

# Global Mapping of Harm Reduction Services for Women who Use Drugs

**With a gender lens, we see women who use drugs are inadequately served.**



**Commitment to 'see' and meet the harm reduction needs of women must be redoubled in all countries.**

The global spread of harm reduction services is stalling, a continuation of a trend first observed in 2012<sup>1</sup>. Women are estimated to account for one third people who use drugs globally yet are consistently reported to have less access to harm reduction services and to be at higher risk of HIV and hepatitis C infection.

Tools do exist to enable harm reduction services to increase their relevance and reach for women who use drugs (WUD). These include use of a gender lens and gender mainstreaming in planning and service delivery. Services that have introduced such approaches are thin on the ground and where these do exist, it is often difficult or not possible to document and promote the outcome. As a result, robust data on this subject is scarce. In addition, research on drug use and related health issues rarely produces information about women and harm reduction.

In this context, to leverage greater accountability from governments that have endorsed UN guidelines and resolutions around the provision of services for WUD, it is important to document and promote such services where they do exist. By documenting successful harm reduction services for women, models can be incorporated, replicated, resourced and established.

With this in mind, the Women and Harm Reduction International Network (WHRIN) undertook surveys and desk research to map women friendly harm reduction services around the world. This report provides a summary of regional findings as well as common global trends. Also included is a 'living' listing by Regions of services with a brief description and links for more detail where available.

WHRIN invite readers to add to this list - where exiting services are not listed, details of services are incomplete or are incorrect.

### **Method**

Regional focal points assisted WHRIN to compile lists of key informants, including WUD, with a good understanding of harm reduction services available in their country. Separate short survey monkeys were created per region and translated into Arabic, French, Russian, Spanish and Ukrainian. Each translation used the same questions to identify key barriers to service access and to describe and 'map' harm reduction services designed for women.

### **Limitations**

While helpful data emerged from the WHRIN 2020 survey, it was also clear that many respondents were unclear concerning definitions of both 'harm reduction services' (with some respondents pointing to, for example, women only rehabilitation centres) and 'designed for women' (where many respondents listed harm reduction services which were generic assuming that as some women attended the service, it was therefore 'designed' for women). To address these issues, an update and validation follow-up survey was conducted in 2021, once again with the support of regional focal points and translations as needed. This survey focussed specifically on service design definitions, emphasising that harm reduction services designed for women are those that can demonstrate accounting for and attempting to address the specific needs of WUD. General services such as needle and syringe programmes (NSP) were therefore not included unless there was an associated service element specific to improving access for women (for example, women only service space or times, meaningful involvement of WUD in service delivery, integrated gender non-conforming services, services for woman engaged in sex work, gender-based violence (GBV) services and sexual and reproduction health (SRH) services). The definition of harm reduction used in this mapping exercise aligns with [this outline](#) from Harm Reduction International.

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<sup>1</sup> HRI. Global State of Harm Reduction: 2019 updates, <https://www.hri.global/global-state-of-harm-reduction-2019>

WHRIN acknowledge significant limitations to the approach of relying primarily on participation from its membership and other recommended contacts. In some cases, a country or state participant could not be identified, or there was not a full complement of participants for every state/country. The surveys were short, simple, not available in all languages and may not have delivered required specificity in all cases. For these reasons, this mapping report cannot be described as exhaustive, but does serve to initiate the charting and promotion of services for women who use drugs around the world.

***If you wish to add a service from your country to this living mapping document, please reach out to [ruth@whrin.site](mailto:ruth@whrin.site). Likewise if you see a program that is no longer running, has an inaccurate description or you have better descriptive links, please get in touch.***

## **Asia**

Responses were received from Bhutan, Japan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Vietnam.

Only India, Myanmar and Nepal reported any specific harm reduction services designed for WUD. These were not nationwide programmes. This finding is alarming as an estimated half of the global population of women who use drugs live in the Asian region.

In some countries such as the Philippines, the intensification of the ‘war of drugs’ continues to pose considerable risk for drug users, while harm reduction services are absent. This intensification has resulted in a dramatic increase in incarceration of WUD in prisons and drug ‘treatment’ facilities (in particular Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam) where ‘treatment’ remains unregulated, largely without scientific basis, non-consensual and often associated with human rights violations.

The lack of access to effective SRH and harm reduction services for WUD in closed settings across the region is a growing concern. The criminal justice response to WUD intensifies stereotypes of WUD as ‘bad women’ which in contributes to the stigma and discrimination of WUD from both social networks and state institutions. These are expressed by the lack of legal and social services for women experiencing GBV, abuse of privacy and confidentiality by staff at health facilities and the normalisation of violence and abuse of power by criminal justice officers in their interactions with WUD.

## **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**

Responses were received from Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine/East Jerusalem, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

There is an urgent need to introduce and expand harm reduction services designed for women across the region. During 2020, the Bridge Hope Health Organisation in Kabul, Afghanistan was providing NSP and wound care to WUD, however following the change of government in September 2021, it is unknown if this service remains accessible.

The impact of community conservatism and other socio-cultural issues, including religious and rural conservatism was cited by several survey participants as contributing to the lack of SRH and harm reduction services across the region. Moreover, when available, these services tended to prioritise abstinence-based drug treatment over provision of harm reduction services to WUD.

Iran is a noticeable exception. During 2021, twenty ‘drug treatment centres’ provided a range of harm reduction and ancillary services, including accommodation, to more than 6000 Iranian WUD through women only programmes. In addition to community-based services, Iran provides opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in women’s prisons alongside cultural and vocational activities for women prisoners.

## **North America**

Responses were received from Canada and the USA.

Across North America the impacts of prohibition are experienced variably according to state and province, ethnic and economic divisions. For example, in rural areas and on reserves and reservations, services for WUD are practically non-existent. Given the shortfall of adequately funded harm reduction services generally, in both countries services by and for women who use drugs are rare.

Survey participants consistently identified the lack of childcare and fear of child apprehension and stigma, a general lack of women-specific services and inadequate funding for such services as key gaps in both countries. Peculiar to the USA, a direct correlation is found at State level between prohibition fuelled punitive 'foetal abuse' laws and a dearth of harm reduction services for women. Participants also reported the need for harm reduction services to be more inclusive of trans women, women experiencing mental health issues, homeless women, women engaged in sex work and women experiencing GBV. A positive trend was noted in Canada with the emergence of women designed and led harm reduction services that are advocating for and effectively responding to the needs of WUD (albeit at limited scale). Findings highlight the need for decision makers to tackle discrimination and stigma head on and to decriminalise drug use in both countries. There is also an urgent need to provide peer-led women specific harm reduction services as a safe and non-judgemental space for WUD including those with children.

## **Oceania**

Responses were received from Australia and New Zealand.

Australian participants identified the disparity in access to harm reduction services between rural and remote regions and urban areas. A lack of interventions for people consuming stimulants was also reported. There is insufficient investment in gender specific harm reduction services for WUD. A lack of understanding amongst health and social care services of harm reduction approaches, particularly in the area of child protection, added to fear among WUD with children of losing their children due to stigma and punitive measures imposed by the State. Neo natal and parenting' programs/services are typically state-run services that are not underpinned by a harm reduction philosophy per se or often do not express these principles in the implementation.

Women who use drugs face barriers in accessing GBV services including emergency accommodation. Respondents also identified the need for services that support older WUD who may have other age-related conditions. The lack of availability of OAT and NSP for women in prisons was reported from both New Zealand and Australia.

## **Latin America**

Responses were received from Brazil, Columbia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru.

Harm reduction services designed specifically for WUD were only reported in Brazil and Mexico. The Mexico City Community centre had a dedicated safe injection site specifically for WUD. The criminalisation of drugs combined with widespread poverty has increased the incarceration of women serving drug related prison sentences across the region. No respondents identified prison-based harm reduction services for WUD, paralleling the lack of community-based harm reduction services across the region. Participants reported that available drug 'treatment' were mainly privately run abstinence-based centres based on religious principles where human rights violations including deprivation of liberty are common. In addition to the gendered impacts of the war on drugs, the combination of the dominance



of the ‘machismo’ culture and religious norms has rendered issues of gender inequality a low priority for political leaders. Inadequate resourcing and implementation for SRH and GBV and a severe shortage of harm reduction services for women was also reported.

### **Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA)**

Responses were received from Belarus, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Slovenia, Russia, Ukraine.

Respondents reported WUD lacked choice in accessing services where they exist, a lack of treatment services including OAT, a lack of shelter, childcare, social services and psychological help, all in a context of punitive and discriminatory responses to WUD. The ambiguity over the legal status of harm reduction was emphasised as critical in Russia. In Belarus, public organizations are being persecuted by the government and activists are leaving the country because of criminalization. Harm reduction programs are under threat closure. Other issues identified across the region included restrictions on employment opportunities, deprivation of parental rights, and discrimination from medical officers, police and neighbours against WUD. Among the too few positive initiatives for WUD, Women Initiating New Goals of Safety (WINGS), a short intervention and therapeutic tool designed to identify various types of gender-based violence among women and enhance safety was active in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

### **Africa (East, West and South)**

Responses were received from Burundi, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa and Zanzibar.

Throughout the region, WUD are stereotyped as ‘immoral women’, and experienced widespread social marginalization and discrimination. Mapping results suggest that women in East, West and Southern Africa had limited or no access to a comprehensive range of harm reduction services for WUD. The criminalisation of drug use, a lack of harm reduction services and gender based violence were identified as the key barriers to access. The domination of existing services by male service users and stigma and discrimination against WUD also limit women’s access. Other service gaps are childcare services (including for women in drug treatment), housing and crisis shelters. Few services provide for the specific needs of WUD. It seemed that a key factor underlying the lack of access to harm reduction and other necessary services is widespread stigma and discrimination against WUD.

### **Western Europe**

Responses were received from England, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden.

In general, the populist punitive politics towards WUD across the region accounted for the overall lack of adequate and appropriate gender-based harm reduction services. A lack of ‘hard-core’ activism was noted in Sweden. In Greece the absence of services responding to migrant women decreases their access to harm reduction and SRH services. The lack of shelter for women, institutional violence and male chauvinism combine with the absence of an intersectional approach in harm reduction programs in Spain contributing to the lack of effective harm reduction services for WUD.

## The global condition of harm reduction services for women

Most country level respondents reported that there were no harm reduction services available for women who use drugs. This was particularly evident in survey results from Africa, Latin America, EECA, Asia and the Middle East. There is a clear, large and unacceptable disparity in availability of harm reduction services for women between the global north and south. However even in the global north, no country demonstrated availability of such services to scale.

Globally, the key barriers to service access for women are the criminalization of drug use and gender inequality. The correlation between conservative governments, gender inequality and the populist support of punitive drug policies is explicit in the absence of harm reduction services for women. Existing state, social and economic inequalities experienced by women are greater for WUD, a reality clearly echoed through survey responses. Women who use drugs are victimised, judged more harshly than men who use drugs and as a consequence, punished more harshly. Examples of gender-based punishments include the exclusion of pregnant women from accessing harm reduction services and the global increase in incarceration rates of women serving drug related sentences.

The lack of harm reduction services designed and implemented by women with lived experience of drug use is highlighted by the identification of domination of harm reduction programs by male clients. Limited 'women specific' times and spaces to accommodate WUD and their children, if available at all, was noted. A lack of women peer staff was also reported.

The needs of WUD who are trans women, both young and older women, pregnant, experiencing GBV, who are homeless and who are engaged in sex work, need to be incorporated into existing services, coordinated by peers who are empathic and non-judgemental. In addition, respondents from all regions called for integration of services to respond to the range of intersectional issues impacting WUD.

The urgent need for effective harm reduction services in closed settings such as women's prisons and compulsory drug treatment centres reflects the gendered impacts of the criminalization of drug use. The call for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services responding to the increased rates of STIs and BBV transmission experienced by women incarcerated for drug violations, along with access to OAT, NSP, and ART and TB treatment in women's prisons, were also shared by respondents from all regions.

A lack of political will from leaders to address these issues was evident. Governments and policy makers must be held accountable and take firm action in addressing the issues highlighted in this mapping report. High level leadership combined with grassroots civil society co-ordination is required to uphold the health and human rights of women who use drugs.

*WHRIN is committed to advocating for the health and other rights of women who use drugs. WHRIN encourages members to share information about harm reduction services that are responding to the needs of women (please contact [ruth@whrin.site](mailto:ruth@whrin.site)).*  
*Your contributions are valued and important in optimising the potency of this mapping report as an advocacy tool.*

## Annex 1. Asia

### India

- ▶ National AIDS Control Organization, NE States (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur): has 7 'targeted interventions' with OAT and NSP for women who use drugs.
- ▶ Demonstration sites, Punjab. A demonstration site for women who use drugs funded under the Harm Reduction Advocacy in Asia grant (Global Fund). The project provides the WHO recommended comprehensive packages of HR services specific to women who use drugs. Another program is in Punjab supported by HIV Alliance. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349767610\\_One\\_Stop\\_Integrated\\_Model\\_for\\_Women\\_Who\\_Use\\_Drugs\\_in\\_Punjab\\_An\\_Implementation\\_Document](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349767610_One_Stop_Integrated_Model_for_Women_Who_Use_Drugs_in_Punjab_An_Implementation_Document) [https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2020/march/20200302\\_Kapurthala](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2020/march/20200302_Kapurthala)

### Myanmar

- ▶ Best Shelter, Lashio and Panwah/Phimaw (Kachin State). Focused on harm reduction and health promotion, Best Shelter are implementing a project that aims to build a peer support system for women who use drugs, by engaging and training women for outreach and peer education. Peer supports refer women who use drugs to quality drug dependency and STI treatment services. The project sites are Lashio and Panwah/Phimaw (Kachin). <https://ahrnmyanmar.org/what-we-do/drop-in-centre-female/>
- ▶ AHRN. Lashio, Waimaw, Bamaw, Tarmakhan Kachin, Shan. Women specific harm reduction services include integrated SRH services including family planning, pre/post-natal care referral for women who require special medical treatment to hospital for child delivery or miscarriages. The centre also offers psychosocial counselling to promote open discussions between partners about safer sex and drug injection. Where possible women peer-driven outreach and social network screening have been established. WUD corners are set up in AHRN DICs's project sites. Due to funding constraints, there are no permanent women-specific corners nor separate women only DIC. AHRN provide services to Women's health (WUDs, Partners) in other AHF funded 9 project sites in Kachin, Shan, Sagaing with specific women STI days, clinic days etc. <https://www.tni.org/en/article/women-and-drugs-in-myanmar-beyond-harm-reduction>
- ▶ Metta Development Foundation in Kachin State provides women focused services such as recruiting women outreach workers to locate and engage with women clients, allocating women friendly spaces at their DIC so that clients can seek advice for their health needs and services including SRH. The Metta centre, also provides women-focused health education sessions. However, these services have been curtailed since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://mohinga.info/en/profiles/activity/41000-6695/>
- ▶ MdM Kachin State, is facilitating women specific HR services through a Womens Advisory Group. The group regularly engages with WUD in efforts to overcome barriers in accessing health care services and for sharing harm reduction knowledge, the group also manages NSP and distributes sanitary items. In addition, following consultation with WUD, MdM clinics in Kachin State run women friendly services on selected days. Specific medical services are available for women drug users (such as contraception); with women-friendly IEC materials (Sexual and Reproductive Health, Gender-based Violence, etc.) There is also a women only DIC in Moegaung Township, Kachin State. <https://www.cpintl.org/field-notes--updates/balanceforbetter-reaching-female-drug-users-in-kachin-state-myanmar>

### Nepal

- ▶ RN Women 6 DICs 8 districts, with NSP, run by women including some peers, testing, referral, space

for women with children, commodities include distribution of sanitary pads. [https://www.instagram.com/rn\\_women/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/rn_women/?hl=en)

- ▶ Dristi – 1 DIC in 2 districts for WUD – counselling – with linkages to SRH and GBV services (legal support, reporting), women only (with NSP). In process of contract bridging with country level PR. <http://dristinepal.com/index.html>



## Annex 2. Middle East North Africa

### Iran

The following five centers are all women only. All five reported that their services are designed for women by adjusting their services hours and employing only women staff. All are run by NGOs under the guidance of the Government of Iran.

- The Valiasr center located in Shiraz provides a DIC and shelter for WUD. Valiasr provides HIV prevention education, NSP, a halfway house, peer outreach, OAT, HIV testing and treatment (HTC) and ART.
- The Tavalod Dobare center located in Tehran provides shelter for WUD.
- The Noore Sepide Hedayat centre located in Tehran provides a range of services for WUD including -OAT, NSP, HIV prevention and education, a referral system, shelter and peer outreach. The centers shelter provide accommodation for women to stay at night on adjusted hours (from 6 PM until 9 AM and the women must be active drug users ). [en.nooresepid.com](http://en.nooresepid.com).
- The Navide Hamraze Iranian is a drop-in center located in Tehran. The service provides HIV prevention and education resources, a referral system, OAT, NSP, peer outreach services, HTC and ART.
- The Mikhak Centre located in Tehran provides HIV prevention and education resources, a referral system, OAT, NSP, peer outreach services, HTC and ART.
- Khaneh Khorshid is a harm reduction and social support center for women with an outreach group, services for homeless, referral services, offering: safe box, HIV prevention education, dental services, occupation training, social supports such as renting a house and clothing.

## Annex 3. North America

### Canada

- St John's Status of Women Council, St. John's, NL: Operates a supportive housing program assisting women who want additional support to maintain housing and utilise a harm reduction approach. The Women's Centre offers a drop-in, outreach, free clothing DV support, rape crisis, counselling, medical services <https://sjwomenscentre.ca/programs/st-johns-womens-centre/> The Safe Harbour Outreach Project (SHOP) is designed to meet the needs of single women and non-binary people over the age of 30, without dependents in their care, providing free harm reduction and health services to sex workers <https://sjwomenscentre.ca/programs/shop> <https://sjwomenscentre.ca/programs/marguerites-place.SHOP>,
- Elixir, Sherbrooke, QC: offers harm reduction support for women 16+, including a service for sexual violence, drug use and nightlife. <https://elixir.qc.ca/sois-pro/>
- IRIS services develop community action against HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne services for LGBTQ and WUD [irisestrie.org](http://irisestrie.org) | [info@irisestrie.org](mailto:info@irisestrie.org)
- Stella: Support and advocacy for sex workers, incorporating harm reduction in its range of services <https://chezstella.org/en/home/>
- COUNTERfit, Toronto, ON: (South Riverdale Community Health Centre): offers weekly drop-in breakfast with support groups including for mothers who have lost children to child welfare authorities, pre-employment and one-on-one support for WUD staffed by WUD. <https://www.srchc.ca/programs/harm-reduction/counterfit-womens-harm-reduction-program/>
- Sistering, Toronto, ON: offers 24/7 drop-in for homeless women, including meals, showers, harm reduction, housing support, counselling and onsite access to primary healthcare with family physicians, psychiatrist and nurse, pets welcome <https://sistering.org/harm-reduction/>
- Maggié's, Toronto, ON: By and for sex workers, it offers education, advocacy, legal support, harm reduction services and support to live and work with safety and dignity - [https://www.maggiesto.org/?fbclid=IwAR3f\\_4Z8LoGccqE4Wj5kVHhQ9jkVJEC\\_3fD22xazecGMMABIrGuJbmGQo344](https://www.maggiesto.org/?fbclid=IwAR3f_4Z8LoGccqE4Wj5kVHhQ9jkVJEC_3fD22xazecGMMABIrGuJbmGQo344)
- KAPOW (Knowledge and Power of Women); Toronto, ON: (located in Parkdale Community Health Centre): offers a weekly drop-in support and education program with some staff with lived experience. <https://pqwchc.org/programs-services/harm-reduction/kapow-knowledge-and-power-of-women/>
- Adelaide Resource Centre for Women/Fred Victor Women's 24-hour drop-in, Toronto, ON: operates 24 hours/7 days a week to provide women and gender non-conforming folks with access to basic necessities, programming, full-service harm reduction site, and supplies, support and referrals. <https://www.fredvictor.org/what-we-do/health-services/drop-ins-community-programs/>
- Fred Victor Women's 24-hour drop-in Safe Space: Harm reduction-based support for sex workers, offering harm reduction and first aid supplies, HIV and STI/STD educational resources and testing days, cosmetics, clothing, hygiene products, food, coffee, tea, peer support and information about current services and resources.
- My Sisters Space, London ON. Drop-in support centre for women 16 years and older. Services include information and referral, meals, shower and laundry services, counselling, computer and phone access, day beds, harm reduction, NSP, case management, Indigenous women's program, and a nurse practitioner-led clinic. <https://www.safespace.london.ca/>
- Manito Ikwe Kagiikwe/Mothering Project, and Sage House at Mount Carmel Clinic, Winnipeg, MB: offers one-on-one, groups, health care and Indigenous cultural/spiritual support for pregnant WUD, and comprehensive drop-in services and harm reduction services for women-identifying persons <https://www.mountcarmel.ca/events/category/sage-house/list/>

- Our Place Safe Space, Winnipeg, MB: offers Friday drop-in with harm reduction resources for sex workers of all genders, but largely accessed by women. <https://www.spenceneighbourhood.org/opss>
- West Central Women's Resource Centre Drop In, Winnipeg, WB: offers harm reduction supplies, meals, hygiene supplies, info/workshops, referrals and includes childcare. <https://wcwrc.ca/dropin/>
- North End Women's Centre, Winnipeg, MB: offers drop-in, centre, showers, hygiene supplies, harm reduction services and follow up housing, health, counselling and family services. <https://newcentre.org/>
- The Healthy, Empowered and Resilient (H.E.R.) Pregnancy Project, Edmonton, AB: Involves 4 outreach workers, 1 social worker and 2 registered nurses to enhance services for pregnant women who are not accessing prenatal care or receiving less than adequate prenatal care. Harm reduction focus with access to clean inhalation as well as injection and safer snorting resources. A safe place for women to get connected to safe consumption sites, or if they would like connections to some form of safe supply or Methadone/ suboxone. Non-judgmental care of women who use drugs. <http://www.streetworks.ca/pro/aswcomponents.html>
- SisterSpace, Vancouver, BC: offers harm reduction services for women who inject drugs, including a casual, staff and peer-supported injection room, health education, access to treatment and health care services, housing support, legal advocacy and other related services on site - <https://atira.bc.ca/what-we-do/program/sisterspace/>
- SisterSquare, an outdoor tent option site where women can get help testing their drugs for fentanyl, and have a warm, dry space to use without feeling the need to rush in order to avoid harassment or violence. <https://theyee.ca/News/2020/05/26/SisterSquare-DTES-Popup-Refuge/>
- Sheway, Vancouver, BC: offers health and social services for women who use drugs to support positive pregnancy and early parenting experiences, community integrated/wraparound services, including advocacy, health, housing, legal support and music therapy. [http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res\\_id=900](http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=900)
- Her Way Home, Vancouver, BC: offers pregnancy and parenting supports for WUD including health care, counselling, infant and child services nutrition, information and outreach supports. <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/pregnancy-birth-babies/herway-home>

## USA

- Honouring Individual Power and Strength, Washington, DC: drop-in and outreach services for sex workers and people who use drugs, including groups, housing, mental health and treatment support. <https://www.hips.org2>.
- The Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition works to improve health care access and quality for trans and gender non-conforming people. The Coalition offers hormone injection support to trans folks and NSP, HIV/HCV testing, case managers for housing, health insurance and employment support for people who use drugs. <https://www.mntransgenderhealth.org/>
- Harm Reduction Sisters, Duluth, MN: offers feminist-based harm reduction services including NSP, resource linkage and advocacy, confidential mobile services, HIV testing and navigation, naloxone, and overdose education <https://harmreductionsisters.org/>
- River Valley Organizing / UnHarming Ohio: Women and Sex Workers who use Drugs Union Chapters. East Liverpool and Portsmouth Ohio. These chapters are specifically for women who use drugs and women sex workers who use drugs with dedicated drop-in times. RVO has a DIC and provides essential supplies for WUD including syringes, Fentanyl test strips. <https://www.rivervalleyorganizing.org>
- The People's Harm Reduction Alliance: Providing DIC, NSP (fixed, mobile and mail), low threshold OAT, HCV education testing, treatment support, sex worker outreach, full spectrum doula's, repro-

ductive health specific services for sex workers and full spectrum services for pregnant WUD. [www.phra.org](http://www.phra.org).

- Wilmington, NC Syringe Exchange Program: Provides NSP, OD supplies, free clothes, food and toiletries, with Friday as women only day. <https://psmag.com/social-justice/meet-the-women-fighting-for-gender-equality-in-drug-treatment>.
- New England Users Union: Offers a women's only day, services for women who engage in survival sex and a weekly women's/non-binary harm reduction discussion meeting. <https://www.facebook.com/NewEnglandUsersUnion/>
- Washington Heights Corner Project Harm Reduction and SSP Program: New York, provides 'Ladies' Night' and harm reduction weekly session hosted by the Mission Neighbourhood Health Center. <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/20-8672015#summary>
- Goodworks: North Alabama. Harm reduction services and community resource hub with outreach projects for anyone in need regardless of substance use, homelessness, income, race, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Focusing on LGBTQIA services and women specific resources through support, housing resources and harm reduction approaches. <https://www.facebook.com/goodworkshuntsville>
- Sparc: Baltimore, offers a range of onsite clinical HIV/STI testing and counselling, PrEP, reproductive health, drug treatment, behavioural/mental health and structural/legal aid, housing referrals and other services to women (including all who identify as women). Also provides a safe place for women to relax, access health, legal and support services, space to share experiences with other women and engage in community development and empowerment activities. [www.sparcbaltimore.com](http://www.sparcbaltimore.com)
- Whose Corner is it Anyway: A Western MA mutual aid, harm reduction, political education and organizing group led by stimulant and opioid using low-income, survival, or street-based sex workers. All members are current or former low-income sex workers who either use/have used stimulants and/or opioids, are/have been homeless, or work/ have worked outside. Services include low threshold employment, mutual aid to members, volunteer outreach, supplies and safe work resources and support/peer groups. Bi-lingual, trauma informed counselling through story-telling <https://www.gofundme.com/f/whose-corner-is-it-anyway/>
- North Carolina Survivors Union: Offers women focused resources such as a "Narcofeminism Storyshare" program offering women safe space to share experiences, get resources and support, NSP, reproductive justice work, advocacy for women who use drugs. <https://ncurbansurvivorunion.org>
- People's Harm Reduction Alliance (PHRA), Seattle. Provide doula support for pregnant WUD in the Seattle/Puget Sound area, offering pregnancy tests, hygiene products, and reproductive health resources. <http://phra.org/welcome#phra>
- Sonoran Prevention Works: Harm reduction outreach workers provide support to women who are pregnant, parenting, with baby showers for women who use illicit drugs. Women counsellors available. <https://spwaz.org/>
- MATSA - Medication Assisted Treatment Support and Awareness. An online based support and awareness community for people on MAT, with specific resources, information, advocacy and education for women on both methadone and buprenorphine. Advocacy specific for child welfare/reproductive justice rights as well as MAT specific education for WUD seeking MAT or on MAT. [www.facebook.com/MedicationAssistedTreatment](http://www.facebook.com/MedicationAssistedTreatment)
- Academy of Perinatal Harm Reduction: Devoted to building a community of parenting and pregnant people who use drugs and parenting and pregnant people with lived experience of drug use by providing training and free online educational resources concerning pregnancy and parenting. <https://www.perinatalharmreduction.org/>

## Annex 4. Oceania

### Australia

- Women's alcohol and drug service, Victoria provides medical care, counselling and support to women with complex substance use, neo-natal care, OAT and related services. (Specialist hospitals in other states may provide similar services however 'the women's' appears particularly holistic in approach). <https://www.thewomens.org.au/health-professionals/maternity/womens-alcohol-and-drug-service>
- Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA), Canberra .This peer-based organization runs several smaller projects/campaigns committed to addressing specific issues of women who use drugs. These projects have been successful in engaging a number of women who use drugs who require assistance. <https://www.cahma.org.au/>.
- Women's Health and Family Services, Western Australia. Women and New-born Drug and Alcohol Service (WANDAS) clinical and social support, care and information for pregnant women with alcohol and drug dependency. <https://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/Our-services/Service-directory/WANDAS>
- NTAHC Care and Support Program - Women's Health Program. Darwin, NT. Women's care and support roles targeting all key populations including women with a history of drug use as peer workers. In addition to regular harm reduction services, MoUs have been developed with GBV service providers to create smooth referral pathways. The program assists in finding employment and housing along with providing emergency relief funds, referrals to legal aid and immigration support. <https://www.ntahc.org.au/care-and-support>
- DanceWize GBV service, Victoria is an auxiliary add on to DanceWize peer harm reduction services designed to provide support to women (and other people) experiencing sexual violence or other forms of harm at music festivals. It provides expert GBV training and consultation on preventing, recognizing and responding to GBV in the context of festivals and with people who use drugs, to event staff as well as onsite counselling services and a safe space. All counsellors are experts in responding to sexual assault, violence and trauma and have a thorough understanding of barriers to disclosing at events and festivals. They provide crisis counselling, advocacy and support/referrals to women (and others who experience GBV) in care. There's a more detailed explanation of the auxiliary service on the website. <https://www.hrvic.org.au/dancewize>

### New Zealand

- The Auckland CADS (Community Alcohol and Drug Service) have a pregnancy and parental service which can help support pregnant women and parents of under 3s access various services including OAT, parenting services and more. <https://www.cads.org.nz/>
- The Hamilton CADS (Community Alcohol and Drug Service) has a women-only harm reduction group <https://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/about-us/a-z-of-services/mental-health-and-addictions/community-alcohol-and-drugs/>



## Annex 5. Latin America

### Brazil

- Programa Atitude - Intensivo mulher. This programme includes gender specific harm reduction services to WUD and also provides support to their families. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Programa-Atitude-364536906988748/about/>.
- Tulipas. Harm reduction services for women and capacity to cater for children, <https://tulipasdocerrado.com.br/tulipas/somos/>

### Mexico

- Community centre with a dedicated safe injection site specifically for women who use drugs. The mission and vision for this program refers to social, political and cultural empowerment for women in need. <http://verter.org.mx/>

## Annex 6. Eastern Europe Central Asia

### Belarus

- The Republican Public Organization ‘Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs’ works with women sex workers, some of whom are WUD. Services are focused on the specific needs of women. Services are provided in a separate location, at a separate time from when men attend. Reception is conducted by women social workers and a woman lawyer specializes in providing advice on social issues, including maternity and childhood protection. There are services for free and anonymous rapid HIV tests and coupons for free and anonymous examination of sexually transmitted infections. Condoms, NSP, sanitary napkins and alcohol napkins are provided for free.

### Kyrgyzstan

- Public Foundation Asteria. Crisis center with a shelter for WUD, but the length of stay is limited. Provides food, medication and hygienic means, social navigation, harm reduction-oriented education, legal support, referral services and self-support groups. There are pregnancy management protocols for women on OAT. <https://glori.kg/en/our-partners/asteria-public-foundation/>

### Russia

- Committee for Social Policy, St. Petersburg On request, during outreach work, women are offered consultations with various specialists: doctors, social workers, psychologists. Women are also offered referrals to the city’s medical institutions and social services, to “trusted specialists” who work with WUD without judgement. <https://haf-spb.org/projects/pomoshh-zhenshinam-v-trudnoj-zhiznen-noj-situaczii/>

### Ukraine

- Club Eney, Kiev. Provides WINGS (Women Initiating New Goals of Safety) in Ukraine adapted for WUD offering innovative GBV screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment at harm reduction services with women-specific HIV testing and counselling. WINGS is designed to identify various types of gender-based violence among women and enhance safety. <https://clubeney.org.ua/action/struggle-against-violence/>

## Annex 7. West, South and E Africa

### Kenya

- MEWA, Mombasa offers women specific programmes, including drop-in centres and ancillary services (e.g. showers, women's hygiene kits, nutritional support and laundry) that have also increased access to health services, methadone and NSPs. Women's safe space activities take place weekly and GBV couples sessions target WUD and their sexual partners to create awareness and information on GBV prevention and responses. [http://fileserver.idpc.net/library/Mainlines\\_sober\\_facts\\_on\\_women\\_who\\_use\\_drugs\\_in\\_Kenya.pdf](http://fileserver.idpc.net/library/Mainlines_sober_facts_on_women_who_use_drugs_in_Kenya.pdf)
- Women Nest, Nairobi . Women Nest offers shelter for WUD especially those experiencing intimate partner violence, provides sustainable livelihood activities and conducts advocacy for increased access to harm reduction and sexual and productive health services. Women Nest also works with incarcerated WUD to provide a safe space after imprisonment. <https://www.facebook.com/womennestkenya>  
<https://www.womennest.org/>

### Madagascar

- AINGA Risk Reduction Center /AIDES at 3 sites (Antananarivo, Antsiranana, Toamasina). Services include sexual reproductive health and counseling services specific to women, family planning services and HIV testing. [https://www.initiative5pour100.fr/sites/default/files/ressource-doc/Rapport\\_I5-2017-VA-web-pap-complet.pdf](https://www.initiative5pour100.fr/sites/default/files/ressource-doc/Rapport_I5-2017-VA-web-pap-complet.pdf)

### Mauritius

- AILES: Ailes and Parapli Rouz offer service delivery for women by women, including NSP and condoms with client led options for counselling or support, meaningful involvement in day to day running of program activities, SRH services and accompaniment for GBV service referrals. <https://genderlinks.org.za/casestudies/ailes-rehabilitating-people-who-use-drugs-and-people-living-with-hiv/>

### Mozambique

- UNIDOS/MSF and Mozambican Network of PWUD (MozPUD) For WUD there are SRH and family planning services on Wednesdays. (MozPUD) provides community outreach for WUD. [https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/11034/crg\\_2021-midtermassessmentmozambique\\_report\\_en.pdf](https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/11034/crg_2021-midtermassessmentmozambique_report_en.pdf)

### South Africa

- TB/HIV Care Step-Up Programme in 4 South African cities providing specific services for WUD. In Cape Town, a women's group is held weekly/monthly facilitated by a social worker. <https://tbhivcare.org/step-up-project-opens-new-centre-for-people-who-use-drugs-in-cape-town-city-centre/>

### Senegal

- CEPIAD collaborating with ENDA sante, provide gynaecological consultations. There has been support for the establishment of Women Engaged, the first Association of WUD in Senegal with support from OSIWA and Enda Health. Since February 2021 this women's association offers women leaders of the association a package of capacity building (association management, personalized training for women leaders of the association, community meals and awareness made by the women themselves). <https://atlas.solthis.org/en/launch-of-the-atlas-project-in-senegal/> and [https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2020/december/20201204\\_dakar-addiction-centre-reaches-out-to-women](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2020/december/20201204_dakar-addiction-centre-reaches-out-to-women)

## Tanzania

- Salvage in Der es Salaam offers WUD shelter services and referral linkages. [https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2020/october/20201005\\_tanzania-women-who-use-drugs](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2020/october/20201005_tanzania-women-who-use-drugs)

## Annex 8. Western Europe

### England

- Oasis, Brighton, East Essex and Hove, a gender-specific drug and alcohol treatment service which provides care coordination and group support to adult women wishing to address their substance use. Provides childcare alongside all services, specialised services for children and youth, gender specific Parenting Our Children Addressing Risk. (POCAR) program to support women, group and individual counselling, multi-disciplinary staff, OAT referral, sex worker outreach project (SWOP), Looking Forward supports women who have or are in fear of losing custody of their children. <https://www.oasisproject.org.uk/>
- One25, Bristol, women's-based charity providing DIC with food, showers, clothing, community and prison-based outreach and case workers, links to referral services, medical care available. Night Outreach mobile van provides harm reduction packs to street-based sex workers. . <https://one25.org.uk/>
- Pause Bristol- works with women who have had two or more children removed from their care.
- Peony- supports women experiencing homelessness, legal issues, mental ill health, drug use, domestic and/or sexual violence, or having had children removed from their care.
- Women's Wellness Zone, Ealing. Provides free and confidential health and wellbeing to women over the age of 18. Specialised teams to support mental health, drug use, sex work, domestic abuse and legal issues. <https://www.changegrowlive.org/womens-wellness-zone-healing/info>
- POW in Nottingham provide street outreach and harm reduction support for sex workers, primarily women. Harm reduction supplies include condoms, lubricant, foil and rape alarms. <http://pow-advice.org.uk/>
- MASH (Manchester Action on Street Health) is a charity offering outreach advice and support to women in sex work including harm reduction and NSP for women. BBV and Sexual Health services are available on site daily <http://www.mash.org.uk/about-mash/>.

### Germany

- The Frauentreff Olga, Berlin, is a contact and advice center for WUD, trans/women and sex workers offering medical help and native-speaking drug and social counselling in Hungarian, Bulgarian, Romanian, English and German. Low threshold services for women who use drugs and/or involved in sex work. Once a month night time gynecology services available.
- Bella Donna, North Rhine-Westphalia, Harm Reduction services for women. Wide spectrum of services, from consultation to housing. StrichPunkt- provides outreach harm reduction services to street based sex workers, advisory service, links with Addiction Cooperation NRW (largest network of women experts on WUD) in Germany and Europe to access a range of services, <https://www.bella-donna-essen.de/>
- The Social Service of Catholic Women (SkF), Cologne. Support and help for women who use drugs and a café for WUD and involved in sex work. <https://www.skf-zentrale.de/>
- Wigwam Connect, Berlin, Services for pregnant WUD and WUD with Children. OAT, residential and community based services, housing support. Multilingual website <https://www.vistaberlin.de/angebotsspektrum/betreutes-wohnen/>
- Lilith e.V. - Frauen beraten Frauen (lilith-ev.de), Hamburg and Nürnberg A range of services for WUD with children.
- Ragazza, St George, Hamburg. Provides a wide range of harm reduction services for WUD and women engaged in sex work including DIC, food, showers, clothing, hygiene products, legal information, referrals and a drug consumption room. <http://www.reichstiftung.org/ragazza-e-v-hilfe-fuer-dro->



gengebrauchende-und-sich-prostituierende-frauen/

- The Phoenix eV, Lower Saxony, Hanover, and Germany sponsor three projects - the Phoenix project, La Strada and the night shift project- which support woman sex workers and WUD. In addition to providing outreach services, public workshops are conducted covering topics such as harm reduction in a women-specific context, sex work and substance use. Low thresholds contact and specialist advice centre is available for women using drugs in Hanover. <https://www.la-strada-hannover.de/>

### Italy

- Orientadonna, Turin (ospedale Amedeo di Savoia), The centre offers harm reduction services for women, trans and non-binary people who use drugs. <https://www.facebook.com/OrientaDonna/>
- Chemical Sisters is an Italian feminist collective of women and transgender people who use drugs, providing harm reduction advice and information. <https://www.facebook.com/chemicalsisters420/reviews/>

### Netherlands

- The Prinsenhof, Amsterdam, part of De Regenboog group. Princehof is the only drop-in with a specific shelter programme for women, during the weekend and two weekday evenings. They have a bi-annual women's night, where women are specially invited to the facilities for NSP, use of the drug consumption room, clean clothes, food and drink, massage, to get a haircut and their nails done. There is also music and an opportunity to socialise and seek support and advice. <https://www.deregenboog.org/en/where/princehof-walk-in-centre-shooting-room-and-clothes-collection-point>

### Portugal

- MANAS, Lisbon is a group of around 40 women working to create a peer-led safer space, open 24h, for and by women and non-binaries surviving violence. MANAS meets weekly to reinforce the fight for social justice with advocacy for regulation of sex work, drug legalization, enhancing access to sexual and reproductive health and social rights.
- MUSA, Porto is an emerging group shaped with similar purpose to MANAS.

### Spain

- Metzineres, Catalonia, Barcelona, exclusively for people who identify as women who use drugs. A wide range of activities and services for WUD, DIC, showers, clothes, food, harm reduction supplies, and a range of psychosocial support, <https://metzineres.net/>

### Sweden

- Syringe exchange Södermalm, Stockholm, provides women only service one day per week, and midwives attend. This is at two locations in Stockholm. The Stockholm OAT program also provides a women only group.
- Mika Hälsa, Stockholm offers gynaecological services to women who use drugs run by Region Stockholm as part of the national healthcare system. <https://www.beroendecentrum.se/var-d-hos-oss/mika-halsa/>
- The EWA program, Södermalm provides women specific services including pregnancy and parenting support for WUD. <https://www.beroendecentrum.se/var-d-hos-oss/sarskilt-for-kvinnor/>