



DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH HIV CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGES WITH THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW?

Learn from the experiences in Indonesia, Uganda and Ukraine

CONCLUSIONS

Overall, engagement of HIV-focused civil society organisations (CSOs) with human rights protection mechanisms, is still low. However, the situation has been changing recently. Numerous cases of human rights violations against key populations have triggered HIV-focused CSOs to equip themselves and their communities with knowledge of human rights. This is to enable them to advocate for their rights and to build more solid networks with other human rights organisations and legal aid providers.

Introduction

The goal of this report is to inform the work of those utilising, or interested in utilising, the UPR to advance human rights related to HIV; and to strengthen state accountability for upholding the human rights of people living with HIV and key populations through the effective utilisation of international human rights mechanisms, in particular, the UPR.

The UPR is an important tool for holding States accountable for fulfilling their pledges and realising the human rights of people living with HIV, and key populations affected by HIV. While the UPR is primarily an international and intergovernmental mechanism, engaging CSO's has proven to be essential to inform the recommendations, contribute to their implementation, and to strengthen State accountability.

Key findings and implications for practice

1. Civil society engagement is increasing with every round of the UPR. Multiple stakeholders now appreciate it as a tool to increase State accountability for human rights, and have strengthened their engagement with it.
2. States have not engaged civil society sufficiently in UPR reporting and implementation processes. Civil society engagement with the UPR has been given low priority compared to work with the Global Fund on the accessibility of HIV/AIDS-related medical services for all.

3. HIV-focused CSOs have had little engagement with human rights monitoring mechanisms. Numerous cases of human rights violations against key populations have triggered HIV-focused CSOs to equip themselves and their communities with knowledge of human rights in order to advocate for the rights of their communities. This has also led to CSOs building more solid networks with other human rights organisations and legal aid providers. For example, in the third cycle of the UPR, CSOs in Indonesia submitted a joint stakeholder report as part of a coalition with other CSOs.¹

1. Rutgers WPF Indonesia et. al. (2017), Republic of Indonesia Joint Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review – 27th Session of the UPR Working Group – May 2017.

https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/indonesia/session_27_-_may_2017/js10_upr27_idn_e_main.pdf

Methodology

The study took place between October 2017 and November 2017. Desk reviews were conducted to collect information from secondary sources regarding UPR follow up and implementation efforts at the national level. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions were held in each country with representatives from civil society, national human rights institutions, the UN system and government.

Full Report: Sood, N., ¹ Saleh, L.M.¹ (2018). 'Making the Universal Periodic Review work for HIV. Experiences from Indonesia, Uganda and Ukraine'. Available at: https://frontlineaids.org/wp-content/uploads/old_site/0117-PITCH_landencases_web_original.pdf?1528377282

1. FemJust – Feminist Solutions towards Global Justice

