



A S T R A N E T W O R K

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## **CEE Bulletin on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**

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### **BURNING ISSUE**

#### **Plovdiv Call to Action**

*On October 12 – 13, 2015, ASTRA Network members met in Plovdiv, Bulgaria to participate in an annual workshop and strategic meeting. “Plovdiv Call to Action” is the result of that gathering and presents a set of the most burning issues of non-governmental organisations in the region. ASTRA members point to the vast challenges posed to non-governmental organisations in our region. In particular we are concerned about the challenge to secure funding for the existence of NGOs, as well as the diminishing investments in civil society working on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) at country level.*

We, the undersigned civil society organisations, members of the ASTRA Central and Eastern European Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights including organisations from Central Asia and Balkan and Caucasus countries, point to the vast challenges posed to non-

governmental organisations in our region. In *particular we are concerned about the* challenge to secure funding for the existence of NGOs, as well as the diminishing investments in civil society working on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) at country level.

The presence of NGOs in our region is inherent and indisputable, as the region finds itself still in times of transformation and political turbulence. After the fall of communism civil society learned how to navigate in the new reality and this process continues until today, making the region of Central and Eastern Europe neither part of the Global North nor the Global South with its own specifics and characteristics.

NGOs are essential in creating a dialogue between policy makers, governments and citizens, represented by civil society organisations. NGOs act as advisors, watchdogs and often provide specific resources, bring solutions and expertise. Without the presence of civil society organizations there would be no true democracy and the voices of the most at risk and marginalised groups would remain unheard. Moreover, the NGOs which are members of the ASTRA Network, empower women and girls, raise awareness on key issues related to reproductive and sexual health and educate people of all ages on their human rights, especially sexual and reproductive rights. Many of the organisations act on grassroots level, often being the only source of support and information within the local community.

Women's reproductive rights and their reproductive health are in crisis in Europe. For the past few years we have experienced numerous attacks on women's reproductive rights which always have had the same consequence: hampering access to reproductive health services and supplies. With the help of civil society organisations these trends can be observed, inspected, brought to the public knowledge and acted upon on regional and international level, especially in spaces where the reproductive and sexual rights are neglected. Neo-conservative groups that question gender equality, sexuality and reproductive health and rights, point fingers at women who defend human rights, which can result in violent actions. Women human rights defenders, besides being subject to the same types of risks as any human rights defender, are also targeted for or exposed to gender-specific threats and gender-specific violence.

The most burning issue of the NGOs in our region boils down to one word: funding. Non-governmental organisations are dependent on funding and financial support for their development. Most governments in our region are less than willing to fund projects and initiatives on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Some also neglect the role of their civil society sometimes labelling them "foreign agents". Private funds are located elsewhere and the many international agencies have moved away from the region with the few of them remaining in Central Asia and Balkan countries. The most disturbing scenario is taking place in the "new" European Union Member States where most funding options for women's rights, especially SRHR, are currently inaccessible. Moreover, the few available funding options rarely address core funds, which are a matter of survival for most NGOs. Lack of human resources impedes their work and forces them to make difficult choices. This often results in very few, even one or two, office staff and a number of volunteers who are sometimes the only workforce.

Funds from the most influential institutions have been relocated to other regions and to big international organisations working on SRHR. These organisations, apart from doing outstanding and important work on global level, also derive their knowledge and information on what is happening in

other regions from smaller organisations, including those working on very local level. This cooperation between international organisations, regional and grassroots NGOs has mutual benefits and generates positive outcomes. However, to be sustainable and forward looking this process requires investments for the country-based organisations. Without such investments and support these organisations will fail to be productive and as a consequence this mutually beneficial cooperation may come to an end.

Investments must be made to secure the future and to guarantee that NGOs remain the watchdogs and reliable information and support sources. ASTRA Network calls on European Union institutions, United Nations agencies, regional and global foundations and donors and national governments to take a closer look at their donor policies and the struggle of the civil society of the CEE/CA region in current times when reproductive rights are questioned and challenged every day.

*Note: On October 12 – 13, 2015, ASTRA Network members met in Plovdiv, Bulgaria to participate in an annual workshop and strategic meeting. “Plovdiv Call to Action” is the result of that gathering and presents a set of the most burning issues of non-governmental organisations in the region.*

[LINK to the Plovdiv Call to Action](#)

## **REGIONAL UPDATES**

### **CEDAW Committee: Russia and Slovakia must ensure women’s reproductive rights**

In November, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reviewed Russia and Slovakia and expressed numerous concerns about the barriers that prevent women and adolescent girls from enjoying their reproductive rights. In its Concluding Observations CEDAW called for wide ranging reforms to law and policy regarding access to abortion, contraception and antiretroviral drugs as well as better provision of sexuality education, treatment of women during childbirth, and redress for Romani women subject to forced sterilization.

The Committee’s observations criticize both governments for introducing new restrictions on women’s access to abortion through mandatory waiting periods and biased counseling and information requirements intended to make access to timely abortion services more burdensome for women. CEDAW called for the removal of these requirements in both Russia and Slovakia and specifically recommended that Slovakia ensure that information provided to women seeking abortion is evidence-based. These barriers were introduced in both countries over the last six years and reflect a concerning [retrogressive trend in abortion legislation](#) that has emerged across Central and Eastern Europe.

The Committee also urged the Slovak government to remove other barriers in access to abortion such as requirements for third-party authorization and to take steps to ensure that conscience-based refusals do not impede women’s access to legal abortion and post-abortion care. Importantly, the Committee also called on Slovakia to “ensure universal coverage by the public health insurance of all costs related to legal abortion, including abortion on request, as well as modern contraceptives for the prevention of unwanted pregnancy.”

The Committee stressed that Slovakia must adopt adequate safeguards to ensure respect for women's rights and autonomy in childbirth and to "[m]onitor and sanction segregation of Roma women in hospitals and clinics, including maternity hospitals." It also set out recommendations for access to remedies and redress in cases of forced sterilization of Roma women.

The Committee urged Russia to improve availability, accessibility and affordability of a wide range of modern contraceptives and to increase access to evidence-based information on contraception. The Russian government should also "[i]ntroduce a comprehensive, gender sensitive and age appropriate sexual and reproductive health and rights education incorporating a gender perspective for girls and boys in the curricula at the basic and secondary school levels of the education system." In addition, the Committee called upon the state to improve availability and access to HIV/AIDS services in Russia, including antiretroviral treatment, and to develop programs of substitution therapy for women drug users.

Lastly, the Committee expressed concerns about the persistence of harmful gender stereotypes in both countries and called upon both states to take effective steps to eliminate them. It called on Slovakia "to promote the understanding of gender equality in line with international human rights standards and to counter efforts made by any actors to downplay or degrade the pursuit of gender equality by labelling such measures as ideology."

For the Concluding Observations on [Russia](#) and [Slovakia](#), please click on the links.

Source: [Center for Reproductive Rights](#)

### **EuroNGOs international conference in Oslo**

On 3-4 November the annual EuroNGOs conference took place in Oslo, Norway and will be hosted by [Sex og Politikk](#), The Norwegian Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. The EuroNGOs International Conference contributed to the discussion on the 2030 Development Agenda and identified ways in which sexual and reproductive health and rights advocates can work together within it.

Every year for over a decade, EuroNGOs has held annual conferences hosted by one of its member organizations in different European countries. These gatherings are known for being leading fora bringing together bright minds and leaders working on sexual and reproductive health and rights to discuss a wide range of idea-focused subjects, and provoke conversations that matter.

Source: [EuroNGOs](#)

### **16 Days of activism against Gender Based Violence in Armenia**

Raising awareness meetings and demonstration of social films shot by Women's Rights Center were organized at Yerevan basic school № 120, № 200 and № 37. Women's Rights Center's activities in the following areas: domestic violence against women and their children and women's sexual and reproductive health and rights and services were presented to the audience, which was followed by

the demonstration of social films on domestic violence. Parents of the pupils and school teachers including teachers of inclusive education and the director of the school welcomed the initiative of the organization and participated in the meeting. They expressed interest in the activities of the organization and mentioned that the problem was up-to-date. Participants noticed that the school had many pupils who had been subjected to domestic violence, but unfortunately they were afraid to take measures because of being criticized by the society. Our psychologist highlighted the importance of the input of each person in the solution of the problem. Women's Rights Center will continue cooperation with the school teachers. The other activity was the participation in Press Conference at Media Center devoted to the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The head of Women's Rights Center Susanna Vardanyan with other participants took part in the discussion on November 25 at the Media Center devoted to the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Mrs. Vardanyan presented WRC statistics on domestic violence and noted that sexual violence cases remained underreported because women usually didn't want to apply with such cases even to the Hotline.

Another activity of the "16 Days against Gender Based Violence" Women's Rights Center also organized «Domestic Violence through Children's Eyes» open-air travelling exhibition. It was run under the slogan „Domestic Violence through Children's Eyes” and took place on November 26. The children's drawings were divided into three themes: «My Family», «My Dreams» and «House of My Dreams». This exhibition was aimed at raising awareness in the society on domestic violence problem and its negative impact on children.

Besides the events organized by the organization, WRC took part in other activities. Event at the Yerevan State University On November 25, workshop on “Gender Equality” theme took place at the Faculty of Law of Yerevan State University. The workshop was organized by the European Law Students Association (ELSA) Students from the Faculty of Law, representatives of non-governmental organizations participated in the meeting. Women's Rights Center also took part in the workshop raising the number of issues on domestic violence against women and their children in Armenia. The cases were devoted to the legal problems of women subjected to domestic violence such as self-defense, divorce, defining habitat for children and a number of other issues. Gaps in RA legislation in the abovementioned spheres, as well as the necessity of adoption of the Draft Law on Domestic Violence were discussed as well.

Source: [Women's Rights Center](#)

### **16 Days of Activism against Gender based Violence in Bulgaria**

Gender Alternatives Foundation (GAF) implements the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence” Campaign locally in Plovdiv, Bulgaria for a fourth consecutive year. GAF is a major Campaign's initiator in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. With the activities they say “NO to violence against women and girls – make education safe and accessible to all”!

Many women and girls do not have access to quality education due to existing gender stereotypes and obligations in the household. These challenges pressure girls to comply with domestic and social expectations ending up in early marriages, domestication, discrimination on the labour market and

lower wages. Improving access to education and vocational activities of women and girls can break the “circle of poverty” and to encourage economic advancement and other global setbacks like war conflicts and health issues. In their efforts to secure quality education and to eradicate gender stereotypes, the GAF team has prepared the following activities which we hope to become long-term initiatives: Press conference – announcing the start of the Campaign; “Code: Empowerment” workshops - several workshops on the basics of computer programming; two months intensive courses on English Language and Information and Communication Technologies for vulnerable groups of women; street Campaign on the main street in Plovdiv – 10 double sided advertisement canvases are allocated for the 16 Days Campaign.

Source: [Gender Alternatives Foundation](#)

### **16 Days of Activism against Gender based Violence in Kazakhstan**

The NGO Sana Sezim, ASTRA member, was involved in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence through educational and advocacy activities. On 25 November, Sana Sezim held a meeting with 520 students at 5 institutions of higher education. They have provided information on women’s rights and issue of sexual violence. They also distributed posters with information on helpline, where it’s possible to obtain free and confidential psychological and legal counselling. In addition, the educational booklets ‘Stop violence!’ were distributed. Sana Sezim also organized a conference for government bodies and law enforcement agencies, focused on matters related to protection of women’s rights, victims of domestic and sexual violence. The conference served also as opportunity to conclude the outcomes of project on prevention of violence and human trafficking.

More information on Sana Sezim’s initiatives can be found [here](#). (RU)

Source: [Sana Sezim](#)

### **Workshops for midwives in Poland**

On November 21 Federation for Women and Family Planning organized the first two workshops for midwives and midwifery students. The trainings are a part of a broader campaign "Solidarity of Health", launched by the organization earlier this year. This long-term campaign will be divided into yearly themes dealing with issues of women's reproductive and sexual health. The first theme is "*Every Woman Has the Right to Contraception*". In that context the workshops - conducted by sex educator and lawyer - were aimed to update and provide new knowledge about contraceptive and family planning options and their legal aspects. Midwives are an important element of the SRH services and awareness raising chain as they are the ones who meet with women in the postpartum period and can discuss plans for future childbearing and offer guidance on best contraception. The next round of trainings will take place in January.

Source: [Federation for Women and Family Planning](#)

## GLOBAL UPDATES

### **Northern Ireland law on abortion ruled 'incompatible with human rights'**

A high court judge has ruled that Northern Ireland's almost outright ban on abortion breaches the human rights of women and girls, including rape victims. The historic judgment, delivered in Belfast on Monday, could lead to women and girls who are the victims of rape and incest as well those suffering from fatal foetal abnormalities having terminations in Northern Irish hospitals. At present, under a 19th-century law, local medical teams could be jailed for life for carrying out abortions even in these circumstances. Unlike the rest of the UK, the Abortion Act 1967 has never applied to Northern Ireland and since devolution was restored the Stormont assembly has resisted any attempt to relax the near-total ban on terminations in local hospitals.

Abortions are only permitted in the region's health service if the life of a mother is directly under threat or in cases in which there would be lasting long-term negative effects on her health by continuing with the pregnancy.

In his ground-breaking ruling and referring to cases of rape, incest and fatal foetal abnormality, Mr Justice Horner told the high court in Belfast: "In the circumstances, given this issue is unlikely to be grasped by the legislature in the foreseeable future, and the entitlement of citizens of Northern Ireland to have their convention rights protected by the courts, I conclude that the article eight rights of women in Northern Ireland who are pregnant with fatal foetal abnormalities or who are pregnant as a result of sexual crime are breached by the impugned provisions." Referring to political inaction at Stormont over the abortion question, Horner also suggested that a referendum might have to be held to enact his conclusions on reforming local abortion law.

At least 1,000 women and girls from Northern Ireland travel to hospitals in Britain for terminations every year. Official figures for 2013, for instance, suggest 800 Northern Irish females had abortions in Britain – although that number is regarded as an underestimate. Among the 800 was a 13-year-old who became pregnant through incest. The only law applying to abortion in Northern Ireland is the Offences Against the Persons Act 1861, which contains a life sentence for anyone convicted of carrying out a termination even in cases of rape or incest.

Amnesty International said it was shameful that laws on abortion "date back to the 19th century and carry the harshest criminal penalties in Europe".

Source: [The Guardian](#)

### **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign: "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All!"**

The year 2015 marks the 24<sup>th</sup> year of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, initiated in 1991 and coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership. It starts on November 25<sup>th</sup> (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) and continues until December 10<sup>th</sup> (Human Rights Day). The dates were chosen to emphasize the links between ending gender-based violence and human rights principles and highlight that gender-based violence

is an international human rights violation. Participation in the Campaign has seen over 5,478 organizations, policymakers, governments, UN agencies and countless individuals from over 180 countries worldwide. Together participants have brought attention to issues of racism, sexism, cultures of violence, homophobia and called for the implementation of human rights obligations, including the right to health and reproductive rights, and end to militarism and gender-based violence, among others. The strength and longevity of the Campaign is due to these thousands of participants.

This year, the 16 Days Campaign will focus specifically on the relationship between militarism and the right to education in situations of violent conflict, in relative peace, and variety of education settings, while continuing to make the links with militarism, as an encompassing patriarchal system of discrimination and inequality based on our relationships to power.

Additionally, the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) calls for an end to the violence directed at SRHR defenders, as well as their recognition and protection as Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs). WGNRR calls on governments, international organizations, partners, and human rights advocates to recognize SRHR activists as WHRDs, particularly those who advocate for safe and legal abortion, LGBTQI rights, human rights in childbirth, sex workers' rights, and/or youth SRHR; and to end the violence they experience because of who they are and the work that they do. When governments permit attacks on WHRDs, including SRHR defenders, they impede human rights and perpetuate gender-based violence.

Source: [Rutgers, WGNRR](#)

## **YOUTH**

### **New law banning early marriage in Georgia**

Georgian Government considered the recommendation given by the CEDAW and Human Rights committee regarding the issue of early marriage and Georgia's legislative body has approved an amendment and has provided a legislative proposal, which bans early marriage in the country. According to the draft of the law, parents will not have a right to allow minors to get married and only the court will be allowed to grant youth such permission. The amendment is going through the formal steps and after that the changes it will be reflected in the national civil code of Georgia. Association 'HERA-XXI' was involved in the advocacy on early marriage on the national as well as international levels and monitored the process of amendment's development.

To bring public attention to early marriage and mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Georgian Women's Movement organized an event 'Don't Make Her Marry', which took place in 13 different cities of Georgia. HERA-XXI joined the event held in front of the government building.

Source: [Association HERA-XXI](#)

### **Research in Georgia on the access to youth SRH counselling services**

Union Women's Center conducted the project "Improved Access to Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Counseling Services", deriving from the main outcomes of the National Youth Policy in Georgia for years 2015-2020. The main goal of the project was to conduct a research on students' attitudes toward the sexual and reproductive health issues and their vision on health services, particularly how youth-friendly reproductive centers at primary health care level and doctor's offices at the university level respond to the student's reproductive needs. The research was based on qualitative and quantitative methods, with application of focus group discussions and survey questionnaire. The sample included 30 respondents from various universities. Data analysis shows that 67% of the students are not aware whether their university provides health center and are convinced that such centers work only in emergency cases. Students are also not aware of the existence of youth-friendly reproductive health centers and 12% of interviewed students have never visited a doctor. Three quarters of the students rarely visit general health centers or reproductive health centers, mainly because of their low quality and lack of anonymity. The main source of information on sexual and reproductive health is the Internet. The research also revealed that students regard youth-friendly health consultation centers as important and are in a great need of information on sexually transmitted diseases, family planning and contraception as well as general health care. Union Women's Center hopes the results of the research will contribute to the development and implementation of youth policies improving the access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health counselling services.

Source: [ASTRA Youth](#)

### **National consultations of young SRHR leaders on the 2030 Agenda in Poland**

Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (Eastern Europe & Central Asia Region) along with International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA-Poland) and ASTRA Youth have organized a national consultation for Polish NGOs working in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, particularly young people and adolescents. The consultation were focused on bringing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs from global to local levels, taking into account local opportunities and challenges the civil society faces. The consultation was held as part of 'Have you seen my rights?' campaign. The meeting brought together ten civil society activists working for enhancement of sexual and reproductive health and rights in diverse fields: comprehensive sexuality education, rights of people with disabilities, rights of LGBTQ people and HIV/AIDS-related issues. The participants of the meeting had the occasion to acknowledge with 2030 Agenda and SDGs relevant to sexual and reproductive health, as well as European Parliaments' reports and resolutions addressing SRHR. Participants have also discussed the strategies of transforming international frameworks into specific local actions and summed up the current realities regarding realization of SRHR in Poland. Consultations concluded with strategizing on potential future advocacy activities aiming to remind the government of their accountability to enhance sexual and reproductive health and rights of all, in particular young people.

Source: [ASTRA Youth](#)

### **Macedonian youth activists at the SRHR seminar in Paris**

From November 20th to 23rd youth activists from ASTRA Youth member organization, H.E.R.A. were involved in a seminar that took place in Paris, France. The theme of the seminar was to share experiences on resolving SRHR issues in Europe. The purpose of the project was to create a network between several organizations from Macedonia, France, Netherlands, Portugal, Greece and Cyprus. It was focused on discussing experiences of civil society in the field of SRHR. The meeting served also as an occasion to broaden youth activists' perspectives on SRHR realities in other countries. H.E.R.A. activists presented the issue of law on abortion in Macedonia, the general condition of Macedonian society, government's policies and H.E.R.A.'s activities. Other participants shared their experiences and provided some tips on how this 'battle' should be continued.

Source: [H.E.R.A.](#)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **International Conference on Family Planning**

The [International Conference on Family Planning \(#ICFP\)](#) has been rescheduled due to a volcanic eruption on the nearby island of Lombok and will now take place January 25-28, 2016 in Nusa Dua, Indonesia. It will be co-hosted by the National Population and Family Planning Board of Indonesia (Bkkbn) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. This conference is expected to draw the largest number of attendants yet, and the ICFP will help shape and influence the role and contributions of family planning in attaining the new Sustainable Development Goals. The theme is *Global Commitments, Local Actions*. Each day of the conference will feature a plenary session focused on a different track theme. The tracks will feature issue-oriented themes, such as: addressing youth needs and involvement; rights and quality of care: true improvements or lip service; the demographic dividend: how south-to-south exchanges can help its realization; implementation best practices (IBP); advancing FP through faith organizations; FP2020 progress and challenges; innovations in financing (GFF, Universal Health Care); and accountability and advocacy.

Source: <http://fpconference.org/2015>

### **3rd International Congress on Women's Health and Unsafe Abortion**

The 3rd IWAC congress to be held on 26-29 January 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Theme of this congress is "Working Together Towards Global Safe Abortion". To view the preliminary program click [here](#).

Source: [www.womenhealth.or.th](http://www.womenhealth.or.th)

## PUBLICATIONS

### **New factsheet examines efforts to restrict access to abortion in CEE through mandatory waiting periods and biased counseling**

The Center for Reproductive Rights has published a new Fact Sheet on "[Mandatory Waiting Periods and Biased Counseling Requirements in Central and Eastern Europe: Restricting Access to Abortion, Undermining Human Rights, and Reinforcing Harmful Gender Stereotypes](#)". The Fact Sheet presents a comparative overview of the concerning retrogressive trend in abortion law and policy across Central and Eastern Europe and examines how and why these barriers contravene international human rights standards and the World Health Organization's guidelines on safe abortion. It also captures the ways in which these barriers embody harmful gender stereotypes. The Fact Sheet was launched at a briefing on *Retrogressive Barriers to Abortion in Central and Eastern Europe* for the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The briefing was convened by the Center in November. ASTRA members from Hungary, Latvia, and Macedonia along with speakers from Slovakia and the UK participated in the briefing and spoke about the introduction and negative impact of these retrogressive barriers on women's access to legal abortion services.

The Fact Sheet is currently only available in English but will soon be translated into a number of additional languages. Hard copies of the Fact Sheet can be requested from the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Source: [Center for Reproductive Rights](#)

### **Toolkit about abortion messaging**

[How to talk about abortion: A guide to rights-based messaging](#) by IPPF provides useful tips and advice on what to consider when developing materials relating to abortion. The content includes examples of positive, rights-based messages, and how to avoid using stigmatizing language and images. This guide can be used by educators, advocates, programmers, health professionals and policy makers, among others, to help inform the development of a wide range of communication materials.

Source: [IPPF](#)

### **Civil society guide to the Sustainable Development Goals**

[Sustainable Development Goals: A SRHR CSO guide for national implementation](#) by the International Planned Parenthood Federation is a useful tool for all advocates working in the field of human rights, especially sexual and reproductive health and rights. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a framework of 17 goals and 169 targets across social, economic and environmental areas of sustainable development, which United Nations (UN) Member States have committed to making a reality over the next 15 years. The SDGs are to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which expire at the end of 2015, but are much broader in their scope. Unlike the MDGs,

which were focussed on social issues, the SDGs set out targets across all three dimensions – social, economic and environmental - of sustainable development. Furthermore, while the MDGs were targeted at developing countries, the SDGs are applicable to all countries. The SDGs form part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which UN Member States adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.

Source: [IPPF](#)

### **Booklet for young women living with HIV**

IPPF has released a booklet 'Girls Decide: What do I do if I live with HIV and...'. The booklet responds to needs and issues of young women living with HIV. It responds to questions about dating, relationships, sexuality and parenthood. The booklet offers practical information and advice on how to disclose the information on HIV status to family and intimate partner, safer sex practices and advice related to pregnancy and motherhood. It also provides information on contraception and abortion.

The booklet is accessible [here](#).

Source: [IPPF](#)

ASTRA Network Members: Albania - Albanian Family Planning Association; Armenia - Society Without Violence; Armenia - Women's Resource Center; Armenia - Women's Rights Center; Azerbaijan - Center "Women and Modern World"; Belarus - Women's Independent Democratic Movement of Belarus; Bulgaria - Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association; Bulgaria - Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation; Bulgaria - Gender Education, Research and Technologies; Bulgaria - Demetra Association; Bulgaria - Gender Alternatives Foundation; Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo Open Center; Croatia - B.a.b.e.; Croatia – CESI; Croatia - Women's Room; Georgia – HERA XXI; Georgia – Real People, Real Vision; Georgia - Women's Center; Hungary – PATENT; Kazakhstan - The Legal Center for Women's Initiatives "Sana Sezim"; Lithuania - Family Planning and Sexual Health Association; Latvia - Latvia's Association for Family Planning And Sexual Health; Macedonia - Association for emancipation, solidarity and equality of women; Macedonia – H.E.R.A.; Macedonia – Shelter Center; Moldova – Family Planning Association; Moldova - Reproductive Health Training Center; Poland - Federation for Women and Family Planning; Romania - A.L.E.G.; Romania - AnA: Society for Feminist Analysis; Romania - Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives; Romania - The East European Institute of Reproductive Health; Russia - Novogorod Gender Center; Russia – Russian Association for Population and Development; Slovakia – Pro Choice; Tajikistan – Gender and Development; Ukraine - Women Health and Family Planning; Ukraine - Charitable SALUS Foundation; Uzbekistan - Future Generation

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