



Resolution of the XI National LGBTI Conference of Ukraine "Country of the Free People: Equal Opportunities for Everyone"

October 18–20, 2018, Kyiv

Intended for internal use within the LGBTI movement, MSM-TG service and partner organizations.

The abridged version is created for publication in the publicly accessible sources, which does not include the fragments of the text highlighted in grey.

Preamble

We, representatives of LGBTI-organizations, proactive LGBTI-groups, activists of the civic movement for human rights and freedoms for LGBTI, employees of projects providing medical and social services to men who have sex with men (MSM), and transgender people (TG), experts on LGBTI community and MSM-service,

- **Having taken part** in the three-days XI National LGBTI conference of Ukraine with the international participation: "Country of the Free People: Equal Opportunities for Everyone" which took place on October 18–20, 2018 in Kyiv, **summarizing it, and**
- **Expressing** our gratitude for the organizational, financial and political support to the organizers and co-sponsors of the XI National Conference, in particular:
 - National MSM Consortium (#[MSM PRO](#)) consisting of the civil society organization "[ALLIANCE.GLOBAL](#)", Civil society organization "[LGBT League Association](#)" and all-Ukrainian civil society organization "[Gay Forum of Ukraine](#)",
 - Charitable Organization "All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS" (CO "[100 percent life](#)"),
 - State institution "[Public Health Center](#) of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine",
 - International Charitable Foundation "[Alliance of Public Health](#)",
 - [National Democratic Institute](#) (NDI) of international relations,
 - Eurasian Coalition of Male Health ([ECOM](#)),
 - International Charitable Organization "East Europe and Central Asia Union of People Living with HIV" ([ECUO PLWH](#)),
 - Civil society organization "[KyivPride](#)",
 - Civil society organization "[Fulcrum UA](#)",
 - All-Ukrainian civil society organization "[Gay Alliance Ukraine](#)",
 - Transgender people self-organization structure — civil society organization "Health and Protection of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual and Transgender People" ([HPLGBT](#)),
 - Representative Office of [Freedom House Inc in Ukraine](#),
 - United Nations Program on AIDS ([UNAIDS](#)) in Ukraine,
 - United Nations Development Program ([UNDP](#)) in Ukraine,
 - USAID "[HIV Reform in Action](#)" implemented by Deloitte Consulting Overseas Projects / Deloitte Consulting LLP,
 - Expert group on health and rights of gay men and other MSM in Ukraine ([EGHR-Ukraine](#)), —



We hereby approve the following decisions, proposals and statements:

I. In the area of development of medico-social services for MSM/LGBTI and creation of favorable political and legal environment

1. Establish more efficient cooperation with executive authorities and local governments to advocate the accessibility and quality of services provided to MSM/LGBTI.
2. In the health sector in general and the public health sector in particular, focus on the highest attainable standard of health for all LGBTI individuals, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity (expression).
3. While welcoming the initial analysis of the implementation by Ukraine of the recommendations of the [Global Commission on HIV and Law](#), implemented by the United Nations Development Program in Ukraine, to monitor further progress in this area, by updating the relevant review every year, as well as communicating with the authorities aimed at the systematic implementation of these recommendations.
4. Strengthen the consolidated advocacy effort with other key communities, including people living with HIV (PLHIV), sex workers (SWs), people living with drug addiction (PLDA), and the age-relevant cross group of persons from key communities aged under and inclusive of 24.
5. Together with partner organizations, seek decriminalization of HIV infection by introducing appropriate amendments to the Criminal Code of Ukraine and other legal acts, considering this as a step towards improving the situation with human rights and freedoms for PLWH and improving the social and legal context for the implementation of HIS response activities.
6. Enhance the professional competence of medical staff, first of all general practitioners, in relation to medical and social LGBTI-related issues. Continually raise the awareness of health professionals and representatives of the executive authorities in working with LGBTI by organizing and conducting appropriate trainings, roundtables and other information and education activities both centrally and locally.
7. Analyze the best management practices in the provision of quality services for MSM/LGBTI in cooperation between non-governmental organizations and health care providers in order to implement such practices in Ukraine, making sure that they are properly adapted to national conditions. Representatives of LGBTI-communities of Ukraine should join in the relevant work on the accumulation and dissemination of best practices conducted by the Expert Group on Health and Rights of Gay Men and Other MSM in Ukraine ([EGHR-Ukraine](#)) with the support of the Eurasian Coalition on Mental Health ([ECOM](#)).
8. Review ways and approaches to motivating MSM clients in terms of applying the monetary incentives for engaging MSM in receiving HIV-related services and conducting various studies among MSM.
9. Supplement existing ways of motivating MSM to use health services (such methods include, for example, a regular HIV/STI/Hepatitis C test and counseling invitation) the latest methods of services uptake considering best international and regional practices, including leisure activities with a preventive component.
10. Analyze the possibility of introducing for MSM/LGBTI co-payment ("social cost") of received medical and social services received by them for the gradual increase of their contribution to self-sustainability of services.
11. In the case management package for MSM, envisage the provision of additional services, in particular, psychologist, psychoanalyst, lawyer/paralegal services, as well as counseling by highly specialized medical professionals, if necessary.
12. Expand in the regions a network of community centers for MSM/LGBTI based on the principle of safe space as "access points" for provision of medical and social services. Work at the level of regional centers to restore or organize safe spaces for LGBTI "from scratch" as a tool for community consolidation and access to services.

13. Expand the implementation of PrEP on the basis of NGOs and include PrEP in the basic package of HIV prevention services for MSM through budget funds. Promptly implement international protocols on PrEP in Ukraine and introduce PrEP's monitoring and evaluation system in Ukraine.
14. Welcoming the active deployment of the [MSMIT](#) – global leadership launched in late 2016 on the implementation of comprehensive HIV and STI programs for men having with sex with men: a practical guide for joint activities, - to facilitate the further implementation of MSMIT in different regions of Ukraine. Extend the experience of introducing MSMIT in Ukraine to other EECA countries.
15. Strengthen communication with MSM/LGBTI in prevention and social projects through network resources and mobile applications, in particular - to promote the dissemination of targeted prevention and educational information through mobile applications primarily designed for dating.
16. Encourage "HIV coming-outs" (public disclosure of their positive status) by the MSM as a factor in the "normalization" of the attitude towards MSM living with HIV, and the debunking of myths around living with HIV as such.
17. Hold a qualitative study of the specific situations and circumstances in which Ukrainian MSM-PLWH got infected with HIV, according to their self-report (for example, when traveling abroad, through sex without a condom, as a result of chemsex with loosened self-control over their sexual behavior safety, from a regular sexual partner, etc.).
18. Study the situation with the migration of LGBTI, both within the country and cross-border migration, as well as to investigate the connection of migration processes with the risks of HIV transmission.
19. Given the consistently high prevalence of HIV among MSM, to concentrate expert efforts on developing a new philosophy of social and medical work among MSM, shifting the emphasis on the mandatory use of barrier contraceptives to a wider and more significant priority of self-control, regardless of its negative or positive HIV status.
20. Eliminate heterocentric and heteronormative approaches in the field of healthcare, first of all, at the primary care level, in particular, through active participation in the development of medical standards in Ukraine.
21. Expand the practice of Internet research, which allows to supplement, expand, verify data obtained during bio-behavioral research.
22. Conduct research aimed at examining other aspects of male health than the spread of HIV and STIs, in particular, to study the issues of mental, sexual and reproductive health.
23. Introduce programs and services for LGBTI to overcome the traumatic experience caused by violence in its various forms - psychological, physical, sexual, economic, etc.
24. Develop friendly commercial medical services for LGBTI people.

II. Considering the chemsex trend becoming more prevalent among the Ukrainian MSM, we recommend to:

25. Take into account the specific needs of MSM who use substances and practice chemsex, in the package of medical and social services for MSM and the programmatic content of other activities aimed at MSM - in particular, to provide:
 - production and distribution of informational materials;
 - peer counseling;
 - paramedical and medical assistance;
 - legal and psychosocial support;
 - emergency response in cases of overdose or in the event of unforeseen side effects.

26. Concentrate on the further on-going exploration of the chemsex practice in order to develop responses and appropriate information interventions to reduce harm from the use of psychoactive substances. Conduct a national study on the issues of chemsex among MSM to obtain information on the situation in other cities of Ukraine, in addition to the capital.
27. When planning research and practice, take into account the best world practices of working with MSM who use substances and practice chemsex.
28. Plan and implement on a regular basis advertising and information campaigns on prevention and other aspects of chemsex and the use of chemicals among MSM.
29. Create a national web resource on the chemsex issues.
30. Conduct educational activities for peer counselors, NGO staff, medical personnel, local authorities, law enforcement officers, etc. to increase their awareness of the phenomenon and practices of chemsex, prevent stigma and discrimination of MSM who use substances.
31. Involve HIV-negative MSM who practice chemsex in pre-exposure prevention programs (PrEP).
32. Together with partner organizations, conduct advocacy work on revision of the nomenclature and ceiling quantities of substances prohibited or restricted in Ukraine, taking into account the best international experience and recommendations of the relevant international organizations.

III. Political activities

Considering the significant and socially important contribution to ensuring human rights and freedoms for LGBTI people by those Ukrainian politicians who already support the community at the public level;

supporting the efforts of the Office of the Parliamentary [Ombudsperson, Lyudmyla Denisova](#), aimed at recognizing as [illegal](#) the facts of publishing of petitions that violate the anti-discrimination legislation on the government agencies websites, and appeal from the Office of the Ombudsperson to local self-government bodies with proposals to [cancel](#) decisions that "violate the right to respect of honor and the dignity of the LGBTI community in Ukraine", -

33. We call on democratic political forces to openly support the LGBTI people of our society and to promote tolerance and inclusion at all levels.
34. We insist that the state and local bodies consider human rights and freedoms as one of the priorities of state and municipal policies.
35. We call on all stakeholders to work to strengthen the human rights commitment of the subjects of 2019 parliamentary and presidential election campaigns.
36. We encourage the development of a dialogue between LGBTI and a broad human rights movement, on the one hand, and with different political forces, as well as religious denominations and organizations, on the other; development of joint programs and action plans.
37. We call on all healthy parliamentary forces to strongly reject the legislative initiatives of individual retrograde politicians aimed to ban the imaginary "homosexuality propaganda" as artificial, manipulative and disconnected from reality.
38. Given the prospects of obtaining the autocephaly by the Orthodox Church in Ukraine in the context of the [Appeal](#) of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to His All-Holiness, BARTHOLOMEW, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, we emphasize the importance of revising the attitude of Ukrainian Orthodox faith to LGBTI issues towards increased tolerance, inclusion and assertion of non-violence principle.
39. We affirm the respect of the LGBTI movement to the soldiers and veterans of the ATO/JFO as protectors of territorial integrity and constitutional order of our Motherland, and we remind that homosexual and bisexual people, along with others, can and do serve in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and LGBTI people in general participate in volunteer initiatives to provide comprehensive support to the Ukrainian Army. We declare that the populist statements that

the LGBTI allegedly stand aloof from the military conflict in the East of the country are unfounded and refuted by numerous facts of the opposite.

IV. In the LGBTI movement development in Ukraine

40. Build allied networks with the involvement of public and charitable organizations of different areas, business, state institutions, international organizations.
41. In the framework of the public activities of the LGBT Movement, invite the maximum number of allies, in particular the military and ATO veterans, public figures and activists and active non-governmental organizations that support the protection of human rights and freedoms in Ukraine, in their support and direct participation.
42. Taking into account the results of studies on internal homophobia and transphobia among LGBT people, develop a strategy of interventions (first of all, communication) to minimize these phenomena.
43. Strengthen inter-sectoral interaction between the LGBT-movement, MSM/TG-service, the United Nations and other international organizations and projects, as well as Ukrainian authorities and the business sector, considering the successful experience of communication between representatives of all four sectors within the framework of national LGBTI-conferences.
44. Facilitate the creation of the platform for dialogue between LGBTI communities and other public segments; raise awareness among various social groups about LGBT and SOGI through information and education activities (interventions) and engagement in cooperation.
45. Continue the practice of annual updating of the Situational Analysis of LGBTI in Ukraine, which was presented at the previous and current national conferences.
46. Continue to study the queerness phenomenon in Ukraine and, in particular, queer identity.
47. Comprehensive support for LGBT-friendly initiatives aimed at improving the attitude towards LGBT and the positive changes in the social climate, in particular initiatives in the field of culture and art.
48. Support the holding of international level LGBTI-events in Ukraine.
49. Comprehensive encouragement of individual initiatives by activists who are ready to publicly present themselves as representatives of LGBTI communities both online and offline (in particular, in public actions, through LGBTI/MSM/TG information promotional videos, network communication channels, etc.), and to support these initiatives with resources.
50. Contribute to the development of the Ukrainian pride movement, focusing on increasing the number of participants and expanding the geography of pride events in Ukraine, as well as establishing partner visits with the pride movement of other countries, primarily countries located in geographic proximity and having similar national mentality.
51. For reasons of international LGBTI-solidarity, offer participation in Ukrainian pride events to the delegations from the Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries, where holding public pride events is still impossible or highly risky.
52. Promote the experience and achievements of Ukraine in the field of human rights and freedoms for LGBTI people and the development of MSM/TG-services at the level of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia region.
53. We draw the attention of the Ukrainian LGBT people to the importance of personal self-improvement, in particular in terms of mastering English for the sake of more effective integration into the global LGBTI context.
54. Prevent misunderstanding and resolve conflicts within the national LGBTI movement, use professional mediation tools with the involvement of third parties who do not have a conflict of interest.

V. In the family policy and marital legislation

55. Emphasize in the policies and legislation that LGBTI family relationships are an integral part of family relations in Ukraine as a whole and, accordingly, should benefit from all kinds of assistance from the state and its institutions on par with other forms and types of family relations within the framework of state family policy.
56. Recognize as a priority for 2019, a substantive revision of legislative proposals for the implementation of the Registered Civil Partnership Institute in Ukraine ([#RCP](#)).
57. Proceed with parallel promotion of marriage equality in Ukraine (by eliminating the principle that the marriage must be concluded between a male and a female spouse only) and the introduction of the registered civil partnership institute as a new form for legalization of family and partnership relations for Ukraine.
58. It is not politically appropriate to recognize the promotion of the [#RCP](#) institute in itself, but in the context of more general modernization and adjustment of family law to social realities and world trends.
59. In order to carefully revise the proposals on the legal content of the [#RCP institute](#) from the participants of the conference, it would be advisable to recognize the involvement of family law specialists with further consultations both within the LGBTI-movement and in a wide range of experts, human rights organizations and professional legal institutions.
60. Maintain the issue of ensuring marriage equality in the context of drafting amendments to the Constitution (work of the [Constitutional Commission](#)) and, if necessary, make appropriate proposals.
61. Encourage the positive consideration of lawsuits to ensure legal rights in family partnerships whose members/participants are people of the same gender by documents, in particular regarding the recognition of the formal status of the "family" for such partnerships, taking into account previous positive precedents of the domestic case law.
62. Promote the observance of the reproductive and sexual rights of LGBTIs, in particular through educational activities for LGBTI and taking into account the broad public commitment to the ideology of family values.

VI. As for the lesbians and bisexual women community:

63. Take measures to enhance the visibility of the LB community of the country.
64. Work on creating services and organizing mobilization measures for lesbians and bisexual women.
65. Conduct bio-behavioral research among lesbians and bisexual women in Ukraine.
66. Organize educational programs for lesbians and bisexual women to learn safe sexual behavior and practice regular gynecological examinations, as well as sexuality, gender issues, human rights, family life, partnerships and sexual relationships, etc.
67. Introduce a program for lesbians and bisexual women to work out and overcome the traumatic experience gained from violence.
68. Organize provision of medical and social services for lesbians and bisexual women.
69. Support programs to overcome stigma and discrimination against lesbians and bisexual women.
70. Facilitate the consolidation and mobilization of the LB community and support grassroots LB initiatives in the regions.
71. Facilitate the implementation of legal assistance programs on partnership and maternity (parental) issues for lesbian and bisexual women.

72. To promote trans*-inclusivity within the LB community and carry out educational activities on transgender issues in order to overcome the problem of non-acceptance of trans*-lesbians by cisgender lesbians and bisexual women.

VII. As for transgender people:

73. While working with media:
- Collect and disseminate in the community the contacts of journalists and media highlighting the topic of transgender people;
 - Send really interesting announcements and post-releases of events to the media, including informational cause, a vivid "picture", catchy quotes;
 - Avoid conflicts with the representatives of the media;
 - Create a professional media resource dedicated to the life and problems of the transgender people;
 - To work in social media and with multimedia content in a more professional manner;
 - Start inviting the journalists to the events which include informal communication.
74. Find more allies in other social groups and conduct joint actions, if there are common interests.
75. As for the transgender community development in the regions, to unite for the establishment of community- centers for transgender people in regions where these are not available; ensure the widest possible targeted distribution of information about them; transfer the management of community centers to the regional communities.
76. Conduct a series of trainings:
- On transgender matters for the media, police, doctors and psychologists from the regions,
 - in fact, for the transgender activists from the regions, including on fundraising.
77. Continue efforts to promote transgender communities, in particular, in responding to the spread of HIV among transgender people in Ukraine.
78. Identify specifics and scope of transgender needs in connection with the spread of HIV, and develop and implement HIV prevention actions among transgender people in Ukraine, including cross- and subgroups of the transgender people.
79. Promote the provision of quality HIV services for transgender people.
80. Develop and disseminate information and education materials on HIV/AIDS issues for trans* people and professionals working with this group.
81. Improve professional skills and raise awareness of civil servants, the staff of the National Police, the State Penitentiary Service, the courts, the NGOs, non-governmental organizations on the prevention of HIV infection, HIV testing, treatment of HIV infection, peculiarities of work with transgender people, stigma and discrimination, human rights and freedoms, taking into account gender peculiarities and using gender-sensitive approaches, in particular through the implementation of relevant international guides in Ukraine, in particular [TRANSIT](#). Take actions to eliminate stigma, discrimination and violence against transgender people by medical and law enforcement personnel in their specialized training.
82. Provide access for transgender people to sexual, psychological and reproductive health services, taking into account age, gender and behavioral characteristics, HIV status and belonging to cross-sections and subgroups.
83. Identify the needs of transgender women engaged in sex business, taking into account gender and age characteristics.
84. Provide access of transgender women engaged in sex business to free testing for STIs and the appropriate treatment services.
85. Organizations entailing meaningful participation of transgender people, LGBTI organizations working with transgender people and/or in their interests, as well as individual representatives

of trans-communities, should pursue principle of consolidation for the common response to injustice affecting every transgender person in Ukraine.

VIII. As for adolescents, youths and young people

86. Consolidate and define the concept of "adolescent" in Ukrainian legislation, taking into account the WHO age limits and the approaches set forth in [General Comment](#) No. 20 (2016) on the implementation of the rights of adolescents to the UN [Convention](#) on the Rights of the Child.
87. 87. Continue research into LGBT violence in adolescents, in particular bullying in educational institutions and social networks (cybersquatting); to develop and implement specific mechanisms for the protection and support of LGBT-teenagers.
88. Involve the [Ministry of Social Policy](#) of Ukraine in co-operation to use the Ministry's resources on social work with LGBTI youth, in particular to apply a peer-driven approach in the context of training of social workers and employees.
89. Strengthen cooperation with social services and children's services. To develop and offer them methodical recommendations for working with LGBTI-adolescents who are in difficult life circumstances.
90. Strengthen co-operation with doctors working with adolescents and introduce additional training for them and develop recommendations for screening to identify possible situations of violence against adolescents.
91. Conduct training for community mediators to assist in finding a better understanding of conflict situations where teenagers are affected (in particular between adolescents and their parents, between adolescents/students and the rest of the classroom), and to support the work of trained mediators.
92. Work on the creation of a shelter for LGBTI adolescents who live on the street or are in crisis situations. For all relevant institutions and services, including the school administration and police, develop methodological guidance on how to deal with such situations in order to provide an affected LGBTI adolescent with necessary and comprehensive assistance, including resources, legal and psychological support.
93. Conduct training for the staff of educational institutions (in particular, social pedagogics specialists and school psychologists) on work with LGBTI teenagers.
94. Involve LGBTI adolescents who seek personal self-realization and social activism – but first and foremost, on other topics than LGBTI, as this will help them to feel more safe.
95. Direct the efforts of the community and stakeholders to prepare and conduct educational and awareness events for school and student youth in order to educate them on human rights and freedoms, promote respect for human identity in all its manifestations and human dignity, adherence to tolerant and inclusive attitude towards LGBTI.
96. Prioritize the work on the formation of a youth LGBTI network (formal or informal) within the framework of the LGBTI movement in order to develop leadership, counter bullying, provide comprehensive support to adolescents who find themselves in difficult life due to sexual orientation or gender identity.
97. Expand the practice of conducting individual events for activists and budding activists with an emphasis on the age group under 24 in order to prepare them for participation in the Ukrainian LGBTI-movement.

IX. As for the National LGBTI Conference

98. Welcome the development of the conference events practice with the participation of politicians, ATO/JFO participants, representatives of alternative views on LGBTI matters, the clergy representatives.

99. Strengthen the international participation component in the next XII National LGBT-Ukraine Conference, 2019 ([#12NC2019](#)).
100. Carry out in the mapping of local LGBTI-initiatives and infrastructure of LGBTI movement and MSM/TG-services the nearest interconference year for submission to [#12NC2019](#).
101. Continue the practice of holding a small grant competition for the National Conference in the interconference period in order to provide resource support for the implementation of grassroots LGBTI-initiatives proposed by the national conference participants.