluntary HIV/STI testing and treatment to ensure access to essential health services and trained community volunteers and influencers to recognise signs of violence, offer immediate support, and connect survivors to appropriate services.

Despite the positive outcomes, stigma and discrimination and limited availability of safe-space locations and outreach with insufficient funding hindered participation, while fear of police harassment continues to discourage reporting abuse. Cultural and religious norms also limit discussions about gender identity and drug use. CPHI advocates for expanding safe-space activities, boosting cooperation among community, traditional, and religious leaders, and enhancing legal, psychosocial, and strengthened health referral systems. Increased funding and ongoing volunteer training will further improve protection and support for women and gender-diverse people who use drugs.

Costa Rica

ACORED (Costa Rican Association for Harm Reduction)



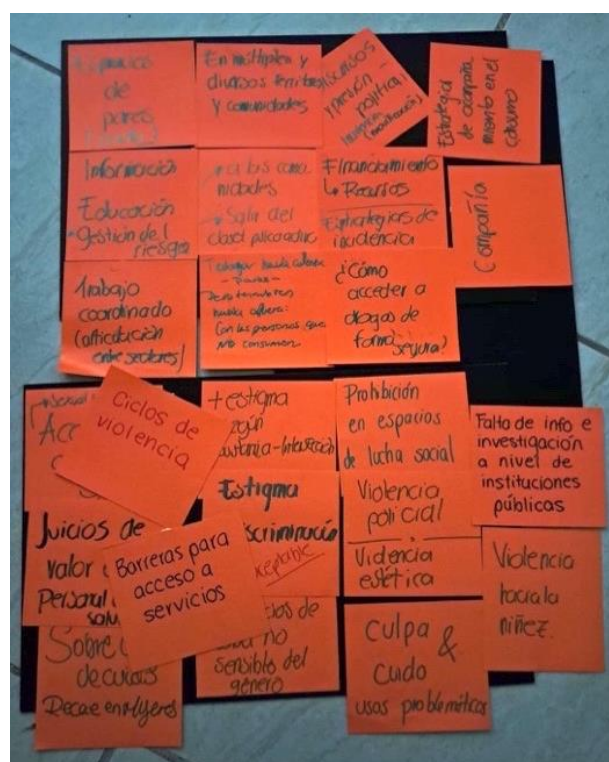
During the global EVAWUD 2025 campaign, ACORED promoted community and digital initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the violence faced by women and gender-diverse people who use drugs in Costa Rica and strengthening their strategies of resistance, support, and mutual care.

On November 29, an in-person meeting was held with the participation of approximately 10 women and non-binary individuals. This space facilitated an in-depth process of analysis, discussion, and collective reflection on the structural and institutional violence that permeates their lives. The activity highlighted the importance of having safe, peer-facilitated spaces where it is possible to share experiences without stigma or judgment. The participants explicitly requested the continuation of these meetings, which ACORED will prioritize for next year, consolidating a community of intersectional support and training.

On December 2nd, ACORED participated in the “Meet Us Where We’re At” event, organised by Positivx as part of Visual AIDS 2025, strengthening regional collaboration between harm reduction, human rights, and HIV response.

Simultaneously, a digital campaign was launched with 12 posts, including testimonial videos featuring women and non-binary people who use drugs and/or harm reductionists from Mexico, Colombia, Spain, and Guatemala. This allowed local experiences to be situated within an international context of violence and resistance. Collectively, these materials reached 17,334 views, significantly amplifying the campaign's impact. Although the press release was sent to five national media outlets, it was not published; however, organic reach on social media strengthened its visibility.

Check ACORED's posts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Ukraine

Club Eney

From 25 November to 10 December, Club Eney implemented the national creative campaign “*Voices Unbroken*” as part of EVAWUD25. The activity was fully developed and led by women who use drugs.

Throughout the campaign period, 10 poems were received from women and gender-diverse people who use drugs across Ukraine. All submissions were published on social media platforms to amplify their voices and experiences. A community-led jury selected three winning poems, written by women with lived experience. These works were published with celebratory messages, and each winner was sent a practical prize package designed to support them during ongoing power outages in Ukraine (thermos, electric blanket, sleeping bag), along with sweets, personalised certificates, and EVAWUD posters. Club Eney are now expecting photos from the winners upon receiving their packages.

In addition, organised a small in-person community gathering was organised in Kyiv. Women from the community read the poems together, discussed the realities of violence faced by women who use drugs, reflected on resilience, shared personal experiences, and developed ideas for future actions. The meeting created a safe, warm environment for conversation, peer support, and collective empowerment. Group photos were taken (with informed consent).



This activity helped amplify community voices, highlight the impact of violence, strengthen peer solidarity, and build momentum for continued advocacy. Check more on Facebook [here](#) and [here](#).

Greece

PeerNUPS



EVAWUD resonates importantly in Greece where women and gender diverse people who use drugs experience unacceptable rates of violence. Campaign posters were produced and displayed at key sites with peer involvement.

Philippines

Gabriela Southern Mindanao Region



Gabriela Southern Mindanao Region successfully implemented the 16 days of activism for the EVAWUD25 campaign in Davao City despite significant challenges. Davao City Philippines is where the so called “war on drugs”; first escalated under “Tokhang”; since 1990s until today the Duterte family hold positions from mayor to councillor, while former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte faces charges at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands for crimes against humanity related to mass extrajudicial killing

associated with the “drug war”. This political climate creates widespread fear. Many people are afraid to speak out about drugs, corruption, and the prevailing culture of impunity that continues to silence communities.

The campaign brought critical attention to the intersecting violence faced by women and gender diverse people who use drugs, particularly those from marginalised communities bearing the devastating legacy of Duterte “war on drugs”. Through extensive community engagement, grassroots mobilisation, and public protest action, we reached over 500 community members across 15 barangays and mobilised more than 50 women and LGBT individuals in this flagship protest action.



The campaign successfully elevated the voices of families affected by extrajudicial killings, challenged punitive drug policies, and advocated for health-based approaches and gender-responsive harm reduction services—all while exposing the rampant government corruption that denies appropriate health responses to those who need them most.

Check associated social media [here](#) and [here](#).

Nepal

Women's Support Group

EVAWUD activity was held in Kathmandu and Lalitpur. The campaign aimed to raise awareness, challenge stigma, and strengthen community and institutional responses to violence faced women and gender diverse people who use drugs. Community awareness activities were conducted using pamphlet, posters, and social media messaging adapted from EVAWUD campaign materials. These activities highlighted hidden forms of violence, including denial of healthcare services, verbal abuse, and discrimination in law enforcement settings. The campaign reached community members, service providers, and key stakeholders, generating meaningful dialogue around dignity and rights.



Safe circle dialogues were organized at Drop-In Centers, providing survivors with safe and confidential spaces to share experiences, receive psychosocial support, and access referrals for legal and social services. These sessions were

facilitated by women who use drugs, ensuring trust, empathy, and survivor-centered engagement. Capacity-building interactions were also held with key stakeholders, police and service providers to reinforce gender-sensitive and non-discriminatory practices.

A stakeholder engagement meeting brought together representatives from government bodies, NGOs, and allied organisations to advocate for integrated SRHR services, childcare support, and gender-responsive harm reduction policies. Throughout the campaign, cases and feedback were documented to support accountability and future advocacy. Overall, the program strengthened community leadership, amplified lived experiences, and contributed to building a safer, more enabling environment for women and gender diverse people who use drugs.

Mauritius

AILES

As part of EVAWUD25, AILES organised a community workshop under the theme *"SAK FAM - SO ZISTWAR"* (each woman – her story), bringing together women who use drugs, including transgender women, lesbians, sex workers, pregnant women, and mothers, many of whom are survivors of gender-based violence (GBV).



The workshop focused on gender-based violence in Mauritius, including discussion of two recent cases of women who lost their lives due to GBV, as well as several suicide cases linked to prolonged violence and abuse. These discussions created a deeply emotional and powerful space, where participants felt safe to share their own lived experiences. Many women spoke openly for the first time, realising that their stories mattered.

A key outcome of the workshop was addressing the harmful belief held by many participants that violence is "normal" or expected because they use drugs. Through dialogue and peer support, women learned about the different forms of GBV, including physical, psychological, sexual, and economical violence, and understood clearly that drug use never justifies violence. Participants were also provided with practical tools and step-by-step guidance on what to do if they or someone in their surroundings is facing GBV, including where and how to seek support. Harm reduction and sexual and reproductive health rights information were also shared.

The workshop was conducted in collaboration with Nou Baz Solider, a boutique supporting vulnerable women. Each participant received a basket with provisions, reinforcing dignity, care, and solidarity.

MauPUD

MauPUD, the drug user network of Mauritius, conducted a rally to discuss women who use drugs who are experiencing all sorts of violence that is very rarely exposed in the written media. It is violence that no one dares to speak of. Women who use drugs in Mauritius see all kinds of violence including economic, psychological (mental), been violence at the hands of police officers.

Yet even police do not have the right to be violent towards women who use drugs. In this public intervention, Cindy spoke of her pioneering lived experience, fighting to defeat stigma against women who use drugs in order to access health care systems for the wellbeing of others now as well as for the next generation to access proper gender responsive harm reduction services. In Mauritius, the general population doesn't see women who use drugs as part of the solution but only as the problem.



Watch the [video](#).

Spain

Metzineres



As Metzineres closed their 16 days of activism against violence against women, violence against women who use drugs and becomes even more ferocious for those who are homeless. Violence that prohibition and stigma not only perpetuate, but legitimise. Metzineres talked about rights, health, misinformation and life on the streets; have worked on self-care, mental health and safety; have explored the right to housing; and have collectively created the leaflet for this campaign.

All activity comes from an anti-prohibitionist perspective, which defends rights and combats the stigma that falls on the bodies and lives of women who use drugs in Barcelona.

Check more on Metzineres' activity on [Instagram](#).

Benin

Ado Reporters Africa (ADRA)



For EVAWUD, ADRA led the national "DOTOMI" (Listen to Me) campaign, a citizen mobilization combining community-based actions on the ground and a national digital campaign to denounce violence against women and people of diverse genders, including those who use drugs. On the ground, the campaign was rolled out municipality by municipality:

In Offo, a women's football match with an open mic; In Parakou, a citizen flash mob, "Our Bodies, Our Voices, Our Choices"; In Abomey, a citizen theater performance and a mock public hearing on access to justice; In Savalou, traditional stories and songs celebrating women's resilience; In Abomey-Calavi, a radio program on violence, stigmatization, and human dignity; In Comè, a participatory mural; In Allada, a film screening and discussion on invisible violence; In Okossa, a socially engaged writing workshop; In Zè, a community citizens' forum; In Ouaké, a safe space for survivors to share their testimonies; In Bohicon, an art workshop on "Zero Tolerance."

In parallel, an ongoing digital campaign has amplified these actions nationwide via ADRA platforms, through video clips, photos, and awareness visuals, strengthening the reach of the messages and the visibility of the realities documented on the ground. Check more in ADRA's [article](#) and activity on [Facebook](#).

The campaign culminated in the National Symposium of Adolescent Reporters, a highlight of reflection, creation, and advocacy. Its success was made possible through collaboration with other organisations, media outlets, and local stakeholders committed to working alongside ADRA.

Burundi

BAPUD



On December 10, EVAWUD campaign activity was held at the national drug user network - BAPUD's offices and brought together twenty women who use drugs and local media. The national coordinator and the community mobilisation officer also participated. The educational session was facilitated by a woman who uses drugs, fostering an open and relevant exchange. Participants shared personal experiences related to gender-based violence and highlighted the numerous obstacles they face in accessing health, psychological support, and protection services. Discussions in a focus group addressed the rights of women who use drugs, mechanisms for preventing violence, and available recourse in cases of rights violations.

This dialogue provided a better understanding of the specific challenges faced by women who use drugs, who are often exposed to increased risks of violence and persistent stigma and discrimination. In conclusion, it would be necessary to generally strengthen the Burundian network of women drug users and to strengthen women's capacity in advocacy, project cycle management and economic empowerment.

Italy

Isola di Arran - ITaNPUD



Let's eliminate violence against women, trans people, and non-binary people who use drugs.

ItaNPUD together with EuroNPUD and WHRIN to call for an end to all forms of violence against women, trans and non-binary people who use drugs. The EVAWUD campaign denounces the impacts of the "war on drugs" and calls for policies based on human rights and harm reduction.

Drug users who are women, trans people, or non-binary people face extreme levels of violence: from stigma to criminalisation, from loss of child custody to rape, torture, arbitrary detention, and even pregnancy penalties. Gender-based violence in these communities can be up to 25 times higher than that experienced by women in the general population. Repression, combined with patriarchal norms, creates enormous barriers to accessing essential services: harm reduction, sexual and reproductive health, and support for gender-based violence. It is urgent to change course. The solutions exist and come from the communities themselves:

- Integrate sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services into harm reduction;
- Fund and strengthen peer-led, gender-sensitive services;
- Decriminalise all drugs and drug users;
- Eliminate all forms of sanctions or coercive treatment.

The Isola di Arran, ItaNPUD, and WHRIN call for an end to the war on drugs and for a radical reform of laws and justice practices to ensure safety and human rights.

Put the lives and dignity of women, trans, and non-binary people who use drugs at the center.

See Isola di Arran's EVAWUD25 post on [Facebook](#).

South Africa

Creative Commons NPC



Creative Commons NPC conducted an event to commemorate EVAWUD25. In collaboration with other community stakeholders and Sediba Hope Medical Centre, HIV/Hep/STI and pregnancy screening, family planning and woman's health screenings were offered. Thuso Sechabeng and SANPUD provided snacks and women's dignity packs. Cosup provided social services and GBV education.

Pakistan

Nikkahnama Parho

With very limited resources, a focused community dialogue was organised in Islamabad centred on violence against women and gender diverse people who use drugs, a group that faces intense stigma, moral policing, and layered forms of violence in the Pakistani social and institutional context.



The session intentionally brought together women and gender diverse people who use drugs or substances (including smoking) and men as allies from the university. It was held in an open playground space to reduce barriers to participation and create a less intimidating environment. Due to campus restrictions on printed materials, the session relied on facilitated dialogue rather than handouts. The discussion explored how, in Pakistan, women who use drugs are often subjected to a different and harsher form of violence including character assassination, social exclusion, denial of services, surveillance on campuses, and being blamed for the harm they experience.

Participants reflected on how substance use is frequently used to invalidate women's experiences of violence, silence them, or justify control and punishment by families, institutions, and authorities. Men's allies were actively engaged to reflect on their roles in challenging stigma, intervening in peer spaces, and supporting harm reduction rather than punishment.



The dialogue also included reflections on what could be done at a policy level, such as the need for GBV frameworks that explicitly recognise women who use drugs and at the campus level, including safer reporting pathways, non-punitive responses, and support systems that do not criminalise or shame students. Many participants shared that this was their first time having an honest, non-judgmental conversation on this issue. The session demonstrated that even small, dialogue-based actions can create meaningful shifts in awareness and accountability within restrictive contexts like Pakistan.

France

Polytoux Collective and the Nouvelle Aube Association



Here's a quick update on the activities Marseille where the Polytoux group got involved with great enthusiasm. Meetings were held to organise visible activities which were stimulating and allowed for sharing experiences which was enriching and constructive for all involved.

EVAWUD25 was promoted by the Polytoux collective and the Nouvelle Aube association throughout the campaign period. On November 25th the campaign was launched along with many feminist collectives from Marseille, and this year women who use drugs took a prominent place. Passersby quickly came to the table, and the discussions were very lively, especially since just a few days earlier in Marseille, the brother of a local figure had been murdered, as the media say, "in the name of drug trafficking." The team responded skillfully, raising awareness about violence against women and gender minorities who use drugs. A brochure on drug phobia was shared, and the EVAWUD25 press release was presented. A "What Kind of Drug Phobia Are You?" questionnaire was also distributed to many people while feminist chants rang out.

As speeches began, with various feminist groups denouncing the violence against women and gender minorities the Polytoux collective and Nouvelle Aube also highlighted the different forms of violence experienced by female drug users.

On world AIDS Day, testing booths were set up and taking advantage of this visibility, the EVAWUD campaign was presented to denounce the various forms of violence. Communication materials (the brochure on drug phobia, the questionnaire "What kind of drug phobia are you?", and the press release were again shared.

These actions allowed raising public awareness to highlight the violence that is often ignored or even unrecognised. Beyond the broader impact, women and gender minorities who use drugs were involved, to discuss the violence they have experienced, and to share resources and contacts to break the isolation.

USA

Harm Reduction Sisters

Harm Reduction Sisters EVAWUD25 activity was a social media campaign that used art and photography along with a written statement. Ending gender-based violence means ending the drug war. Prohibition fuels harm, criminalises survival, and puts women and gender-diverse people at risk. Harm reduction stands for care, dignity, and community safety — not punishment.



Poland

PolinPUD

PolinPUD joined the EVAWUD25 campaign through the [Euronpud Sisterwud](#). In Poland, women who use drugs encounter multi-layered barriers in accessing apartments, creating a particularly difficult situation. Substance use criminalisation, deep societal stigmatisation, and the lack of comprehensive housing support services have combined with gender-based violence to create a situation of structural exclusion. Women who use drugs are particularly vulnerable to loss of housing as a result of domestic violence and must often choose between staying in a relationship with violence or homelessness.



In addition, women with children live in constant fear of their children being taken away, which causes them to hide their housing and health problems, deepening marginalisation. Landlords, social assistance institutions and supervision and control services apply double stigmatisation against them - as drug users and as women "not fulfilling" standard expectations of maternity and "decent" life. Housing instability endangers women to further violence. Homelessness exacerbates health issues, including the lack of access to gynaecological care, contraception, safe menstrual conditions and pregnancy services.

The slogan "*Housing by law, not by commodity*" in the context of women using drugs calls for the recognition that access to stable, safe housing is a fundamental human right and cannot be dependent on legal status, lifestyle, marital status or drug use status. This is the approach to decommodification and reform of housing policy, based on the belief that housing is a starting point, and not a goal achieved after "earning" it through abstinence, detachment from a violent partner or adapting to patriarchal social norms. For women who use their own drugs, safe housing is a condition not only for health and dignity, but also for safety, autonomy and the ability to escape the cycle of violence and exclusion.

Check PolinPUD's social media posts on [Facebook](#).

Brazil

Tulipas do Cerrado and Instituto Aroeira

Between November 21 and 23, Tulipas do Cerrado and Aroeira held an immersion as part of the EVAWUD25 campaign. 20 women and gender-diverse people got together in a house, a protected space for co-existence, care, and political education. Strengthening bonds is a fundamental strategy for confronting the violence produced by patriarchy, racism, and the war on drugs. Discussions were held about situations of violence experienced in the territories and collective protection strategies. A timeline activity revisited the last ten years of activism from the groups present, reinforcing identities, memory, and mutual recognition. A painting workshop was promoted, using art to express feelings, process experiences of violence, and visualise forms of organisation for women and gender-diverse people who use drugs and to continue to build support and resistance networks.



This type of immersion is only possible when there is time, space, and resources to stop, think, and feel together. In a context like the Brazilian and South American one – marked by the war on drugs, structural racism, patriarchy, and profound social inequalities – creating material conditions for women and gender-diverse people who use drugs to meet, rest, and process their experiences is not an “extra”: it’s a central part of political strategy. Investing in this type of action means producing memories, building alliances, and creating care technologies developed in our territories, capable of confronting the multiple forms of violence that affect the community of women who use drugs and, at the same time, affirming other ways of living, deciding, and existing in common.

Check related social media posts on [Instagram](#).

Kenya

Women Nest

For EVAWUD25, Women Nest joined partners in Mathare subcounty to convene a forum to discuss violence experienced during incarceration, access to sexual and reproductive health services, and the lived experiences of women who use drugs in seeking justice.

The forum also highlighted major barriers to health service access, especially the challenges faced by women who use drugs who are not registered under the government’s mandatory health scheme. This lack of registration prevents many from accessing essential medical care. The subcounty gender-based violence focal person outlined the public facilities available to support women in completing their registration and connecting to health services. In addition, Women Nest actively used its social media platforms throughout the 16 days of activism to amplify key messages, spotlight daily campaign activities, and raise awareness on the unique challenges faced by women who use drugs. This digital engagement broadened reach and increased community awareness and solidarity.



Lastly, Women Nest participated in the Human Rights Day commemoration, marking the end of EVAWUD25. This reaffirmed commitment to advancing the rights, health, and wellbeing of women who use drugs through advocacy, partnerships, and community empowerment.

See Women Nest social media posts on [Facebook](#).

Rural Women Action on Street Health (RWASH)



RWASH proudly anchored the EVAWUD25 campaign in Kakamega County, amplifying the voices of women often left at the margins of mainstream interventions.

Over a week of coordinated activities, RWASH engaged over 89 community members through storytelling circles, peer-led workshops, and community dialogue in the villages. Participants openly shared how stigma, discrimination, and structural barriers intensify risks of abuse, exclusion, and health harms.

Crucially, the campaign-built peer support networks to challenge harmful stereotypes, and link women and gender-diverse people to essential health, legal, and social services.

Through collaboration with grassroots leaders, media partners, and harm-reduction allies, the RWASH EVAWUD campaign in Kakamega not only raised awareness but seeded lasting community action toward dignity, safety, and justice for women and gender-diverse people who use drugs.

See RWASH’s post in [Facebook](#).

Indonesia

LBHM (Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Masyarakat)

LBHM is a legal aid and public advocacy organisation focused on promoting human rights, particularly issues related to narcotics, death penalty, mental health, sexual and gender minorities (LGBTIQ+), and people with specific health conditions (HIV/TBC). LBHM is actively involved in case handling, research, policy advocacy, and public campaigns.

LBHM used the momentum of EVAWUD25 to highlight a form of violence that is often invisible: structural violence against women who use drugs. Although public narratives often focus on physical or sexual violence, many women who use drugs actually experience violence that stems from state policies—ranging from criminalisation and stigma to law enforcement that ignores the context of gender, poverty, power relations, and history of violence. Research by LBHM and SPINN shows that the majority of women who use drugs have experienced physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence, yet they are still treated as perpetrators rather than survivors. A punitive legal approach further exacerbates risk and closes their access to health services, recovery, and social support.



A digital campaign aimed to raise public awareness about state violence against women who use drugs; to shift the narrative from criminalisation to a perspective of health, recovery, and respect for human rights; and encourage support for drug policies that are more equitable, evidence-based, and gender-sensitive. The campaign also highlighted the importance of understanding women's experiences in their entirety so that the public sees that violence does not only occur in the domestic sphere, but is also produced through the legal system.

Women who use drugs are not criminals; they are victims of policies that fail to recognise social and gender realities. The state must end its punitive approach and shift to policies based on rights, recovery, and harm reduction. Violence against women will not end without policy changes that protect, rather than control, their bodies.

The use of the death penalty in Indonesia continues to raise serious issues, especially for women who are caught up in drug cases and are in vulnerable socio-economic positions. Unequal access to legal aid, economic dependence, power relations with partners or syndicates, and prolonged stigma often make women multiple victims - of criminalisation, gender-based violence, and injustice in the judicial process. Through the short film "*Selamat Ulang Tahun (Happy Birthday)*" (2025), LBHM and its partners facilitated a public campaign space that highlighted the impact of the death penalty not only on convicts but also on their families—especially children and women who are left behind. The film premiered on International Human Rights Day 2025 at the Theater Room, Salihara Arts Center.



This film screening and discussion aimed to open public conversation about structural injustice in cases involving women who are users or victims of drug trafficking and have been sentenced to death. The campaign sought to strengthen public understanding of the right to life, the right to a fair trial, and the socio-psychological impact

experienced by families. In addition, this activity was intended to encourage collaboration between organisations, journalists, and human rights communities to expand the agenda for the abolition of the death penalty in Indonesia. The death penalty does not solve the drug problem and actually exacerbates the vulnerability of women and their families. Every death sentence has long-term consequences: the loss of the family breadwinner, an increasingly heavy economic burden, intergenerational trauma, and the irreversible loss of human dignity. This film invites the public to see women not as sole perpetrators, but as individuals who are often trapped in violence, exploitation, and a legal system that is not gender-sensitive. Through empathy and a more humane understanding, this campaign encourages the abolition of the death penalty and stronger protection for women in the context of drug laws.

Suar Perempuan Lingkaran NAPZA Nusantara (SPINN)



As part of EVAWUD25, SPINN carried out a community sensitisation campaign through a TalkBinnar session via LIVE TikTok, alongside a collective action initiative to strengthen community safety and security mechanisms.

The LIVE TalkBinnar session created an accessible digital space to discuss gender-based violence, HIV-related stigma, criminalisation, and human rights violations experienced by women living with HIV, women who use drugs, and women from marginalised communities. Centering lived experience and survivor-led perspectives, the discussion highlighted how violence extends beyond physical harm to include structural and institutional violence, such as forced disclosure, discrimination in healthcare, and punitive laws and policies.

In parallel, SPINN engaged in a collective partnership with PKBI (Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association) and cross-issue community organisations to begin developing an Integrated Safety and Security Framework designed by and for communities. This framework focuses on three key components:

- shelter, to provide safer and temporary protection spaces;
- paralegal support, to respond to criminalisation, rights violations, and legal risks; and
- psychosocial support, to address trauma, mental health needs, and long-term recovery for survivors and community members.

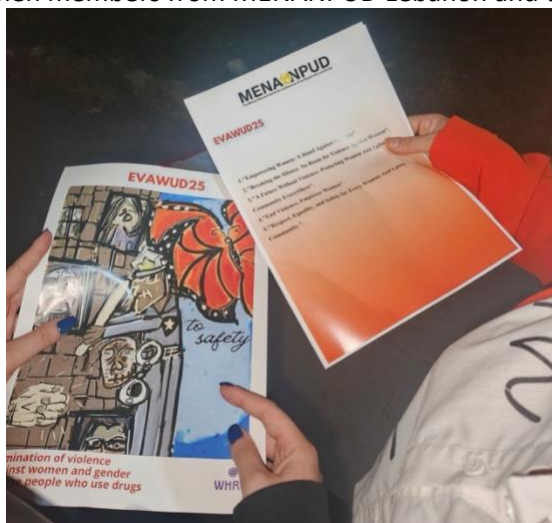
The use of [LIVE TikTok](#) enabled real-time engagement with young audiences and communities often excluded from formal advocacy spaces, while the framework development process reinforced the importance of sustained, community-led, and rights-based protection beyond campaign timelines.

This combined approach demonstrates how digital advocacy and collective community action can work together to advance gender justice and survivor-centered protection during and beyond the 16 Days of Activism.

Lebanon

MENANPUD

On the 6th of December 2025, MENANPUD Lebanon organised a collective action as part of the EVAWUD campaign, aimed at ending violence against women and gender-diverse people who use drugs. This activity was led by a group of six women members from MENANPUD Lebanon and took place across two different locations in Beirut.



The first location was a public park where people from different backgrounds gather daily to practice sports, play basketball, walk their dogs, and spend time outdoors. During this activity, the group distributed informational flyers about MENANPUD Lebanon and the EVAWUD campaign. The team engaged in open conversations with park visitors, listened to their personal stories, and created a safe space for dialogue around violence, stigma, and discrimination faced by women who use drugs. Uplifting and empowering messages were shared to raise awareness about the importance of ending violence against women and promoting dignity, understanding, and second chances for people who use drugs. The second part of the activity involved a cycling action through the streets of Beirut. The same group rode bicycles while delivering strong, visible messages emphasising that women deserve a second chance, strength, and freedom from violence. This public action aimed to challenge stigma, encourage solidarity, and promote community responsibility in stopping violence against women and gender-diverse people who use drugs.

Overall, this collective action successfully amplified the voices of women, raised public awareness, and reinforced MENANPUD Lebanon's commitment to advocacy, empowerment, and social change.

Portugal MANAS



MANAS mobilised around global efforts to end violence against women and gender-diverse people who use drugs. The initiative exposes the injustices caused by criminalisation, stigma and discriminatory gender norms, and advocates for drug policies grounded in human rights and harm reduction. The MANAS campaign promoted meaningful community involvement, with around 20 peers involved in campaign activities, with access to health, harm reduction and violence-prevention services, calling for an end to the “war on drugs” to ensure safety, dignity and justice for all affected and a safer space for women and non-binary people running 24 hours.

During EVAWUD25, MANAS carried out a strong set of feminists, peer-led and community-based actions focused on visibility, empowerment and political participation of women and gender-diverse people who use drugs and/or experience homelessness. The campaign reached over 150 people with marches, public speeches, exchanges, workshops and the MANAS anniversary event. In addition, the WHRIN press release was translated into Portuguese and distributed to national media outlets, supporting broad dissemination of the campaign and its key messages. MANAS activities were widely publicised across partner networks, community platforms and social media.

Check more on MANAS's EVAWUD25 [video](#) and the post on [Instagram](#).

CASO

EVAWUD25 was promoted by CASO and Grupo Partilha Vivências in partnership with WHRIN and EuroNPUD, as a collective and itinerant initiative that, between 25 November and 10 December, created a canvas with the handprints of women who suffer or have suffered gender-based violence and who use drugs, transforming each mark into a silent testimony for justice. This canvas, a symbol of their stories, was presented to the Mayor of Porto at a public hearing, with the clear aim of demanding concrete responses that guarantee the right to housing, safety and access to healthcare without stigma, transforming privileges into reality for all.



Check more on CASO's EVAWUD25 post on [Facebook](#).

Norway

Huset Bergen

Huset Bergen actively took part in EVAWUD25, under the theme: *STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN DRUG-USING ENVIRONMENTS*. Visual actions involved decorating the facilities with orange elements and encouraging guests, staff, and volunteers to wear orange clothing, ribbons, and hats.

The campaign included poster exhibitions, speeches, and outreach walks in the city's streets and squares to raise awareness. Huset Bergen collaborated with Bergen Sanitetsforening, AldriAlene, Bergen Women's Rights Association, Vestland Immigrant Council, and Bergen Soroptimist Club in a "Reverse Debate" to demand action from local politicians against psychological and physical violence toward women and transgender people in the city's drug community.



"Every day at Huset Bergen, we meet people who carry the consequences of stigma and criminalisation. Women and gender-diverse people who use drugs have the right to safety, respect, health, and a life free from violence. The EVAWUD campaign is a global voice for what we work for locally – and we stand fully behind it." – Marianne Cook Pierron, General Manager

Through these activities, Huset Bergen contributed to raising awareness, supporting the campaign's message, and advocating for safety and respect for women and gender-diverse people in drug-using environments.

See Huset Bergen's EVAWUD25 post on [Facebook](#).

Mexico

Clinica Wound



Clinica Wound were represented at the World AIDS Day Forum organised by the Municipal System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents of the 25th Tijuana City Council, using the opportunity for EVAWUD25 action.

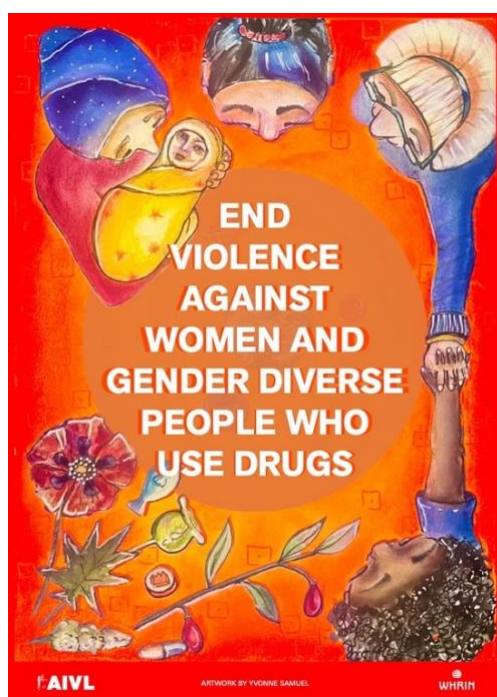
The representative spoke about harm and violence experienced by women who use drugs in Mexico, including those who are incarcerated. She urged that the Bangkok Rules be upheld and highlighted the need to include and listen to women who use drugs in discussions when planning and implementing programs.

Australia

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)



The EVAWUD25 campaign was recognised by AIVL and member organisations at the AIVL 2025 Summit!



Artwork created by Yvonne Samuel and featured during the event to unite attendees for a powerful photo opportunity to say: *We stand against violence against women and gender diverse people who use drugs! Participants agreed that, given the current global climate, it's more critical than ever to support this initiative. Together, we're making a statement: Violence has no place in our communities and our systems.*

There was a strong consensus amongst participants at the Summit that, given the current international political environment, it is more critical than ever to stand behind this campaign.

Additionally, the AIVL posters were reused by the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in Sydney as part of their November/December health promotion activities, extending the campaign's reach and visibility.

Check AIVL's post in [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Harm Reduction Victoria (HRV)

HRV conducted an online campaign posting video messages on each of the 16 days. Posts were from different women and gender diverse people who use drugs. Each person spoke to issues faced by women and gender diverse people who use drugs.



Women and gender diverse people who use drugs endure violence at up to 25 times the rate of the general population because society not only allows it to happen but enables it through outdated and uninformed drug laws and a failure to provide protection.

HRV call on services, including harm reduction services, to make themselves accessible and safer for all people who use drugs but especially for women and gender diverse people. In Australia service provision is steeped in masculine ideals, mainly because within patriarchy it is considered normal. HRV ask that instead of providing services that seek to lessen the risks and harms of drug use only, that they look at how to provide services that seek to lessen risks and harms of drug use AND risks and harms of gendered violence. The intention behind this campaign is to raise awareness of some of the issues faced by the drug using community with the end goal of eliminating gendered violence.

See HRV's EVAWUD25 post on [Instagram](#).

Tasmanian User's Health and Support League (TUHSL)



TUHSL stands with WHRIN and other organisations in calling for an end to all forms of violence against women and gender diverse people who use and inject drugs.

Women and gender diverse people who use and inject drugs experience gender-based-violence at a much higher rate than women in the general public. This is why the EVAWUD campaign and work relating to reducing the violence experienced by women and gender diverse people who use drugs – is so critical.

TUHSL believes that ending the 'Drug War' would eliminate many of the forms of violence experienced. As long as the Drug War wages and rages, funding and supporting harm reduction and drug-user networks, specifically gender-responsive harm reduction and networks remain crucial for survival and resistance.

TUHSL also took opportunity to shout out to partner organisation, Engender Equality! EE have been working with Tasmanians affected by family and domestic violence for over 30 years, and TUHSL support and endorse all the work they do, including especially their

recent work on Substance Coercion. This groundbreaking work combines harm reduction, narcofeminism with a family violence lens.

Collective work to eliminate violence against all women and gender diverse people is so vital!

TUHSL's EVAWUD25 campaign on [Instagram](#).

Cameroon

Berine and Bokwe Foundation (BEBOF)

BEBOF implemented a one-day campaign focused on eliminating violence against women and gender diverse persons who use drugs in Buea. The activity combined advocacy, community engagement, and public awareness to amplify the voices of those most affected and to promote dignity, safety, and access to justice.

The first activity was the release of a press statement, which formally launched the campaign and called on stakeholders including policymakers, health providers, community leaders, and civil society to recognise and address the heightened vulnerability of women and gender diverse people who use drugs to violence, stigma, and exclusion. The press release helped position the issue



within broader gender-based violence advocacy during the campaign period.

The second activity was the official launch of the general 16 days of activism, marked by the printing and distribution of campaign T-shirts carrying key messages under the theme “No Violence, Full Dignity.” Women and gender diverse persons who use drugs actively led awareness activities, including door-to-door community sensitisation, radio sensitisation, and outreach in schools. These engagements focused on challenging harmful stereotypes, promoting non-violence, and sharing information on available health, legal, and psychosocial support services.

Through these combined actions, the campaign strengthened community awareness, promoted survivor-centered narratives, and reinforced the leadership of women and gender diverse people who use drugs as agents of change in the fight against violence.

Check more of BEBOF’s activity on [Facebook](#).

Bolivia

Programa Libertas



On November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women. We draw attention to different forms of state violence (arbitrary arrests, sexual extortion) suffered by women who use drugs.

Programa Libertas called on the diverse women who are part of their platform (including women who are or have been in prison and women who have been pushed into social exclusion) to share their experiences and feelings through drawings, paintings, poems, or other texts about the different forms of violence that arise from punitive drug policies and prohibitionist thinking.

An audiovisual presentation containing the contributions of all participating women was disseminated during the EVAWUD25 campaign period, together with the community of women who use drugs, on social networks and to a list of human rights organisations, feminist organisations, government representatives, universities, and communities. In addition, a press release adapted to the Bolivian context was disseminated to journalists and media.

Check more of Programa Bolivia’s campaign activity on [Facebook](#).

Uganda

Talented Youth Community Fellowship

As part of EVAWUD25, a powerful camp-fire gathering (ekyoto) titled “Voices by the Fire” was organised. This space brought together trans women, gender-diverse people and supportive community members to reflect on experiences, celebrate resilience, and speak openly about the realities faced as people who use drugs.

The gathering was intentionally informal and grounding. Sitting around the fire, stories of survival were shared showing that many first turned to drugs as a way of coping with trauma, family rejection, economic hardship, and the emotional weight of living under constant stigma. Participants spoke candidly about the substances they use, including marijuana and cigarettes, and the ways these have helped them manage pain, anxiety, or isolation in the absence of accessible mental health support.



A significant part of the discussion focused on police brutality and the dangers faced by gender-diverse people who use drugs in Uganda. Members recounted experiences of harassment, extortion, physical violence, and arbitrary arrests, highlighting the urgent need for legal reform and harm-reduction services that recognise humanity.

In addition to the camp fire gathering, social media actions were carried out to increase visibility of EVAWUD25. Photos, posters, reflections and awareness messages were shared across networks to amplify the voices of women and gender-diverse people who use drugs, reaching community members who could not attend physically. Despite the heavy topics, the fire circle was filled with connection, warmth, and laughter.

“Voices by the Fire” became a space of healing, truth-telling, and solidarity reminding us that the stories of women and gender diverse people who use drugs matter; *our lives have value, and our collective voice is powerful in the fight to end violence against women and gender-diverse people who use drugs.*

Find out more about Talented Youth Community Fellowship’s EVAWUD25 campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Myanmar

AHRN - Best Shelter



AHRN-Best Shelter participated in the campaign to reduce physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence against women, girls and women who use drugs and to reduce discrimination against them - at the shelter clinic in Hpakant, Kachin State. The activities aimed to raise awareness about the urgent need to protect women and gender-diverse people who use drugs and to strengthen collective efforts to end violence in all its forms.

Discussions and awareness sessions were conducted on the physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence experienced by women, girls, and women who use drugs. Informational materials and guidance on available support services were shared to increase understanding of rights and safety options. Participants actively engaged in conversations, shared experiences, and identified practical ways to improve safety and access to support within their community.

The campaign emphasised that violence against women, girls, and women who use drugs is preventable. By fostering supportive spaces and encouraging mutual understanding, the activities aimed to empower individuals to speak out, seek assistance, and support one another. Violence against women, girls and women who use drugs is preventable. By working together, we can build a future where women, girls and women who use drugs can live safely and free from violence.

Through these efforts in Hpakant, AHRN-Best Shelter contributed to the global call for stronger protections, safer environments, and collective action to end gender-based violence. The initiative reinforced the vision of a future where all women who use drugs are safe, empowered, and able to live free from violence.

Find out more about Best Shelter’s EVAWUD25 campaign on [Facebook](#), [official website](#), and an [article](#) on AHRN Myanmar’s website.

Drug Policy Advocacy Group



An in-person event was organised in Yangon by DPAG. It was held in collaboration with local civil society groups and communities affected by punitive policy frameworks. The main objective of the campaign event was to “*end all violence against women and gender diverse people who use drugs.*” It started with a dynamic panel discussion moderated by the DPAG technical specialist on chem-sex and insights were shared from the representatives of female sex workers, LGBTQ+, youths and women who use drugs. This was followed by youth models carrying key messages relating to the GBV campaign. Later, the tragic personal experiences of GBV were shared by LGBTQ and sex worker representatives.

Violence is not a fashion! Value our lives.

This year's call for action was developed in accordance with recommendations from people and women who are most at risk of abuse and violence imposed by restrictive frameworks, adverse social norms and cultural standards. Crucial asks from marginalised communities of women/LGBTQ+ who use drugs, expressing their needs and challenges, include:

- Acknowledging the link between drug use and violence
 - Ending stigma and criminalisation
 - Promoting health and social services
 - Strengthening multi-sectoral collaboration
 - Raising awareness and mobilising communities
- Read more in [English](#) or [Burmese](#).



The event was concluded with live entertainment by beautiful and talented transwomen friends. The event was attended by about 100 participants.

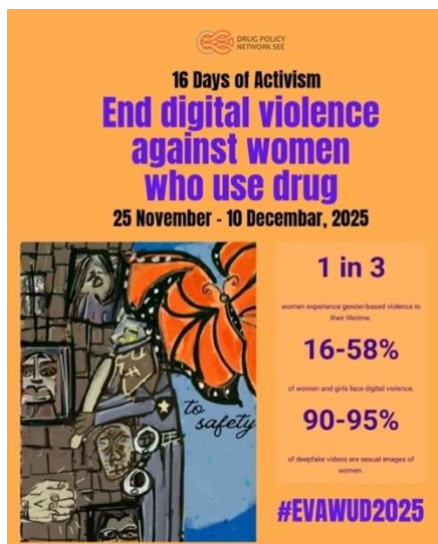
Read more about the activity on [Facebook](#).



Model with message – *Protect the lives of women who use drugs with progressive laws*

Regional and global level partners

Drug Policy Network South East Europe



Women and gender-diverse people who use drugs face violence driven by criminalisation, stigma and state control. Community-led harm reduction keeps people alive. To end this violence, we must shift power, fund care, and dismantle the systems causing harm — including the 'war on drugs'

Check DPNSEE's EVAWUD25 post on [Facebook](#).

Southeast Asia Harm Reduction Association (AHRA)



AHRA continues to promote inclusive, rights-based harm reduction and stands united with EVAWUD.

AHRA stands together with communities, partners, and allies to call for safety, dignity, and equality for all especially for women, girls, and key populations who face heightened vulnerability. AHRA joined EVAWUD25 through a Photo Advocacy Initiative, highlighting the real voices and powerful stories of individuals across Southeast Asia, and reaffirmed commitment to:

- Promoting gender-responsive harm reduction services
- Creating safe spaces for women and marginalised communities
- Advocating for policies that protect and empower
- Supporting survivors through compassion, solidarity, and evidence-based responses

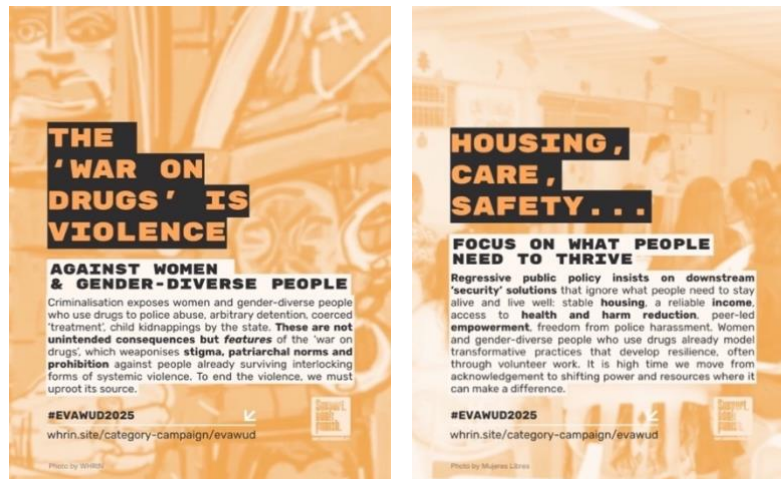
Check AHRA's social media posts on [Facebook](#).

IPPF SARO

IPPF SARO is the organisation hosting the Asian network of women who use drugs. This photo is the IPPF SARO staff in their office in Delhi, to demonstrate solidarity with the EVAWUD25 campaign.



International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)



On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, IDPC highlighted the pervasive and often hidden violence faced by women and gender-diverse people who use drugs.

Criminalisation, stigma, and punitive systems drive gendered harms — and must be addressed as part of ending GBV. Evidence shows women and gender-diverse people who use drugs experience violence at rates up to 25 times higher than the general population. This includes police violence, arbitrary detention, incarceration for personal use, loss of child custody, and barriers to essential SRHR and harm reduction services.

To eliminate GBV, states must:

- Remove punitive laws
- Ensure gender-responsive harm reduction
- Guarantee access to SRHR
- Meaningfully involve affected communities in policymaking
- Align with UN human rights standards

Women and gender-diverse people who use drugs face violence driven by criminalisation, stigma and state control. Community-led harm reduction keeps people alive. To end this violence, we must shift power, fund care, and dismantle the systems causing harm — including the 'war on drugs'.

Check IDPC's EVAWUD25 Facebook posts [here](#) and [here](#).

Harm Reduction International



Women, trans and gender-diverse people who use drugs face higher criminalisation, poorer access to care, and rising incarceration, while gender-responsive services remain severely underfunded. To end gender-based violence, we must end the war on drugs and invest in community-led, gender-responsive harm reduction.

Harm Reduction International joined the EVAWUD Campaign this year on social media with a call to divest from the unjust war on drugs and invest in gender-sensitive, community-led harm reduction - as part of their Divest/Invest campaign. As harm reduction faces an unprecedented funding crisis, services designed with and for women and gender diverse people who use drugs remain almost non-existent. Women and gender diverse people are disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs, facing violence at the hands of intimate partners, state actors, and intersecting stigma and discrimination. Punitive drug policies are ineffective, increase violence, violate human rights, and fuel injustice. To end gender-based violence we must invest in policies that promote justice, human rights, gender equity and improve health outcomes. To end gender-based violence we must end the war on drugs.

Watch HRI's EVAWUD25 video on [Facebook](#).



EVAWUD25 represents the loudest and largest EVAWUD campaign ever – despite coinciding funding cuts and growing challenges brought about by anti-gender rights ideology. This report signals clearly that the communities of women and gender expansive people around the world will not be silenced and will continue to demand basic safety and other human rights until fully realised.

WHRIN extends gratitude and congratulations to all those participating in the EVAWUD25 campaign for elevating the urgency to end violence against women and gender expansive people who use drugs at the local, regional and global levels. As evidenced in this report, collectively women and gender diverse people who use drugs are gaining momentum as a movement while engaging with allies to protect the rights and ensure the safety of members of our community. EVAWUD activities are increasingly targeted towards service, policy and practice adjustments and reforms designed to protect and assist women and gender diverse people who use drugs who are experiencing or are at risk of violence.

Please keep us posted on any campaign impacts and related activities so we can promote, share and ideally replicate your progress in other locations. Please also share this report through your networks.

<http://whrin.site>