

WE ARE PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS

There are at least 6.2 million of us in Asia-Pacific and we face these issues:

Health-care workers don't trust me.

I would like to give up drugs, but I can't get help.

Without access to clean needles and syringes, I have to share.

I can't get Hepatitis C treatment.

I had to register as a drug user, and then I lost custody of my child.

In the detention centre, there is no access to HIV services.

We are being left behind due to:

- Criminalization of drug use and the possession of small amounts of drugs and drug paraphernalia
- Laws and policies subjecting people suspected of using drugs to abstinence-based, non-medically-supervised and non-harm-reduction-focused treatment in a closed setting
- Legal prohibition on harm reduction measures such as opioid substitution therapy and needle/syringe exchange programmes
- National registries of drug users, subjecting the individual to mandatory drug testing and denial of employment, driving license and child custody
- Inadequate laws, policies and programmes ensuring access to justice for people who use drugs