

To the United Nations Secretary-General Mr Antonio Guterres

Amsterdam, 22 June 2017

Your Excellency Guterres,

We, undersigned civil society organisations working in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the rest of the world, would like to ask to continue the position of Prof. Michel Kazatchkine as your Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The HIV crisis continues to expand in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) and requires continuous role of the UN, in particular in political dialogue and consolidation of reinforced response. The region represents one of the two regions globally where new HIV infections continue to increase. Currently, more than estimated 1,500,000 people live with HIV.¹ In the region, the estimated number of AIDS-related deaths increased by 5% between 2005 and 2013 to 53 000 [43 000–69000]², 95% of new HIV cases are thought to be among highly vulnerable, marginalized populations such as people who inject drugs and their sexual partners, men who have sex with men, sex workers and prisoners. At the same time, treatment level is one of the lowest globally: while the number of people receiving ART increased by 45% from 2011 to 2012 (rising to almost 200 000), only about a third (35%) of the people who needed ART were receiving it³.

The HIV epidemic is highly interlinked with high rates of tuberculosis, drug dependence, and viral hepatitis. The region might be a home of nearly 1 in 4 people who inject drugs; with estimated for example between 18 and 31 % to be HIV-positive in the Russian Federation.⁴ Tuberculosis is a leading killer of people living with HIV in EECA. Moreover, EECA has a disproportionately high share of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, some 24% of all cases globally⁵.

The limited response to HIV and interlinked epidemics are largely because of the lack of political will to address health of vulnerable populations and implement evidence-based interventions. Because of more countries reaching higher-income levels, the countries are losing donor funding which are often the only source for NGOs to deliver evidence-based programs among populations that are key in HIV. At the same time, in several countries, spaces for civil society is closing. UN presence is reducing. We are very much concerned about the reducing support from the UN for the growing HIV epidemic in EECA and would ask that you would appoint your Special Envoy on the issue.

¹ http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/235599/WAD-Fact-sheet-Eng.pdf

² http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/UNAIDS_Gap_report_en.pdf

³ http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/235599/WAD-Fact-sheet-Eng.pdf

⁴ http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/UNAIDS_Gap_report_en.pdf

⁵ http://www.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/91355/1/9789241564656_eng.pdf

Prof Michel Kazatchkine as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in EECA for the last three years has showed a diligent understanding of the issues and solution needed, diplomatic intelligence in political dialogues, has become a voice of the issues of the vulnerable and of the region at the global level. He has proven to be a friend of people in need and civil society, an advocate of science and human rights, a mediator among various stakeholders and countries involved to move towards politically difficult but needed solutions– even in such difficult environments as with Russian authorities or health-focused solutions in conflict zones.

The next few years will be critical for reversing the HIV crisis in EECA. We need a continuous, consistent UN support and therefore we request re-appointing Prof Kazatchkine as your personal strong representative

Yours sincerely,



Anke van Dam
Executive Director
AFEW International



	Organisation	Country
1.	AFEW Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
2.	AFEW Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan
3.	AFEW Tajikistan	Tajikistan
4.	AFEW Ukraine	Ukraine
5.	Aids Action Europe	Germany
6.	Aidsfonds	The Netherlands
7.	All Ukrainian Charitable Organization «CONVICTUS UKRAINE»,	Ukraine
8.	Alliance for Public Health	Ukraine
9.	ALLIANCE GLOBAL, PO	Ukraine
10.	All-Ukrainian League Legalife	Ukraine
11.	Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice	Russia
12.	Anti Aids Association of Legal entities	Kyrgyzstan
13.	ARAS- the Romanian Association Against AIDS	Romania
14.	Association HIV.LV	Latvia
15.	Association of HIV affected women and their families "Demetra"	Lithuania
16.	Autonomous non-profit organization Center for Social Assistance "Luna"	Russia
17.	Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network	Canada
18.	Carousel Association	Romania
19.	Center for Humane Policy	Bulgaria
20.	Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health Tanadgoma	Georgia
21.	Charitable Organization All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS	Ukraine
22.	Charitable organization "light of hope"	Ukraine
23.	Coalition "I can Live"	Lithuania
24.	Corporación Acción Técnica Social	Colombia
25.	CSO "Equal Opportunities"	Tajikistan
26.	Društvo AREAL, KOOPERATIVA ROG	Slovenia
27.	East Europe and Central Asia Union of PLWH (ECUO)	Ukraine
28.	Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM)	Estonia
29.	Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)	Lithuania
30.	Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS	Georgia/Ukraine
31.	Foundation "RIGRA"	Lithuania
32.	FUNDAÇÃO PORTUGUESA "A COMUNIDADE CONTRA A SIDA".	Portugal
33.	Georgian Network of People Who Use Drugs	Georgia
34.	GGD Amsterdam	The Netherlands
35.	Harm Reduction Coalition	United States
36.	Hepa plus	Georgia
37.	HIV Ireland	Ireland
38.	HPLGBT	Ukraine
39.	Human Research and Development Center	Uzbekistan
40.	Information educational republic centre non governmental non-profit organization "INTILISH"	Uzbekistan
41.	Initiative for Health Foundation	Bulgaria
42.	INPUD	United Kingdom
43.	INTERNATIONAL CHARITY ORGANIZATION "REHABILITATION CENTER "STEPS"	Ukraine
44.	International Drug policy consortium	United Kingdom

45.	International Treatment Preparedness coalition in Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Russia
46.	Kaliningrad Regional Non - Governmental Organization "STATUS PLUS"	Russia
47.	Krasnodar LGBT social movement "REVERS"	Russia
48.	Médecins du monde	France
49.	NGO " DINA" Sughd Region	Republic of Tajikistan
50.	NGO "Ishonch va Hayet" - Association, People Living with HIV and Particularly Affected Population Groups	Uzbekistan
51.	NGO 4 Life	Montenegro
52.	NGO Act For Involvement	Republic of Moldova
53.	NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations	Azerbaijan
54.	NGO New Vector	Georgia
55.	OSGF	Georgia
56.	PAS Center	Republic of Moldova
57.	Phoenix PLUS	Russia
58.	PINK Armenia	Armenia
59.	Positive People Armenian Network NGO	Armenia
60.	Prof. Jeffrey Lazarus CHIP, the WHO Collaborating Centre on HIV and Viral Hepatitis at Rigshospitalet, the University of Copenhagen and the Barcelona Institute of Global Health (ISGlobal), Hospital Clínic, University of Barcelona	Denmark
61.	Prosvet Public Fund	Russia
62.	Public Association the Support of people living with HIV « KUAT»	Kazakhstan
63.	Public Association "Ulukman Daryger"	Kyrgyzstan
64.	Public Association in support of people living with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones ""Ishonch va Hayot"	Uzbekistan
65.	Public charity in support of HIV-positive and their families "Shapagat"	Kazakhstan
66.	Public Foundation Asteria	Kyrgyzstan
67.	Public Foundation 'Fund of Women Living with HIV"	Kazakhstan
68.	Public Foundation Ganesha	Indonesia
69.	Public Organization "Sudmand"	Republic of Tajikistan
70.	Public organization Speranta terrei	Republic of Moldova
71.	REDUC - Brazilian Harm Reduction and Human Rights Network	Brasil
72.	Republican Public Association "Belarusian Community of People Living with HIV"	Belarus
73.	Rights Reporter Foundation	Hungary
74.	Romanian Harm Reduction Network	Romania
75.	StoptheDrugWar.org	United States
76.	SWAN	United Kingdom
77.	The Centre for Social Development and Men's Health Support Foundation (menZDRAV Foundation)	Ukraine and Russia
78.	Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network	Zimbabwe