



CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN WOMEN'S NETWORK FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

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BURNING ISSUE

New publications from ASTRA Network. The 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) adopted a 20-year Programme of Action (PoA) with a broad mandate on interrelationships between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and advances in the education, economic status and empowerment of women. The year 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the Cairo Conference. It is, therefore, necessary to reflect on the progress made, the challenges encountered and, based on these, to formulate strategic goals for ICPD's agenda beyond 2014. New publications from ASTRA Network seek to assess the ICPD PoA's implementation in the Central and Eastern European region. Barely two years to the end of the ICPD, the prognosis for achieving the objectives of the ICPD is generally not reassuring. Time is limited and population issues are generally difficult to turn around quickly. However, strategic or targeted planning, coupled with commitment, could still achieve much within a short time. While national conditions vary, the outcome of ASTRA Network monitoring project on status of SRHR in Central and Eastern Europe suggests that renewed focus by all countries – regarding the accessibility of sexuality education, affordable contraception and abortion services, as well as addressing the spreading HIV/AIDS pandemic – could galvanise Central and Eastern Europe's lackluster move towards 2014 and beyond.

- **Reclaiming And Redefining Rights. Icpd+20: Status Of Sexual And Reproductive Health And Rights In Central And Eastern Europe.** The report discusses the status of the ICPD PoA's implementation in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Russian Federation and Ukraine. It is available [here](#).
- On the eve of the **ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Youth Forum**, in order to call on governments, UN agencies and donors to support adolescent and young people SRHR, Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW) in partnership with

ASTRA Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN), Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) and the World YWCA launches factsheet with most recent data and analysis on adolescent and young people SRHR across the Global South regions. The links to global and regional factsheets are provided below:

[Reclaiming and Redefining Rights: Setting the Adolescent and Young People SRHR Agenda Beyond ICPD+20. Global South Overview.](#)

[Reclaiming and Redefining Rights: Setting the Adolescent and Young People SRHR Agenda Beyond ICPD+20. Eastern Europe.](#)

- **Warsaw Call to Action** is the outcome document of the meeting of 28 SRHR activists representing 17 countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which was organized by ASTRA Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Warsaw, Poland. The Warsaw Call to Action was formulated by sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) advocates from Central and Eastern Europe who gathered in order to develop a strategy for monitoring the compliance with the ICPD in 2014 and after. The Warsaw Call to Action addresses our governments, UNFPA and development partners in order to ensure that both SRHR and our region are meaningfully included in the ICPD+20 review process and shaping global agenda for sustainable development. The Warsaw Call to Action is available [here](#).

REGIONAL UPDATES

Moldovan Supreme Court of Justice confirms right of transgender people to gender mark change in documents. The Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Moldova has issued the Recommendation #16 “on the Procedure of examination of requests regarding amendment of acts of a civil status following sex change” due to the growing number of lawsuits in this respect, which are being currently examined by courts at the national level. According to the Supreme Court of Justice’s Recommendation, “Homosexual and transgender people must be protected through the prism of Article 8 from the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, i.e. the right to respect for private and family life. The right to change one’s sex and name is a component of the right for private life”.

[Read more about the recommendation here](#)

Source: http://www.ilga-europe.org/home/guide/country_by_country/moldova/supreme_court_of_justice_confirms_right_of_transgender_people_to_gender_mark_change_in_documents

Russia: human rights groups hail historic decision on homosexual propaganda ban. The UN Human Rights Committee released its historic decision in case Irina Fedotova v. Russian Federation. Fedotova had displayed posters with message “Homosexuality is normal” and “I am proud of my homosexuality” near a secondary school building in Ryazan. She was arrested, convicted and ordered to pay a fine, based on the local Law on administrative Offences that prohibits “public actions aimed at propaganda of homosexuality among minors”. After losing her appeal to the district court and the Constitutional Court, the woman turned to the HRC that ruled that Russian Federation has violated Fedotova’s rights to freedom of expression and to be free from discrimination. These rights are guaranteed by articles 19 and 26 of the International Covenant on

Civil and Political Rights. The Human Rights Committee ordered the Russian Federation to reimburse the fine paid by Fedotova as well as her legal costs and to ensure that the relevant provisions of domestic law are made compatible with articles 19 and 26 of the Covenant. Since the Ryazan law was adopted, a number of other regions in Russia have adopted legislation banning “homosexual propaganda.” Activists across the country, including in St. Petersburg, have been arrested and convicted under such laws.

Source: http://www.ilga-europe.org/home/news/for_media/media_releases/russia_human_rights_groups_hail_historic_decision_on_homosexual_propaganda_ban

Fundamental rights in the EU: civil liberties MEPs address shortcomings. The civil liberties committee of the European Parliament criticises violations of the basic rights of migrants, LGBT people, women and national minorities, among others, in its annual resolution on fundamental rights in the EU, adopted on 6th of November. The resolution urges member states and the Commission to do more to ensure that fundamental rights are fully respected in Europe.

More:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/pl/pressroom/content/20121105IPR54913/html/Fundamental-rights-in-the-EU-civil-liberties-MEPs-address-shortcomings>

Parliamentary Conference On Strengthening Cervical Cancer Prevention in Eastern Europe.

The European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office organized a Parliamentary Conference “Strengthening Cervical Cancer Prevention in Eastern Europe”. The event was funded by the Czech Government and took place in Prague on 15-16 November 2012. The Conference brought together Members of Parliament from the Eastern European and Balkan region, experts, WHO, UNFPA, European Commission and EPF. Participants reviewed the country level situation in cervical cancer, consider national policies and programmes for introducing HPV vaccines, share experiences and best practices and discuss the role of parliamentarians in shaping cervical cancer prevention policies and funding.

More: <http://eeca.unfpa.org/public/pid/12486>

GLOBAL UPDATES

Getting to Zero. 1 December is World AIDS Day. The theme of the Day this year was Getting to Zero: zero HIV infections, zero AIDS related deaths, zero barriers in accessing treatment and services, zero discrimination and zero prejudice towards people living with HIV. According to the 2012 UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Pandemic, after sub-Saharan Africa, the regions most heavily affected are the Caribbean and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where 1,0% of adults were living with HIV in 2011.

The 2012 UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Pandemic is available here:
<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/publications/2012/name,76121,en.asp>

The 2012 UNAIDS World AIDS Day Report - Results is available here:
<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/publications/2012/name,76120,en.asp>

Global Youth Forum. Over 900 youth leaders from every country will have an unprecedented opportunity to influence global policy. Representing the 43% of the world's population under age 25, they will convene in Bali to develop official recommendations for the United Nations development agenda. But they will not be the only ones contributing. Around the world, youth leaders will connect locally and electronically to provide a shared response to the social, economic and human rights challenges and opportunities faced by their generation.

More: <http://www.icpdyouth.org/>

16 Days of Action Campaign: we call for the recognition of the denial of safe and legal abortion as institutional violence against women. In solidarity with women's rights movements worldwide, in commemoration of the courageous actions by the women's human rights defenders, and in support of human rights activists from across the globe, ASTRA Network joins the worldwide 16 days of action campaign in defence of women's freedoms, choices and dignity. The 16 Days of Action Campaign links two international days of action – November 25, International Day of Action for Elimination of Violence against Women, and December 10, International Human Rights Day; emphasising that violence against women and girls is a grave violation of human rights. November 29, International Women's Human Rights Defenders Day forms part of the 16 days of action campaign honouring women from all parts of the globe who engage in the defence of human rights on a daily basis.

More: <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 4 to 15 March 2013. Representatives from Member States, UN entities, and NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) from all regions of the world will attend the session. The two-week session will include a high-level round table, interactive dialogues and panels, and parallel events. The 2013 session will focus on the following key areas: Priority Theme: Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls; Review Theme: The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS.

More: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm>

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

Family Planning in Central and Eastern Europe- UNFPA's fact sheet. On the day of the launch of UNFPA's State of the World Population 2012 report, entitled "By Choice, Not by Chance: Family Planning, Human Rights and Development", UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional office shared a brief prepared specifically for advocacy purposes in the region. It is available [here](#).

United Nations Recommendations to Romania in the area of Reproductive Rights. The publication prepared by Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives provides excerpts of findings and recommendations of the United Nations Treaty Monitoring Bodies' (TMBs) to Romania in the field of reproductive health and rights over the past 10 years. The TMBs monitor state compliance with international human rights obligations and issue recommendations to state parties on how to improve compliance with treaties.

Available here: <http://www.ecpi.ro/wp->

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