

# Coalition 'Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalized Communities'

## Advocacy Plan 2011-2014



**The Coalition “Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalized Communities” promotes protection and respect of the fundamental human rights of marginalized communities, to be more precise it promotes equal access to health, social and legal services and inclusion in all social processes, by providing supportive environment for all people, in which equality, freedom and diversity is respected, and where members of marginalized communities actively participate in the struggle to implement their rights and freedoms.**

**The Coalition is a democratic network of citizen’s organizations, based on the principle of equality, horizontal and collaborative actions and decision making based on principles grounded on the framework of human rights.**

**We believe that respect of diversity and the right to choice are the fundamental principles of healthy, tolerant and free society. We recognize in full the needs and requirements of marginalized communities regarding their health, sexuality and freedom to choose the manner of living and habits, and promote the application of these rights. The Coalition believes that enjoying the sexual and health rights of marginalized communities can be implemented in its full solely by active participation and mobilization of representatives of marginalized communities and partnership with all the relevant factors in the society. Thus, we promote comprehensive understanding of sexuality, including emotional, psychological, social and cultural factors while planning and distribution of services, as well as actions based on integral approach in representing human rights and solidarity in all social movements for justice and equality of all people, regardless of their identity, status, characteristics and differences.**

The four main strategic goals of the Coalition are:

1. Promotion of the health of marginalized communities (MC) by increasing the access to quality health, social and legal services;
2. Promotion of MC's rights by creating and promoting laws, policies and practices that prevent discrimination and abuse of MC;
3. Implementing supportive environment, where equality, freedom and diversity is respected in the application of the sexual and health rights of marginalized communities;
4. Stronger participation and activity of marginalized communities in the struggle for application of their rights and freedoms;

In order to accomplish the above elaborated strategic goals the Coalition works on:

- Campaigns for sensitizing the public regarding the rights of MC;
- Promotion of Anti-Discrimination Law in the context of MC;
- Debating and discussing about Sex and Health Rights of MC;
- Creating reference network of doctors and lawyers, sensitized to MC;
- Developing skills with representatives of public institutions (in the field of health, social services etc.) and state bodies (ministries, parliament, local self-government units);
- Instigating court cases for exercising the rights of MC and providing legal assistance;
- Advocacy for establishing specialized (free, quality, voluntary, confidential) services for sex and reproductive health within the frames of the health protection system;
- Introducing sex health as a subject in education;
- Establishing positive legal environment for prevention of discrimination against MC;
- Promotion of Law on Anti-Discrimination in the context of MC;
- Advocating for amendments of a Law on Anti-Discrimination in the context of MC;
- Advocacy for elaboration of national policies;
- Establishing collaboration and partnership with the Ombudsman and the Public Prosecutor;
- Working with the Commissions for Protection of Patients' Rights in the municipalities;

- Documenting violation cases of sex and health rights of MC, elaboration and issuing reports on the sex and health rights state of MC;
- Informing the MC on their rights;
- Active participation of MC in the Coalition activities;
- Organizing activities for the community's reinforcement;
- Motivating the MC to report/instigate cases;
- Organizing activities for raising the political awareness of MC.

In order to fully accomplish its long term, which is to say providing equal access and enjoyment of human rights of marginalized communities and improve their life quality in different social spheres, the Coalition has developed a three year advocacy plan.

## Goal 1

Creating conditions within the health care and social protection systems that will improve the health of marginalized communities

### Objective 1

Till the end of 2014 to Improve the quality of existing treatment and health care services for marginalized communities in Macedonia

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Allies</i>	<i>Implementing organization</i>	<i>Coalition Staff</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Indicator (s) of success</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Supporting the community of drug users to monitor, and advocate for improving the quality of opioid substitution therapy (OST) available through existing treatment centers in Skopje	MoH OST Treatment centers	Drug user community HOPS	HOPS	Irena	Staff Office space	Increased staff in treatment centers Adoption of “individual approach” to treatment	2011-2012
Building evidence for advocacy action by engaging strategic litigation on poor availability and accessibility to health services and treatment for marginalized communities	MoH	Coalition members	Coalition	Natasha	Staff Office space Legal fees Travel	Numerous legal proceedings are initiated Positive outcomes of proceedings Improved treatment in health institutions	2011-2014
Undertaking advocacy actions (meetings, direct advocacy, using media as a advocacy tool) for establishing of a Commission on Quality Control in each hospital, in accordance with Art. 37 of the Law on Patients Rights	MoH Individual hospitals	Ombudsman	Coalition	Zarko Natasha	Staff Office space	Establishment of commissions	2011-2012

**Objective 2**  
**Increasing access to health and social services for marginalized communities**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Allies</i>	<i>Implementing organization</i>	<i>Coalition Staff</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Indicator (s) of success</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Monitoring of the process of decentralisation of OST treatment centers and advocating for the opening of centers in each municipality in Skopje	Local authorities	HOPS Drobova Passage MoH Global Fund Unit	Coalition	Zarko Irena	Staff	OST treatment center opened in each municipality	2011-2014
Providing legal aid for trans individuals seeking access to public health insurance to cover health interventions related to gender transitioning	Public Health Insurance Fund	Ombudsman Helsinki Committee TransGayten WPATH	Coalition	Natasha Slavco	Staff Legal fees	Public Health Insurance covers health interventions for gender transition One successful case of gender transitioning covered by the public health insurance	2011-2014
Advocating for the establishment in each municipality of a Commission on Protection of Patients Rights, in accordance with Art. 41 of the Law on Patients Rights	MoH City of Skopje Municipalities ZELS	Associations for Patients Rights	Coalition	Slavco Zarko Natasha	Staff	Commissions established in each municipality	2011-2014

**Objective 3****Reducing negative attitudes and stigma towards marginalized communities among health and social workers in state institutions**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Allies</i>	<i>Implementing organization</i>	<i>Coalition Staff</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Indicator (s) of success</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Developing and advocating for the introduction of professional seminars to sensitize social workers to issues affecting and related to marginalized communities	Directors of Centres for Social Work Social Workers	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy Institute for Social Activities HOPS HERA	Coalition	Slavc o Irena	Staff External experts Travel and hotel Workshop costs	Number of seminars held Increased sensitization to issues relating to marginalized communities amongst social workers	2012-2013
Advocating for the implementation of guidelines for doctors, social workers and other health care providers on working with marginalized communities	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy MoH	HOPS HERA EGAL	Coalition	Zarko Slavc o	Staff External experts Printing costs	Guidelines implemented	2013-2014

## Goal 2

### Improving the rights of marginalized communities with laws, policies and practices that oppose discrimination and abuse

#### Objective 1

#### Strengthening legal protections for marginalized communities against discrimination and abuse

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Allies</i>	<i>Implementing organization</i>	<i>Coalition Staff</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Indicator (s) of success</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Campaigning for amendments to the Law on Patients' Rights	Parliament MoH	Patients' Rights groups Coalition members Aligned MPs	Coalition	Zarko Natasha	Staff External experts	Amendments submitted Law amended to strengthen protection for marginalized communities	2012-2013
Using legal mechanisms to favourably interpret the Law on Prevention and Protection from Discrimination and influence future changes to the Law	Commission on Protection Against Discrimination Courts	FOSM Network Coalition members	Coalition	Natasha	Staff Legal fees Travel	Numerous legal proceedings initiated Positive outcomes of proceedings	2011-2014
Campaigning for amendments to the Law on Prevention and Protection from Discrimination that will ensure non discrimination towards marginalised communities	Parliament, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy Commission on Protection Against Discrimination	Aligned MPs EU Institutions CoE FOSM Network Coalition members Other NGOs	Coalition	Zarko Slavco	Staff External experts Travel	Amendments submitted Law amended to strengthen protection for marginalized communities	2012-2014



		ILGA-EU					
--	--	---------	--	--	--	--	--

<b>Objective 2</b> <b>Advocating for the introduction of laws and regulations that protect people living with HIV and reduce HIV vulnerability</b>							
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Allies</i>	<i>Implementing organization</i>	<i>Coalition Staff</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Indicator (s) of success</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Campaigning for changes to Art. 205 of the Criminal Code (spreading of infectious diseases), to prevent the criminalization of HIV and misuse against other vulnerable groups such as sex workers	Parliament MoH	Aligned MPs UNAIDS Global Fund CCM Clinic for Infectious Diseases HERA Stronger Together STAR HOPS	Coalition HERA Stronger Together STAR HOPS	Zarko Slavco	Staff External experts Travel	Art. 205 amended to remove criminalization of HIV PLHIV and prevent misuse against vulnerable groups such as sex workers	2013-2014

### Goal 3

## Creating a supportive environment for the equality, freedom, and sexual and reproductive health and rights of marginalized communities

### Objective 1

























#### Challenging the status of sexuality in education


<i>Activity</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Allies</i>	<i>Lead Org</i>	<i>Coalition Staff</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Indicator (s) of success</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Advocating for review and withdrawal of homophobic contents in textbooks	Ministry of Education Bureau for development of education Director of State University (?)	Academics HERA	Coalition	Slavco Zarko	Staff External experts Printing costs Travel	Homophobic content in three to four textbooks withdrawn	2011-2013
Advocating for the introduction of equal opportunity and non-discrimination policies at the University of Skopje	University of Skopje	Students Association MOF Academics	Coalition	Slavco Irena	Staff External experts Travel	Policies introduced	2013-2014

**Objective 2**  
**Changing negative media representation of marginalized communities**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Allies</i>	<i>Lead Org</i>	<i>Coalition Staff</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Indicator (s) of success</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Advocating for the introduction of guidelines on electronic media coverage of marginalized communities	Broadcasting Council	CRM Macedonian Institute for Media	Coalition	Slavco Zarko	Staff External experts	Guidelines introduced by Broadcasting Council	2012-2014
Using research and analysis to advocate for a change in the policies and practices of public institutions related to the media	Broadcasting Council Journalists of Association Directorate for Data Protection Commission on Protection Against Discrimination	Journalists Academics	Coalition	Zarko Irena	Staff External experts Printing costs Meeting costs	Changed policies and practices amongst relevant public institutions related to media	2011, 2014

## Advocacy Plan Timeline

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
<b>Goal 1</b>			
<b>Objective 1</b>			
Supporting the community of drug users to monitor, and advocate for improving the quality of opioid substitution therapy (OST) available through existing treatment centers in Skopje			
Initiating legal cases and procedures for addressing quality of treatment for marginalized communities in health care settings			
Advocating for the establishment of a Commission on Quality Control in each hospital, in accordance with Art. 37 of the Law on Patients Rights			
<b>Objective 2</b>			
Monitoring of the process of de-centralisation of OST treatment centers and advocating for the opening of centers in each municipality in Skopje			
Providing legal aid for trans individuals seeking access to public health insurance to cover health interventions related to gender transitioning			
Advocating for the establishment in each municipality of a Commission on Protection of Patients Rights, in accordance with Art. 41 of the Law on Patients Rights			
<b>Objective 3</b>			
Developing and advocating for the introduction of professional seminars to sensitize social workers to issues affecting and related to marginalized communities			
Advocating for the implementation of guidelines for doctors, social workers and other health care providers on working with marginalized communities			
<b>Goal 2</b>			
<b>Objective 1</b>			
Campaigning for amendments to the Law on Patients' Rights			
Using legal mechanisms to favourably interpret the Law on Prevention and Protection from Discrimination and influence future changes to the Law			
Campaigning for amendments to the Law on Prevention and Protection from Discrimination			
<b>Objective 2</b>			
Campaigning for changes to Art. 205 of the Criminal Code (spreading of infectious diseases), to prevent the criminalization of PLHIV and misuse against other vulnerable groups such as sex workers			
<b>Goal 3</b>			
<b>Objective 1</b>			
Seeking the withdrawal of homophobic contents in textbooks			

Advocating for the introduction of equal opportunity and non-discrimination policies at the University of Skopje			
<b>Objective 2</b>			
Advocating for the introduction of guidelines on electronic media coverage of marginalized communities			
Using research and analysis to advocate for a change in the policies and practices of public institutions related to the media			