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***ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ADVOCACY IN  
THE FIELD OF HIV POLICY:  
CHALLENGES AND EXPECTATIONS***

# ADVOCACY IS ONE OF THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE WORK OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF HIV.



# **FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO MAINTAINING THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ADVOCACY:**

- ✘ **1) Combination of providing services in the field of HIV-service with rights protection and other activities related to advocacy.**
- ✘ ((Possible options: a combination of components of HIV services, and advocacy within the framework of a non-governmental organization, or the formation of functioning coalitions, organizations, associations working in the field of HIV))
- ✘ **Advantages:**
- ✘ - Providing quality HIV services, especially when working with socially disadvantaged groups as well as having various resources for doing this opens a way for cooperation with the government and other public agencies to such organizations.;
- ✘ - collect data on the results of its quality of service delivery and ability to competently handle these data - can prove the importance of the state of civil society in the implementation of preventive and socially oriented work to combat the spread of HIV;
- ✘ - increase the trust of public institutions in civil society organizations;
- ✘ - increase the capacity of NGOs to influence decisions in the field of HIV (participation in the development and review of draft legislation, including NGOs in the implementation of government programs and regulatory framework for this participation, participation in interdepartmental committees and country coordinating committees and others.)

# **FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO MAINTAINING THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ADVOCACY:**

**(CONTINUATION):**

- ✘ 2) Ensuring the sustainability of civil society organizations and their services in order to maintain their ability to advocate
- ✘ 3) Building long-term cooperation with public institutions during service implementation (agreements and memoranda of cooperation, including information about the role of the organization, etc .in the texts of legal acts)

# ***CIVIL SOCIETY AND ADVOCACY IN HIV IN TRANSNISTRIA: EXISTING CHALLENGES***

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- ✘ Following the general trend of reducing the influence of civil society organizations, especially in view of the pro-Russian vector of development in the region and the idea of regulatory harmonization with the Russian Federation
- ✘ Distrust to the activities of civil society organizations, in particular - human rights and association of non-governmental organizations with the political influence of the West
- ✘ Self-stigmatization of PLHIV and risk groups that prevent active participation of interest groups in the activities of NGOs and in the demonstrations of the existing problems
- ✘ Low level of political consciousness of the state representatives regarding the problem of the spreading of HIV and of the methods to overcome it.

# ***CIVIL SOCIETY AND ADVOCACY IN HIV IN TRANSNISTRIA: WAYS TO STRENGTHEN THE IMPACT***

- ✘ 1) Demonstration of "outside of the politics" of the NGO activities in the field of HIV service to enhance confidence in them;
- ✘ 2) Use of the information about the past activities of NGO and its effectiveness for the HIV response;
- ✘ 3) Activity increasing of the representatives of the PLHIV community and groups at risk in NGOs and the demonstration of their problems;;
- ✘ 4) Raising the level of political consciousness of officials on the problem of HIV and the role of NGOs in addressing this problem;
- ✘ 5) Wider use of international standards and mechanisms, claiming the role of NGOs in the HIV response activities;6) Use of all the tools of national legislation for the NGOs participation activation in order to influence the decision-making on HIV;
- ✘ 7) Establishing of cooperation (including the personal level) not only with the state, but also with other structures that are involved in the work with representatives of PLWHIV communities and groups at risk (social services, employment services, etc.).
- ✘ 8) Building constructive relations with religious organizations (for example, while working with young people).

# ***THE ROLE OF AAE IN SUPPORT OF ADVOCACY WORK AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL***

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- ✘ Assistance in the development of the advocacy activities of the HIV NGOs, specializing in providing services);
- ✘ Maintenance of the platform to improve the knowledge of NGOs representatives and to exchange of experience in the field of positive advocacy practices existing in the countries of the region;
- ✘ Assistance in the use of international standards and engaging international institutions to make an impact on the political consciousness of decision makers with respect to HIV and the NGOs role.
- ✘ Engaging international experts to facilitate the implementation and application of international standards in the field of HIV response

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**