



## Всеукраїнська мережа людей, які живуть з ВІЛ/СНІД All-Ukrainian network of people living with HIV/AIDS

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### **Position of All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV on ensuring the right to life and the treatment for HIV-positive citizens of Ukraine located in the Crimea and city of Sevastopol**

In the view of current situation in the Crimea we would like to draw all stakeholders' attention to the fact that as of 01/03/2014 there are 10 117 HIV-positive citizens of Ukraine who are subjects to the regular medical check-ups registered in health care facilities of Crimea and city of Sevastopol. According to the information published by the Ukrainian Centre for Diseases Control 4345 patient (192 of those are children) receive vital antiretroviral drugs procured by the Ukrainian state budget as well the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The treatment of HIV-positive people is lifelong and should not be interrupted therefore in the current circumstances there are significant risks of treatment interruption due to the actual stock out of drugs. We would like to stress that for 561 patients, including 57 patients in penitentiary institutions receiving treatment that is funded by the Global Fund the stock of drugs will suffice up to April 2014. Due to the current situation the logistic company has not been able to deliver drugs to the Crimea and city of Sevastopol. The drugs procured from the state budget have not been delivered in full.

The Network draws the attention of government agencies (Ministry of Health, the National Security Council, the Security Service), international organizations (WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF) and health care facilities in Crimea to the fact that 4345 HIV-positive people (192 of them - children) treated in institutions of Ministry of Health of Ukraine, starting from today will be under the threat of treatment interruption, which can lead to fatal consequences and uncontrolled explosion of HIV / AIDS on the peninsula of Crimea.

The Network appeals to all stakeholders, and especially to the representatives of government agencies, international organizations and NGOs to start active work to ensure the right to life of citizens of Ukraine located in the Crimea and Sevastopol.

Please note that the issue of treatment provision applies to all patients with chronic diseases.

As a national leader in the coordination of country's efforts in the field of HIV / AIDS the Network is ready to become the coordinator of the activities aimed at developing mechanisms to ensure the rights to life and treatment for HIV-positive residents of Crimea.

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*«All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH" (hereinafter - the Network ) is an organization which purpose is to provide protection of basic rights of life and medical care for every citizen of Ukraine affected by HIV / AIDS.. True to its principles the Network in its thirteen years of activity has brought together 550 activists in all regions of Ukraine to ensure the basic rights of 139,573 HIV -positive citizens of Ukraine. The Network successfully unite efforts of government agencies, international donors and local NGO to create and ensure reliable access to high quality medical services based on the European standards. In 2005 on the Network's basis, was created by Eastern European and Central Asian association of people living with HIV , which successfully operates and integrates the efforts of national communities of PLWH from sixteen countries in the region ( Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus , Georgia , Estonia, Kazakhstan , Kyrgyzstan, Latvia , Lithuania , Moldova, Mongolia , Poland, Russia, Tajikistan , Uzbekistan, Ukraine )*