

June 23, 2008

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary-General
H.E. Srgjan Kerim, President, United Nations General Assembly
H.E. Ambassador Léo Mérorès, President of ECOSOC
Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Chair, Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Hamid Ghodse, President, International Narcotics Control Board
Peter Piot, Executive Director, UNAIDS
Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Excellencies:

As HIV advocates and health professionals, we are concerned about the impact of contradictions between HIV commitments and drug policies. We will not achieve universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment without protecting the human rights of people who use drugs.

As organizations concerned with ensuring an effective global response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic, we wish to highlight our particular concerns regarding the United Nations-sponsored International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, June 26. Governments often use this day to highlight repressive drug control efforts by publicizing executions, arrests, and drug seizures. For drug users, every day brings the expectation of execution, arrest, and imprisonment.

All Member States of the United Nations have committed to bolstering HIV prevention by reducing the harms related to injection drug use. We call on governments to honor these commitments by giving greater emphasis to proven, effective strategies to combat HIV among people who use drugs.

Outside of Africa, 30% of all new HIV infections occur among drug injectors; the fastest spreading epidemics are currently among those who inject drugs. HIV and AIDS programs cannot be effective if harsh drug policies make people afraid to use them.

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking highlights the extremes of the traditional enforcement-based approach to drug problems. As we transition from the 2008 High Level Meeting on AIDS to the 2009 High Level Meeting on drugs we need to take a new approach to drug policy – one that recognizes the importance of protection for people who use drugs. The current split in the United Nations between addressing drug use through a public health approach versus a law-enforcement approach causes confusion. It is critical that UN systems speak as one.

For this June 26 and beyond, we call on governments and the UN system to recognize that good AIDS policy requires sound drug policy – measures that address the drugs problem without impeding access to lifesaving HIV services.

cc: Civil Society Task Force, 2008 High Level Meeting on AIDS

June 26 Sign-on endorsements

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Country</u>
ASIA		
Sohaila Yarzad	AAWC	AFGHANISTAN
Faiz Ullah	Association for Youth and Cultural Organization	BANGLADESH
Dy Many	Cambodian Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (CCW)	CAMBODIA
Kem Ley	HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee (HACC)	CAMBODIA
Oum Sopheap	Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance	CAMBODIA
Chang Kun	China AIDS Group	CHINA
Dr. Molly Charles	Consultant	INDIA
Loon Gangte	Delhi Network of Positive People (DNP+)	INDIA
Amar Singh Sidhu	EMPOWER	INDIA
Bhawani Shanker Kusum	GGI Institute of Information, Communication Technology India	INDIA
Alexander Matheou	Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS) & Amber Bhawan	INDIA
Sonal Mehta	India HIV/AIDS Alliance	INDIA
Gauri Shankar Rajhans	India HIV/AIDS Alliance	INDIA
Dr M. S. Menon	Indian Institute of Rural Reconstruction and Social Change	INDIA
Vikram Laishram	Kripa Foundation	INDIA
Haobam Nanao	Manipur Intravenous League	INDIA
Y.Shasikumar Singh	Manipur Network of Positive People	INDIA
Subha Raghavan	SASO - Social Awareness Service Organisation	INDIA
Maryam Wong Abdullah	Solidarity and Action Against The HIV Infection in India (SAATHII)	INDIA
Dr. Hla Htay	ACC (Alternative Community Center)	MALAYSIA
Adeeba Kamarulzaman	Burnet Institute	MALAYSIA
Rusli Ismail	Malaysian AIDS Council	MALAYSIA
Reena Lama	Malaysian AIDS Council	MALAYSIA
Prem Pan	Friends Affected & Infected Together in Hand - FAITH	NEPAL
Salim Akhtar	Hepa Foundation	NEPAL
Kiran Basnet	Nepal HIV/AIDS Alliance (NEHA)	NEPAL
Prem Kumar Limbu	Nepal Plus	NEPAL
Roshan Sapkota	Positive Voice	NEPAL
Binod Aryal	Recovering Nepal	NEPAL
Suyash Rajbhandari	Recovering Nepal	NEPAL
Irfan Peter	RIC/ROSE Co-operation Nepal [Reform Intoxicate Center and Rose Co-Operation Nepal]	NEPAL
Inamullah Ansari	The Recovering Group	NEPAL
Pascal Tanguay	Timi Hami Ani Hamro Nepal	NEPAL
Fiona Oakes	ASHA Foundation	PAKISTAN
Paul Hardacre	Sadaqat Clinic	PAKISTAN
Robert Gray	SUNFO	SRI LANKA
	Asian Harm Reduction Network	THAILAND
	Asian Harm Reduction Network	THAILAND
	Harm Reduction Consultant	THAILAND
	Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group (TTAG)	THAILAND
	PSI Asia	

**CENTRAL/EASTERN EUROPE AND
CENTRAL ASIA**

Rezarta Meneri	APRAD (Albanian Association for Prevention and Rehabilitation from AIDS and Drugs)	ALBANIA
Nelli Cholakhyan	Armenian National AIDS Foundation	ARMENIA
Fizuli Abijev	Development-2006	AZERBAIJAN
Assoc. Prof. Kamil Kalina MD PhD DSc.	Centre for Addictology, Psychiatric Clinic, 1st Medical School, Charles University	CZECH REPUBLIC
Tatjana Dodanto	LIGO NGO, Life Is Going On, Estonian Women Association Against HIV and AIDS	ESTONIA
Nelli Kalikova	NGO AIDS Information and Support Center (AIDS-i Tugikeskus)	ESTONIA
Marina Chokheli	"Article 42 of the Constitution"	GEORGIA
Marina Chavchanidze	Alternative Georgia	GEORGIA
Tea Akhobadze	Open Society - Georgia Foundation	GEORGIA
Jozsef Racz, MD, PhD	Blue Point Drug Counselling and Outpatient Centre	HUNGARY
Purejav Tserendendev	Hungarian Civil Liberties Union	HUNGARY
Mairamkan Sharipova	Intermeditsina	KAZAKHSTAN
Aleksandrs Molokovskis	Society "Association HIV.LV"	KYRGYZSTAN
Jurgis Andriuska	"Posityvus Gyvenimas"	LATVIA
Shona Schonning	Eurasian Harm Reduction Network	LITHUANIA
Kaleria Lavrova	Eurasian Harm Reduction Network	LITHUANIA
	LIBERATION (Krakow Association of Replacement Therapy Patients)	POLAND
Marek Zygodlo	MONAR-Krakow	POLAND
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	HOPS-Healthy Options Project Skopje	REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
Keti Todorova	NVO Doverba	REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
Andrei Kasparov	CREDINTA	REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
Valeriy Antonov	NGO "Your Choice"	REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
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Peter Nikitenko	Charitable Foundation "For a Healthy Society"	RUSSIA
A. Sobennikov	Humanitarian Action	RUSSIA
Alexander Tsekhanovich	Humanitarian Action	RUSSIA
	Regional Charitable Foundation for Struggle with Drug Use and AIDS	RUSSIA
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Yana Polonskaya	Russian Harm Reduction Network	RUSSIA
Irina Maslova	Silver Rose, self-help group of sex-workers	RUSSIA
Anna Smirnova	Silver Rose, self-help group of sex-workers	RUSSIA
Olga Sorokoletova	Silver Rose, self-help group of sex-workers	RUSSIA

Roza Zaripova	Silver Rose, self-help group of sex-workers	RUSSIA
Oleg Kopaev		RUSSIA
Albert Zaripov		RUSSIA
Nina Skibnevskaja		RUSSIA
Alexey F. Kozyrev	Yasen	RUSSIA
	JAZAS	SERBIA
	NGO "Veza"	SERBIA
	Yugoslav Youth Association against AIDS - Youth of JAZAS	SERBIA
Parvina Giyasova	Center on Mental Health and HIV/AIDS	TAJIKISTAN
Safija Kurbonova	Publik Organization Apeyron	TAJIKISTAN
	WPO "Safo"	TAJIKISTAN
	Young Generation of Tajikistan	TAJIKISTAN
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Galina Kaminskaia	All-Together, Center for Socio-psychological Help	UKRAINE
Konstantin Lezhentsev	All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH	UKRAINE
Lena Tsukerman	Charitable Foundation "Drop-in Center"	UKRAINE
Leonid Vlasenko	Charitable Foundation Virtus	UKRAINE
Olga Beliaeva	Charitable Foundation Virtus	UKRAINE
Evgenii Krivosheev	Club "Enei"	UKRAINE
Alexey Zagrebny	Club "Chance"	UKRAINE
Yulia Bessmertnaya	Drop in Center	UKRAINE
Olga Buchma	Drop in Center	UKRAINE
Jana Kutseva	Drop in Center	UKRAINE
Pavel Kutsev	Drop in Center	UKRAINE
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Ekaterina Mikhina	Drop in Center	UKRAINE
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Ludmila Kononenko	Penitentiary Initiative	UKRAINE
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Lic. Graciela Guarnacci	Fundación de Recuperación Plural	ARGENTINA
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	Fundamind	ARGENTINA
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Jose Alejandro Garcia Gutierrez	UAM Y	MEXICO
Dr. Quintanilla		MEXICO
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Silvia Rosibel Martinez	REDTRANS	NICARAGUA
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Jose Luis Asencios Vega	Asociacion Animo y Aliento	PERU
Sofía Irene Alvarado Hidalgo	Asociacion de Apoyo a los Auquis de Pamplona Alta	PERU
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Kieran Daly	International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO)	CANADA
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Pearce Richards		CANADA
Believe Dhlwayo		CANADA
Mark Haden		CANADA
	Advocates for Recovery through Medicine (ARM)	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
	AIDS Action Council	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
	AIDS Foundation of Chicago	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
	AIDS Project Los Angeles	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Earl Pike	AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
	AIDS/HIV Health Alternatives	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Mary B. Murphy	Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
	American Health Services	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Don Des Jarlais	Beth Israel Medical Center	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Jesse Lopez	Bridge Project Harm Reduction Unit	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Josiah D. Rich, M.D.	Brown University	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
	Chicago Recovery Alliance	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
	Columbia University Global Justice	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Prof. Ernest Drucker	Columbia University: Mailman School of Public Health	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
	Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Gretchen Hildebran	documentary filmmaker	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Howard Lotsof	Dora Weiner Foundation	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Ethan Nadelmann	Drug Policy Alliance	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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