

Global Mapping of Harm Reduction Services for Women and Gender Diverse People who Use Drugs

With a gender lens, we see women and gender diverse people who use drugs are inadequately served.



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

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Background

The global spread of harm reduction services continues to stall - a continuation of a trend first observed in 2012.¹ Women are estimated to account for at least one third of people who use drugs globally yet are consistently reported to have less access to harm reduction services and are at higher risk of HIV and hepatitis C transmission.

Tools do exist to enable harm reduction services to increase their relevance and reach for women and gender diverse people who use drugs. These include resources on the use of a gender lens and gender mainstreaming in planning and service delivery.² 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 approaches applied as well as impact outcomes. 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, gender diverse people 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 marginalised communities, it is important to document and promote such services where they do exist. By documenting successful harm reduction services for women and/or gender diverse people, models can be incorporated, replicated, resourced and established. Likewise, service gaps can be exposed.

With this in mind, WHRIN undertakes surveys, community consultations and desk research to map gender responsive 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 region of relevant services with a brief description and links for more detail where available. WHRIN invite readers to add to this list - where existing services are not listed, details of services are incomplete or as links are updated.

Method

Regional focal points assist WHRIN to compile lists of key informants, including those with living experience of drug use, with a good understanding of harm reduction services available in their country. Separate short survey monkeys were created per region to identify key barriers to service access and to describe and 'map' gender responsive harm reduction services over two activity periods in 2021 and 2024. The service listing annexes are routinely promoted as a living data set with open invitation for update and addition. Qualitative data has also been drawn from ongoing WHRIN ally consultations with community members who use drugs across numerous countries.

Limitations

While helpful data emerged from the initial WHRIN 2021 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, once again with the support of regional focal points with translations as needed. This survey focused specifically on service design definitions, emphasising that *gender responsive* harm reduction services are those that can demonstrate

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

² See for example, the Training package. Addressing the Specific Needs of Women who Inject Drugs: <https://whrin.site/ourpublication/training-package-addressing-the-specific-needs-of-women-who-inject-drugs/> And, A facilitator's guide integrating harm reduction and sexual and reproductive health and rights: <https://whrin.site/ourpublication/a-facilitators-guide-integrating-harm-reduction-and-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights/>

accounting for and attempting to address the specific needs of women and/or gender diverse people who use drugs. General services such as needle and syringe programmes (NSP) were therefore not included unless there is an associated service gender responsive element (for example, women only service space or times, meaningful involvement of women and gender diverse people who use drugs in service delivery, integrated gender diverse people services, services for folk engaged in sex work, gender-based violence (GBV) services and sexual and reproduction health (SRH) services). Services designed to ‘rescue’ people from sex work were disqualified. The definition of harm reduction used in this mapping exercise aligns with the outline from Harm Reduction International³. This process was repeated in 2024.

WHRIN acknowledge significant limitations to the approach of relying primarily on participation from its allyship 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 gender responsive harm reduction services around the world.

You are encouraged to add or update a service from your country to this living mapping document. Likewise, if you see a program that is no longer running, has an inaccurate description or you have better descriptive links, please reach out to policyandcommunityengagementlead@whrin.site and programmeandstrategylead@whrin.site

Acknowledgement to Jamie Hararay for cover artwork.

³ By definition, “Harm reduction refers to policies, programmes and practices that aim to minimise the negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use, drug policies and drug laws. Harm reduction is grounded in justice and human rights. It focuses on positive change and on working with people without judgement, coercion, discrimination, or requiring that people stop using drugs as a precondition of support.” <https://hri.global/what-is-harm-reduction/>

The global condition of harm reduction services for women and gender diverse people

Many country level respondents report that there are no gender responsive harm reduction services available for women or gender diverse people who use drugs. This is particularly evident in survey results from Africa, Latin America, EECA, Asia and the Middle East. There is a clear, large and unacceptable disparity in the availability of gender responsive harm reduction services between global north and global majority countries. However even in the global north, no country demonstrates availability of such services to scale.

Globally, the key barriers to service access for women and gender diverse people who use drugs are the criminalisation of drug use and gender inequality. A common theme is that drug use is being seen as a reason to deny or limit access of women and gender diverse people to their rights. This includes rights to justice, protection from violence, housing/shelter, privacy, drug treatment (OAT), health care and other services, support during pregnancy and childbirth, violation of child custody rights and so on. The correlation between conservative governments, gender inequality and the populist support of punitive drug policies is explicit in the absence or scarcity of gender responsive harm reduction services. Existing state, social and economic inequalities experienced by women and gender diverse people who use drugs are extreme, a reality clearly echoed through survey responses. Women and gender diverse people who use drugs are victimised, judged and more harshly punished than men who use drugs. Examples of gender-based punishments include the exclusion of pregnant people 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 and gender diverse people with lived experience of drug use is highlighted by the repeated identification of domination of harm reduction programs by male clients. Limited 'women specific' times and spaces to accommodate women and their children, if available at all, is noted. A lack of women and gender diverse peer staff is also reported.

The needs of women and people of diverse gender expression, both young and older, pregnant, experiencing GBV, who are homeless and/or who are engaged in sex work, need to be incorporated into existing services and coordinated by peers who are empathic and non-judgemental. Respondents from all regions called for integration of services to accommodate for the range of intersectional issues impacting these communities. Gender responsive, comprehensive services are essential for effective harm reduction for women and gender diverse people who use drugs. Peer support and community-led models have been shown to enhance accessibility and improve trust in services, leading to better outcomes.

The urgent need for effective harm reduction services in closed settings such as prisons and drug treatment facilities reflects the gendered impacts of the criminalisation of drug use. The call for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services responding to increased rates of STIs and BBV transmission experienced by women and gender diverse people incarcerated for drug violations, along with access to OAT, NSP, and ART and TB treatment in prisons, are also shared by respondents from all regions. The detention of women for drug related offences has skyrocketed since 2000 by 60%, (imprisonment of men rose by around 22% over the same period). With a higher proportion of women than men imprisoned for drug-related offences, alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offences, as recommended in the Bangkok Rules, must be expanded globally.

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

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

The following section provides a narrative summary by region followed by the annex section listing identified gender responsive harm reduction services:

Asia

- Cumulative responses were received from Thailand, Japan, Myanmar, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Philippines, and Vietnam.
- In 2024, there were 13 survey respondents, with 46.13% identifying as people who use drugs.
- Limited information on the degree of involvement of women and gender diverse people who use drugs in program or service design.

Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, India, Myanmar and Nepal (and possibly Pakistan) reported specific harm reduction services designed for women and/or gender diverse people. There are no nationwide programmes, with services being limited to specific geographic sites. This finding is particularly 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 so called ‘war of drugs’ continues to pose considerable risk for people who use drugs, while harm reduction services are absent. This has resulted in a dramatic increase in incarceration of women and gender diverse people in prisons and drug ‘treatment’ facilities (in particular Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, China and Vietnam) where ‘treatment’ remains unregulated, largely without scientific basis, non-consensual and often associated with human rights violations.

Across the region, the intersections between patriarchy and punitive drug policy create environments of violence with impunity for perpetrators – along with effective exclusion from available gender based violence services for people who use drugs. This violence occurs in various contexts, including within intimate relationships, family settings, public spaces, and institutional environments. In some countries there are accounts of women reporting violence to police which then precipitates the victim/survivor being harassed and/or arrested on drug charges. Gender diverse people who use drugs, in a region where same sex marriage is largely criminalised and SOGISEC-related stigma rife, are likewise experiencing intersectional discrimination and high rates of violence.

Access to essential health and social services is also curtailed by criminalisation and gendered stigma and discrimination, including from health workers. In antenatal service contexts, often pregnant people are told to immediately stop using drugs, resulting in elevated risk of overdose and other negative outcomes for both the person and their foetus. In countries such as Philippines, India and others, often there are no contingencies for OAT to be administered in maternity facilities.

The lack of access to effective sexual and reproductive health and harm reduction services for those confined in closed settings across the region is a growing concern. The predominant criminal justice response intensifies stereotypes of women who use drugs as ‘bad women’ which contributes to stigma and discrimination against women as well as gender diverse people from both social networks and state institutions. These are expressed by the lack of legal and social services, abuse of privacy and confidentiality by staff at health facilities and the normalisation of violence and abuse of power by criminal justice officers.

Eastern Europe & Central Asia

- Cumulative responses were received from Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Montenegro.
- In 2024, there were 25 survey respondents, with 44% identifying as people who use drugs.

Respondents report that women and gender-diverse people face a severe lack of choice in accessing services where they exist. The gaps included insufficient treatment services such as opioid agonist therapy (OAT), the absence of appropriate shelter facilities, inadequate childcare, limited access to social services, and a lack of psychosocial support. These challenges are exacerbated by punitive, gendered, and discriminatory responses to drug use. In Russia, ambiguity over the legal status of harm reduction is highlighted as a critical barrier to service provision.

Regionally, the situation is shaped by a mix of systemic neglect and social stigma, leaving women and gender-diverse individuals from key populations particularly at risk. Marginalised communities face entrenched barriers to accessing health and social care services, with many EECA governments prioritising punitive approaches over harm reduction. The lack of investment in gender-responsive initiatives remains a significant obstacle, alongside deeply rooted gender stereotypes and stigma associated with drug use.

Other issues identified include the negative impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This has worsened service gaps for marginalised people, restricted employment opportunities, and led to deprivation of parental rights as well as discrimination from medical officers, police, and neighbours. Despite these strains, Ukrainian activists have continued their advocacy for gender-sensitive services. Through CEDAW mechanisms, they have made some progress in addressing the practice of removing child custody for drug use alone. However, advocates emphasise the growing need for peer-to-peer psychosocial support during the war, as women who use drugs are facing intensified judgment and persecution under invasion conditions.

Among the few positive initiatives, the Women Initiating New Goals of Safety (WINGS) program—a short intervention designed to identify and address various types of gender-based violence against women and to enhance safety—was implemented in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine.

Respondents note the need to expand shelter access options in Kyrgyzstan and Moldova and other States responding to demand, where people are not required to be abstinent in order to access the service. Peer-led models such as those in Ukraine and Slovenia must be expanded and sustained to facilitate meaningful community involvement. In addition, legal support and advocacy for legal reforms in restrictive contexts can work to enable safer, stigma-free access to harm reduction services.

Latin America

- Cumulative responses were received from Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Peru.
- In 2024, there were 17 survey respondents, with 82.35% identifying as people who uses drugs.
- Very limited information is available on the degree of involvement of women and gender diverse people who use drugs in program or service design.

Harm reduction services designed specifically for women and/or people of diverse gender expression are only reported in Brazil and Mexico. The criminalisation of drugs combined with widespread poverty has increased the incarceration of women serving drug related prison sentences across the region where between 35% and 70% of women in prison are detained for non-violent drug offences. No respondents identified prison-based harm reduction services for women or gender diverse people, paralleling the lack of community-based harm reduction services across the region.

Participants reported that available drug ‘treatment’ is mainly expressed through privately run abstinence-based centres based on religious principles where human rights violations including deprivation of liberty are common. In the context of sexual and reproductive health in Mexico, sterilisation and the application of contraceptive methods without consent, obstetric violence and arbitrary removal of child custody rights are reported.

In addition to the gendered impacts of the war on drugs, the combination of the dominance of the ‘machismo’ culture and religious norms renders issues of gender inequality a low priority for political leaders. Latin America data on gender diverse people who use drugs also remain notably sparse. Reportedly, if people use illicit drugs, they are generally regarded as irresponsible for ‘putting themselves in danger’ while those who experience sexual violence are ‘responsible for it’.

In Mexico, by transgressing traditional gender values, women who use drugs lose respectability in all areas of their lives which legitimises all kinds of violence. Respondents from Puerto Rico highlighted a need common across the region; that shelters need to be connected to harm reduction and gender based violence services. Inadequate resourcing and implementation for sexual and reproductive health including gender based violence prevention and response services, and a severe shortage of gender responsive harm reduction services are also reported.

Oceania

- Responses were received from Australia and New Zealand.
- In 2024, there were 14 survey respondents, with 69.23% identifying as people who uses drugs.

Australian participants identify a significant disparity in access to harm reduction services between rural and remote regions and urban areas. A lack of services for people consuming stimulants is also reported. In Queensland, respondents highlight insufficient resources and funding for women and gender diverse responsive services particularly around pregnancy and drug use as well as parenting supports. Similarly, in NSW, harm reduction providers note the absence of funding for gender responsive services.

There is insufficient investment in gender responsive harm reduction services for women and gender diverse people. A paucity of knowledge among health and social care services of harm reduction approaches, particularly in the area of child protection, adds to fear among parents of losing their children due to stigma and punitive measures imposed by the State. Cases of removal of children from parental custody occur during pregnancy and soon after childbirth, while compulsory hair testing targets parents who use drugs. 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 of their services.

Women and gender diverse people who use drugs face barriers in accessing gender based violence services including emergency accommodation. Respondents also identify the need for services that support older women who may have other age-related conditions. Increasing incarceration for drug offences along with the lack of availability of OAT and NSP for women and gender diverse people in prisons is reported from both New Zealand and Australia.

Middle East & North Africa

- Cumulative responses were received from Tunisia, Iran, Morocco, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Algeria, Jordan, Palestine/East Jerusalem, Syria, and Yemen.
- In 2024, there were 12 survey respondents, with 58.33% identifying as people who use drugs.

The Middle East and North African Region is not a monolith- it is culturally and religiously diverse, experiencing increasing times of conflict. Conflict and crises impact the capacity of already struggling civil society organisations to sustain and deliver their harm reduction services for people who use drugs. Women and gender diverse in particular are underserved and impacted by unrest. Restrictive, binary gender norms serve to marginalise gender diverse people who use drugs across the region.

The impact of community conservatism and other socio-cultural issues, including religious and rural conservatism is cited by several survey participants as contributing to the lack of sexual and reproductive and harm reduction services across the region. 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 women who use drugs through women only programmes. In addition to community-based services, Iran provides opioid agonist therapy (OAT) in women's prisons.

Mapping findings identify an urgent need to introduce and expand gender responsive harm reduction services across the region. Where and when available, these services tended to prioritise abstinence-based drug treatment over provision of harm reduction services. While services provided may (in a limited sense) 'accommodate' for the harm reduction needs for women who use drugs, where they do exist are predominately designed and run by men.

North America

- Responses were received from Canada and the USA.
- In 2024, there were 11 survey respondents, with 58.33% identifying as people who use drugs.

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 reservations, services for women and gender diverse people who use drugs are practically non-existent. Given the shortfall of adequately funded harm reduction services generally, in both countries' services by and for women and/or gender diverse people who use drugs are rare.

Survey participants consistently identify the lack of childcare and fear of child apprehension, stigma, a general lack of gender responsive 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 gender responsive harm reduction services. Programs and organisations are not specifically available for women who use drugs, including young women and young parents, while prenatal and birthing services are rarely responsive to the needs of people who use drugs.

There is a reported need for harm reduction services to integrate gender based violence response and prevention services. Available shelters are generally unavailable to people who use drugs, while organisations that work on violence do not include women who use drugs. Participants also report the lack of LGBTQIA specific services housed within non-LBTQIA specific harm reduction organisations and the need for harm reduction services to be more inclusive of gender diverse people, people experiencing mental health issues, those who are homeless, engaged in sex work and/or experiencing gender based violence.

A positive trend is 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 women who use drugs (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 gender responsive harm reduction services as a safe and non-judgemental space for women and gender diverse people including those with children.

West, South & East Africa

- Cumulative responses were received from DRC Congo, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Burundi, Cameroon, Madagascar, Seychelles, and Zanzibar.
- In 2024, there were 24 survey respondents, with 75% identifying as people who uses drugs.

Throughout the region, women who use drugs are stereotyped as ‘immoral women’, while gender diverse people likewise experience widespread social marginalisation, violence and discrimination. Stigmatisation may deter people from seeking healthcare services, fearing judgment or repercussions. There is a strong belief that mothers who use drugs are neglectful or unfit, stigmatising their parenting choices and abilities. Mapping results suggest that in East, West and Southern Africa, women and gender diverse people have limited or no access to a comprehensive range of gender responsive harm reduction services. The criminalisation of drug use, a lack of harm reduction services and gender-based violence are identified as the key barriers to access.

Women and gender diverse people who use drugs are generally not consulted or considered in planning and delivery of existing gender based violence services, nor is justice and recourse accessible to this community across the region. At the same time, rates of GBV against these communities are particularly high, including at the hands of State actors such as police, while stigma against gender diverse people who use drugs is particularly acute in Africa. Survivors who use drugs may be blamed for their circumstances, particularly if they experience violence.

Intersectionality is rarely considered in designing HIV services, resulting in key population siloing which generally functions to limit responsiveness and relevance to the needs of women and gender diverse people who use drugs. The domination of existing services by cis-male service users and stigma and discrimination against women and gender diverse people also limit access. Many healthcare providers are not trained in inclusive practices leading to inadequate support for women and gender diverse individuals. The healthcare environment is usually not affirming or welcoming which can negatively impact the willingness of women and gender-diverse people to seek services and care. Other service gaps include childcare services (including for parents in drug treatment), housing and crisis shelters. Further, in most countries, little or no responsive attention is given to people who use drugs by antenatal and post-natal services, partly due to lack of capacity among the health care workers as well as the predominance of stigma around drug use in pregnancy.

Few services provide for the specific needs of women and gender diverse people. The key factors underlying the lack of access to harm reduction and other necessary services are widespread and extreme patriarchy, criminalisation, stigma and discrimination.

Western Europe

- Responses were received from Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Scotland, Switzerland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Italy, Germany, UK-England, Greece, and France.
- There were 21 survey respondents, with 61.11% identifying as people who uses drugs.

In general, the populist punitive politics towards women and gender diverse people across the region accounts for the overall lack of adequate and appropriate gender responsive harm reduction services.

A lack of activism is noted in Sweden. In Greece, the absence of services responding to migrant women decreases their access to harm reduction and sexual and reproductive health services. In nearby Malta, women who use drugs are barred from shelter services. Consultations in Spain highlight issues on parental and child custody rights violations, a lack of suitable shelters and high rates of gender based violence. In the UK, again State intervention on child custody (labeled by community members as ‘kidnapping’), criminalisation, sex worker ‘pimping’ laws, racism – where women of colour are arrested at twice the rate of other women - and pathologisation of both gender diverse people and folk who use drugs, all stand in the way of essential health service access. Similarly, violations of child custody rights, together with stigma and discrimination, limit health service access for women and gender diverse people who use drugs in Germany.

For people who use drugs, including trans gender people who may have specialist medical and other appointments, the use of drugs is pitted against their access to services . As a result, people cannot disclose drug use without experiencing discrimination or exclusion.

Generally, the lack of shelter for women and gender diverse people who use drugs, institutional violence and patriarchy combines with the absence of an intersectional approach in harm reduction programs contributing to the lack of effective gender responsive harm reduction services across the region.

Annex of identified services by region

Annex1. Asia

Thailand

Raks Thai

Raks Thai provides harm reduction services for women, men and gender diverse people. In a number of sites, Raks Thai run services tailored specially for women, and in future programmes aim to expand such services along with those that are inclusive to gender diverse people who use drugs.

- <https://www.raksthai.org/en/>

Health Opportunity Network – HON

Health Opportunity Network supports gender diverse people and female sex workers, providing HIV prevention education and safer sex commodities. HON is increasingly focusing on harm reduction service provision and advocacy, through established referral mechanisms to services that are gender responsive to the harm reduction needs of women and gender diverse people who use drugs, including those engaged in sex work.

- <https://hon.co.th>

Japan

Harm Reduction Tokyo

Harm Reduction Tokyo runs a support hotline with women and gender diverse people who use drugs as responders, as well as “OK Chat” (Harm Reduction Chat) which provides stigma free information and support.

- <https://hrtokyo.net/> (Japanese)
- <https://hrtokyo.net/en> (in English)

Lao PDR

No reported harm reduction services, only ‘health counselling’ on drug use.

Malaysia

No gender responsive services provided.

Myanmar

Best Shelter

Best Shelter runs centres in the Kachin State in Seng Taung, Waimaw, Bamaw, Panwah/Phimaw and in Sagaing Region at Kalay, Nant Taw. Services include a women exclusive drop-in centre, women safe spaces at the general drop-in centre, community-based harm reduction services, sexual and reproductive health services, nutritional support, job creation incentives, training and capacity building for women who use drugs.

- <https://whrin.site/whrin-interview-best-shelter-myanmar/>
- <https://bestsheltermyanmar.org/>

Asian Harm Reduction Network - AHRN

AHRN Myanmar collaborate with Best Shelter for facility-based treatment and care services. AHRN work in Lashio, Waimaw, Bamaw, Tarmakhan Kachin and Shan states. Women specific harm

reduction services include integrated sexual and reproductive services including family planning, with pre/post-natal care referral for special medical treatment to hospital for child delivery or miscarriages as needed. The centre also offers 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. Women-only corners are set up in AHRN's project sites. AHRN provide women's health services in 9 project sites in Kachin, Shan and Sagaing with specific women sexual and reproductive health days, and clinic days.

- <https://ahrnmyanmar.org/what-we-do/drop-in-centre-female/>

Metta Development Foundation

Metta Development Foundation in Kachin State provides women focused services through the employment of women outreach workers, women friendly spaces at the drop-in centre and women-focused health education sessions.

- <https://mohinga.info/en/profiles/acti-ty/41000-6695/>
- <https://metta-myanmar.org>

Médecins du Monde

Médecins du Monde is facilitating gender responsive specific harm reduction services through a Women's Advisory Group. The group regularly engages with women who use drugs in efforts to overcome barriers in accessing health care services and for sharing harm reduction knowledge. The group also manages needle syringe programmes and distributes sanitary items. Specific medical services are also available for women who use drugs and there is also a woman only drop-in centre in Moegaung Township, Kachin State.

- <https://whrin.site/whrin-interview-medecins-du-monde-mdm-myanmar/>
- <https://www.medecinsdumonde.org/en/country/myanmar/myanmar/>

Medical Action Myanmar - MAM

MAM in Yangon (Hlaingtharyar) provides harm reduction services for women (including both cisgender and transgender). The services include a separate waiting area for cis and trans women (with a transgender specific clinic), warm meals, needle syringe programmes, counselling and treatment for mental health, drug use counselling (SBIRT; <https://oasas.ny.gov/sbirt>), sexualised drug use and risk reduction counselling, gender-based violence care, prevention and treatment of HIV/STD/cervical cancer/breast cancer, family planning, and facilitated referral for Buprenorphine and Methadone. MAM in Kachin (Hpakhtant) provides harm reduction services for women sex workers, women who use oral drugs including in sexualised drug use contexts.

India

The National AIDS Control Organisation

The National AIDS Control Organisation, in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, has 7 'targeted interventions' with opioid agonist therapy and needle syringe programmes designed for women who use drugs. Harm services for women are not monitored in India. Guidelines have not been revised.

Demonstration sites in 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.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2020/march/20200302_Kapurthala

Pakistan

There are reported needle syringe programmes for women who inject drugs, but little other information is available.

Indonesia

Womxn Voice - Suara Perempuan Lingkar Napza Nusantara

SPINN is a harm reduction advocacy and care organisation serving women and gender diverse people who use drugs. Services include tailored service hours, as well as allowances and policies for children when parents are accessing services, as well as advocacy on the de-stigmatisation of drug use in pregnant and breastfeeding women.

- <https://womxnvoice.org>
- https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2023/march/20230301_drug-laws-asia-pacific

Perempuan Bersuara- Perkumpulan Perempuan Korban Narkoba Indonesia

PPKNI is a women led and designed network of women who use drugs that carry out support for women who use drugs to ensure improved access to health and social services, including legal aid.

- <https://www.facebook.com/perempuanbersuara>

Persatuan Perempuan Residivist Indonesia

PPRI is a network that works to support women living with HIV including those who use drugs as well as women incarcerated or recently released from prison, with linkage and assisted referral to HIV services.

- <https://www.instagram.com/persatuanperempuanresidivistind?igsh=aGNtdjhva24zNjFz>

Nepal

Recovering Nepal Women - RN-Women

RN-Women are implementing a gender responsive harm reduction programme in 5 districts including 4 women led drop-in centres and one NSP centre with sessions on safer injecting, overdose management, opioid agonist therapy, abscess and sexually transmitted infections testing and treatment, as well as referral services for different sexual and reproductive health services including abortion, family planning services and sanitation kits.

- https://mainline.nl/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/WWID_Nepal_report_2023.pdf

Dristi Nepal

Dristi has 1 drop-in-centre for women who use drugs and offers counselling with linkages to sexual and reproductive health services and gender-based violence services (legal support, reporting), women only - with NSP).

- <http://dristinepal.com/index.html>

Annex 2. Eastern Europe & Central Asia

Belarus

The Republican Public Organization 'Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs'

This organisation works with women sex workers, some of whom are women who use drugs. 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 specialises in providing advice on social issues, including maternity and childhood protection. There are services for free and anonymous rapid HIV tests and examination of sexually transmitted infections. Condoms, needle syringe programmes, sanitary napkins and alcohol napkins are provided.

- <https://www.belau.info/en/>

Kyrgyzstan

Public Foundation Asteria

This is a crisis centre with a shelter for women who use drugs with limited length of stay. It provides food, medication and hygiene packs, social navigation, harm reduction-oriented education, legal support, referral services and self-support groups. There are also pregnancy management protocols for women on opioid agonist therapy.

- <https://glori.kg/en/our-partners/asteria-public-foundation/>

Podruga NGO

Podruga is located in the town of Osh and conducts outreach for women and trans sex workers (including for those who use drugs) providing HIV prevention tools, stigma and discrimination mitigation activities and linkage to gender-based violence services, HIV and HCV services.

- Podrugaosh2111@gmail.com
- <https://aidsactioneurope.org/en/news/kyrgyzstan-raising-awareness-cbvct-services-sex-workers>

Ukraine

Club Eney

WINGS (Women Initiating New Goals of Safety) in Ukraine is designed for women who use drugs offering innovative gender-based violence 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://whrin.site/whrin-interview-club-enev/>

- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/8staJ29eLD41peHh/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCHAcOmiZAc>

Tajikistan

SPIN Plus, Dushanbe

A harm reduction drop-in centre for women who use drugs and live with HIV, providing showers, laundry, clothes (donated), meals (if possible), HIV testing, peer counselling, referrals to medical facilities, support groups and legal services.

- <http://hiv-legalaid.org/en/>

Russia

No relevant services identified.

Moldova

Formare

Formare provides harm reduction-oriented education, including online information on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence including for women who use drugs.

- <https://uniunea.md/category/cursuri-formare-md/>
- <https://formare.md/?lang=ru>
- <https://gbv.formare.md/>

Uniunea

This organisation provides a range of support for women who use drugs, including consultations with social workers, a psychologist and peers for psycho-social support in navigating social and medical services. They also provide referral services, consultations with doctors (specifically gynaecologists - woman), and endocrinologist -woman), free medical examination of sexually transmitted infections and procurement of medication. There is also a space dedicated just for women in Bălți and Tiraspol and crisis rooms with a short-term shelter for women who use drugs (with children (in Chişinău (AO" Inițiativa Pozitivă"), in Bălți (AO" Uniunea pentru Echitate și Sănătate"), and in Rîbnița (OO "Центр "Тринити").

- <https://uniunea.md/servicii/#prestate>
- <https://www.facebook.com/uniunea.md>
- <https://www.facebook.com/initiativapozitiva>
- <https://www.facebook.com/AliansZdorovia>
- <https://www.facebook.com/triniticentr>
- <https://gdm.md/>

Slovakia

CA Odysseus

Odysseus is a drop-in centre special service for cis and trans women - twice a month, with needle and syringe programme, distribution of other harm reduction commodities, consultations and workshops about safer sex practices. There is also special service for women who use drugs and sex workers regarding abortion care where they can access procedures without payment (the costs are covered by the cooperating organisation). Menstrual hygiene packs are provided, and free clothes for sex workers.

- <https://www.ozodyseus.sk/vyrocne-spravy>.

Slovenia

Stigma Safe House

Stigma Safe House supports women who use drugs and who are victims/survivors of violence. It's the only safe house for women who use drugs in Slovenia. Stigma Safe House is a gender responsive, low threshold harm reduction program, where abstinence is not required for entering the house. They offer counselling on violence, drugs, sex, and provide needles and syringes.

- <https://drustvo-stigma.si/program/varna-hisa/>

Annex 3. Latin America

Brazil

É de Lei (São Paulo) Espaço Normal (Rio de Janeiro) Renfa (nacional) Harm Reduction Free School (Recife)

É de Lei Community Centre offers a specific day of the week to welcome women, offering a listening space, providing referrals to health and social assistance services, in addition to distributing harm reduction and ancillary commodities while also fighting for greater autonomy and rights. IEC address menstruation, HIV and STI prevention, harm reduction strategies related to sex work and information about contraceptive methods available in Brazil's public healthcare system.

- <https://edelei.org/portfolio/nota-conceitual-ingles/>
- <https://www.redesdamare.org.br/br/info/71/espaco-normal>

Tulipas

The organisation has been actively involved in harm reduction and creating a protective network for sex workers, focusing on both the homeless population and street-based or non-street-based sex workers. Their efforts include providing health education, information on combined prevention, distributing STI prevention supplies, and implementing harm reduction initiatives in relation to alcohol and drug use.

- <https://tulipasdocerrado.com.br/tulipas/somos/>
- <https://www.developmentaid.org/organizations/view/517153/tulipas-do-cerrado-rede-de-reducao-de-danos-e-profissionais-do-sexo-do-distrito-federal-e-entorno>

Argentina

No relevant services identified.

Mexico

Clinica Wound, Tijuana

The organisation provides community-led on-site wound care, harm reduction education, on-site naloxone training, needle and syringe distribution, HIV counselling and testing, on-site art therapy, food and hydration and community advocacy for women who use drugs.

- <https://whrin.site/whrin-interview-patricia-gonzalez-zuniga/>
- <https://clinicadeheridastijuana.blogspot.com/?m=1>

PrevenCasa AC in Tijuana México, La Zona

La Zona provides gender responsive services such as providing women-only service spaces or hours, services for sex workers, and reproductive health services for women who use drugs.

- <https://www.instagram.com/prevenCasa.c/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/prevenCasateam/>

Instituto RIA A.C.

Instituto RIA A.C. runs a drug checking service which has spaces reserved specifically for women. The majority of the volunteer led team are women who work actively to share harm reduction specific information for women during different moments of their life (menstruation, menopause, pregnancy etc).

- <https://institutoria.org/>
- <https://checatusustancia.org/>

Integración Social Verter AC

A nonprofit dedicated to harm reduction and public health for at risk groups, especially people who inject drugs and women. The organisation also runs needle exchange programs, substance testing, and HIV prevention initiatives. Through these programs, Verter AC advocates for human rights and safer drug practices across Mexico's northern border.

- <http://verter.org.mx/>

Annex 4. Oceania

Australia

Tasmania

Working it Out, Salvation Army NSP (Launceston)

Working it Out is designed for gender diverse people in Tasmania and links people to harm reduction services.

- <https://www.workingitout.org.au>

Victoria

Women's Alcohol and Drug service

This centre provides medical care, counselling and support to women who use drugs, including neonatal care, opioid agonist therapy and related services.

- <https://www.thewomens.org.au/health-professionals/maternity/womens-alcohol-and-drug-service>

DanceWize GBV service

DanceWize GBV Victoria is an auxiliary with DanceWize peer harm reduction services and is designed to provide support to women (and other people) experiencing sexual violence or other forms of harm at music festivals. It provides expert gender-based violence training and consultation on preventing, recognising and responding to gender-based violence in the context of festivals and with people who use drugs to event staff, as well as onsite counselling services and a safe space.

- <https://www.hrvic.org.au/dancewize>

NSW

Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (Darlinghurst)

Uniting MSIC works to ensure women and gender diverse people who use drugs are welcomed. Monthly health promotion campaigns, signage ensures relevance to all gender identities, staffing of various gender identities, staff training to ensure a non-judgemental team and data collection processes reviewed to ensure best practice are included in the service profile. Staff training includes additional risks faced by women/gender diverse people who use drugs as well as family and domestic violence, and two additionally trained fulltime clinical nurse consultants help coordinate care for clients.

- www.uniting.org/msic.

Canberra

Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)

This peer-based organisation runs several smaller projects/campaigns committed to addressing the specific issues experienced by women who use drugs.

- <https://whrin.site/whrin-interview-cahma-canberra-australia/>
- <https://www.cahma.org.au/>.

Western Australia

Women's Health and Family Services

Women and New-born Drug and Alcohol Service (WANDAS) clinical and social support, care and information for pregnant women who are dependent on alcohol and/or other drugs.

- <https://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/For-Health-Professionals/Obstetrics/WANDAS>

Northern Territory

Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council (NTAHC) Care and Support Program, Darwin

NTAHC employs women with a history of drug use as peer workers. In addition to regular harm reduction services, MoUs have been developed with gender-based violence 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 to women who use drugs.

- <https://www.ntahc.org.au/care-and-support>

Queensland

Open Doors Youth Service - LGBTIQAP+ Youth & Families service, South East Queensland

These services advocate for the harm reduction needs of women or gender diverse people, and the majority of workers have lived/living experience of the issues.

- <https://www.opendoors.net.au/>.

Children By Choice

Children by Choice is a non-profit organisation, committed to providing evidence-based information on all pregnancy options - abortion, adoption, alternative or kinship care and parenting, including for women who use drugs.

- <https://www.childrenbychoice.org.au/>.

Sisters Inside

Sisters Inside provides advocacy/programs and support such as referral to medical, mental health and drug and alcohol services and practitioners and provide the practical support needed to attend appointments (e.g., transport). They also support women to improve their social and emotional wellbeing (e.g., assistance with housing, employment or income support). Services are for criminalised women, mothers and youth.

- <https://sistersinside.com.au/>.

New Zealand

Auckland

The Auckland CADS (Community Alcohol and Drug Service)

CADS have a pregnancy and parental service which can help support pregnant women and parents of under 3s access various services including opioid agonist therapy, parenting services and drug checking.

- <https://www.cads.org.nz/>

Te Tāpui Atawhai/Auckland City Mission

Implementing harm reduction, the organisation offers a twice-monthly harm reduction and drug checking clinic. Each session is a safe, judgement-free and welcoming space for all people to talk about drugs. Auckland City Mission offers harm reduction and housing support for folks who use substances. Specific housing/harm reduction/wrap-around services for wahine/trans are also provided.

- <https://www.aucklandcitymission.org.nz/>

Wellington

NZPC (New Zealand Sex Worker's Collective)

Offers harm reduction support, counselling and advocacy for women and gender diverse people who use drugs engaged in sex work as well as needle exchange services inclusive of all genders.

- <https://www.nzpc.org.nz/>.

NZNEP (New Zealand Needle Exchange Programmes)

NZNEP is a women led peer based and peer led provider that offers low barrier and inclusive services and free sterile injecting equipment for women and gender diverse people who use drugs, as well as opioid agonist therapy, and drug checking.

- <https://www.nznep.org.nz/>

Waikato

The Hamilton CADS (Community Alcohol and Drug service)

The Hamilton CADS has a women-only harm reduction group and provides opioid agonist therapy and HCV testing as well as naloxone.

- <https://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/about-us/a-z-of-services/mental-health-and-addictions/community-alcohol-and-drugs/>

Annex 5. Middle East & North Africa

Tunisia

Atiost

Atiost distribute needle syringe programmes and provide psychological care as well as initiatives to address gender-based violence.

- <https://www.atiost.org.tn/FR/>

Iran

The Valiasr Centre

The Valiasr centre located in Shiraz provides a drop-in centre and shelter for women who use drugs. Valiasr provides HIV prevention education, needle syringe programmes, a halfway house, peer outreach, opioid agonist therapy, HIV testing and treatment and ART.

The Tavalod Dobare Centre

The Tavalod Dobare Centre located in Tehran provides shelter for women who use drugs.

The following centres are all women only. All 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 Noore Sepide Hedayat centre located in Tehran

Centre provides opioid agonist therapy, needle syringe programmes, peer outreach services, HIV testing and treatment, shelter and peer outreach. The centres 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).

- <https://www.nooresepid.com/english/>

The Navide Hamraze Iranian

The Navide Hamraze Iranian is a drop-in centre located in Tehran. The service provides HIV prevention and education resources, a referral system, opioid agonist therapy, needle syringe programmes, peer outreach services, HIV testing and treatment and ART.

The Mikhak Centre

The Mikhak Centre located in Tehran provides HIV prevention and education resources, a referral system, opioid agonist therapy, needle syringe programmes, peer outreach services, HIV testing and treatment and ART.

Khaneh Khorshid

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.

Bahrain

No harm reduction services identified.

Morocco

I'ALCS

Special harm reduction facilities for women including gender-sensitive approach specialists, a women-only drop-in centres, and childcare facilities within association premises.

- <https://alcs.ma>

Lebanon

KAFA for women (enough violence)

KAFA (Enough) Violence & Exploitation is a feminist, secular non-governmental civil society organisation that seeks to create a society that is free of the social, economic and legal patriarchal structures that discriminate against women in Lebanon, including women who use drugs.

- <https://kafa.org.lb/en/about>

MENAROSA for women living in HIV

MENA Rosa supports and empowers women and girls in their diversity, those living with HIV, and women and girls at risk as well as their families and partners through the development of their leadership and the promotion of effective participation in advocacy, networking, awareness raising.

- <https://menarosa.org>

Afghanistan

Bridge Hope Health Organisation

Works to provide open access service for women who use drugs. The organisation aims to prevent HIV and other blood borne diseases among injecting drug users through harm reduction service provision.

- <https://www.bridge.org.af/>

Annex 6. North America

USA

New Orleans

Trystereo and Crescent Care

Trystereo and Crescent Care are organisations for women and gender non-conforming people seeking harm reduction services. Services include needle syringe programmes, overdose prevention and management, HIV and HCV testing and treatment, legal aid, housing and inclusive women's health services, with a fully staffed women led team.

- <https://trystereo.org/>
- <https://www.crescentcare.org/service/harm-reduction-services/>

Women With a Vision

Women With a Vision specifically targets its services to marginalised women with culturally competent support and referrals for trans women, the formerly incarcerated and sex workers. Food stamps, child support, story circles, sexual and reproductive health services, overdose prevention and more are provided.

- www.wwav-no.org

Oregon

Academy of Perinatal Harm Reduction

A group established to build 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 and drug use.

- <https://whrin.site/whrin-interview-joelle-puccio-ria-tsinas-and-erika-goyer/>
- <https://www.perinatalharmreduction.org/who-we-are>

Arizona

Sonoran Prevention and Hushabye Nursery

Harm reduction outreach workers provide support to women who are pregnant, parenting, with baby showers for women who use drugs. Hushabye Nursery Arizona provides inpatient withdrawal management to babies with opioid exposure and outpatient services to their parents including peer support, group therapy, and social work services. Neither Hushabye or Sonoran prevention works services are designed for gender diverse people, however, they both fill a need which exists for all people with the capacity for pregnancy.

- <https://spwaz.org/>
- hushabyenursery.org

New England Area

New England Users Union

Offers a women's only day, services for women who engage in sex work and a weekly women's/non-binary harm reduction discussion meeting.

- <https://www.facebook.com/NewEnglandUsersUnion/>

Whose Corner is it Anyway

A Western MA mutual aid, harm reduction, political education and organising 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. Bilingual, trauma informed counselling through story-telling.

- <https://www.thirdwavefund.org/grantees/whose-corner-is-it-anyway>

Alabama

Goodworks: North Alabama

Harm reduction services and community resource hub with outreach projects for anyone in need irrespective of substance use, homelessness, income, race, gender identity, or sexual orientation. They have a focus on LGBTQIA services and women specific resources through peer support, housing resources and harm reduction approaches such as fentanyl strips, safer sex tools, overdose prevention and management, and HIV testing and education.

- <https://www.facebook.com/goodworkshuntsville>

Washington D.C.

Honouring Individual Power and Strength - HIPS

HIPS provides drop-in and outreach services for sex workers and people who use drugs, including groups, housing, mental health and treatment support. HIPS promotes the health, rights, and dignity of individuals and communities involved in sex work and/or drug use. HIPS provides harm reduction services, advocacy, and community engagement that affirms individual power and agency.

- <https://www.hips.org/services.html>

The People's Harm Reduction Alliance - PHRA

Providing DIC, NSP (fixed, mobile, and mail), low threshold OAT, HCV education testing, treatment support, sex worker outreach, full spectrum doula's, reproductive health specific services, for sex workers and full spectrum services for pregnant women and gender diverse people who use drugs.

- <http://phra.org>

Minnesota

The Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition

This organisation 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 needle syringe programmes, HIV/HCV testing, case managers for housing, health insurance and employment support for people who use drugs, including women.

- <https://www.mntransgenderhealth.org/>

Harm Reduction Sisters

Harm Reduction Sisters offers feminist-based harm reduction services including needle syringe programmes, resource linkage and advocacy, confidential mobile services, HIV testing and navigation, naloxone, and overdose education.

- <https://harmreductionsisters.org/>

Baltimore

Sparc: Baltimore

Sparc offers a range of onsite clinical HIV/STI testing and counselling, PrEP, reproductive health, drug treatment, 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

Ohio

River Valley Organizing / UnHarming Ohio

Women and Sex Workers who use Drugs Union Chapters are in 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 drop-in centre and provides essential supplies for women who use drugs including syringes, and Fentanyl test strips.

- <https://www.rivervalleyorganizing.org/about-4>

North Carolina

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/>

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, needle syringe programmes, reproductive justice work, and advocacy for women who use drugs.

- <https://ncurbansurvivorunion.org>

West Virginia

MATSA - Medication Assisted Treatment Support and Awareness

MATSA is an online based support and awareness community for people on opioid agonist therapy, 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 opioid agonist therapy education for women who use drugs seeking or already on opioid agonist therapy.

- www.facebook.com/MedicationAssistedTreatment

New York

Washington Heights Corner Project Harm Reduction and SSP Program

The project provides ‘Ladies’ Night’ and harm reduction weekly session hosted by the Mission Neighbourhood Health Center.

- <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/20-8672015#summary>

Canada

Toronto

COUNTERFit

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 women who use drugs staffed by women who use drugs.

- <https://www.srchc.ca/programs/harm-reduction/counterfit-womens-harm-reduction-program/>

Sistering

Sistering employs a team of peer workers who have lived experience with drug use to help deliver programs at their 24/7 drop in and outreach programs and they also make and distribute harm reduction kits and educational materials.

- <https://sistering.org/harm-reduction/>

Maggie's Toronto Sex Workers Action Project

This project involves street outreach and harm reduction services to venues and sex work sites providing harm reduction supplies, drop in programming and community-specific resources for parents, QT/BIPOC sex workers and male-identified workers.

- <https://www.maggiestoronto.org>

Adelaide Resource Centre for Women/Fred Victor Women's 24-hour drop-in

This operates 24 hours/7 days a week to provide women and gender non-conforming folks with access to basic necessities, programming, a full-service harm reduction site, and supplies, support and referrals.

- www.fredvictor.org/what-we-do/health-services/drop-ins-community-programs/

KAPOW (Knowledge and Power of Women)

Located in Parkdale Community Health Centre) this centre offers a weekly drop-in support and education program for women who use drugs with some staff with lived experience.

- <https://pqwchc.org/programs-services/harm-reduction/kapow-knowledge-and-power-of-women/>

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.

- <https://www.fredvictor.org/what-we-do/health-services/harm-reduction/>

Vancouver

WISH DIC BC in Canada

WISH DIC works to improve the health, safety and well-being of women who are involved in Vancouver's street-based sex trade. Harm reduction supplies and materials are also available in the drop-in centre.

- <https://wish-vancouver.net/>

Her Way Home, Vancouver, BC

Her Way Home offers pregnancy and parenting supports for women who use drugs including health care, counselling, infant and child services nutrition, information and outreach support.

- <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/pregnancy-birth-babies/herway-home-hwh>

Sheway

Sheway 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.

- <https://www.vch.ca/en/locations>

SisterSquare

SisterSquare is a large outdoor tent that provides overdose prevention and other services to women who use drugs.

- <https://www.vch.ca/en/location/sistersquare-inhalation-tent>

The Vivian (British Columbia)

The Vivian is an accessible housing program designed for women (trans and cis inclusive). The women's shelter accommodates residents to have drugs with them and/or use their safe consumption service. They also allow visitors for women who may be participating in sex work and have protocols on how to support women if a visitor becomes violent.

- <https://www.raincityhousing.org/programs/the-vivian/>

Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Society (British Columbia)

This women's shelter offers drug checking strips, take home naloxone, needle syringe programmes, substance supply kits, fentanyl testing strips, a harm reduction coach and health clinic with opioid agonist therapy for women and gender diverse people who use drugs.

- <https://fnafs.org>

SisterSpace

SisterSpace 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/>

Ontario

Safer Use Space (at YWCA Hamilton)

A gender-specific safe consumption space including withdrawal management services located in a low barrier drop-in program. They also provide a transitional living program serving women, trans and non-binary people experiencing homelessness. Staffed in collaboration with Hamilton Harm Reduction Action League and including peer workers, the space offers comprehensive support including reproductive health, gender-based violence supports and a sex worker drop-in space.

- <https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/safer-drug-use-spaces-women-trans-and-non-binary-people>

Welcome Centre Shelter (Ontario)

Low barrier gender-based violence women's shelter where women can bring drugs, providing harm reduction services.

- <https://ww2.welcomecentreshelter.com>

My Sisters Space, London ON

This drop-in support centre is designed 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, needle syringe programmes, case management, an indigenous women's program, and a nurse practitioner-led clinic.

- <https://www.safespaceLondon.ca/>

Quebec

IRIS services

IRIS Estrie distributes safe injection or inhalation equipment, including syringes, sterile water, stericups, crack pipes and more. A wide variety of information leaflets are also available on their premises. IRIS services include HIV testing and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne services for LGBTQ and women who use drugs.

- <https://irisestrie.org>

Elixir, Sherbrooke

This site offers harm reduction support for women 16+, including a service for sexual violence, drug use and nightlife.

- <https://elixir.qc.ca/sois-pro/>

Stella

Stella's primary mission is to improve the quality of life and working conditions for women-identifying sex workers, to educate the public on diverse sex work experiences, and to advocate for equal rights to safety and security for sex workers.

- <https://chezstella.org/en/home/>

New Foundland

St John's Status of Women Council, St. John's, NL Canada

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, gender-based violence support, rape crisis support, counselling and medical services. The SJSWC is also running a biweekly Harm Reduction Peer Support Group for women and gender diverse people who have living/lived experience of drug/alcohol use.

- <https://sjswc.ca/>

Winnipeg

Manito Ikwe Kagiikwe/Mothering Project, and Sage House at Mount Carmel Clinic, Winnipeg

Offers one-on-one, groups, health care and Indigenous cultural/spiritual support for pregnant women who use drugs, and comprehensive drop-in services and harm reduction services for women-identifying persons.

- <https://www.mountcarmel.ca/events/category/sage-house/list/>

West Central Women's Resource Centre Drop In, Winnipeg

This organisation offers harm reduction supplies, meals, hygiene supplies, info/workshops, referrals and includes childcare for women and gender diverse people.

- <https://wrcwrc.ca/dropin/>

North End Women's Centre, Winnipeg

North End Women's Centre offers a drop-in centre, showers, hygiene supplies, harm reduction services and follow up housing, health, counselling and family services. Their drop-in program assists women, gender-diverse folks and their families to meet their basic needs, equips people with knowledge and opportunities to make informed decisions about their lives and offers referrals, support, resources and supplies including safer sex and safe injecting kits as well as naloxone.

- <https://newcentre.org>

Our Place Safe Space

This site offers Friday drop-in with harm reduction resources for sex workers of all genders, but is largely accessed by women.

- <https://www.spenceneighbourhood.org/opss>

Alberta

The Healthy, Empowered and Resilient (H.E.R.) Pregnancy Project, Edmonton, AB

HER has peer outreach staff and provides harm reduction services with a focus on access to safe injecting and safer inhaling resources. Service includes a woman only place for safe consumption, and methadone/ suboxone.

- <https://www.catie.ca/programming-connection/the-her-pregnancy-program>

Annex 7. West, South & East Africa

Mozambique

MozPUD

National network of people who use drugs, including women who use drugs.

- <https://www.unodc.org/rosaf/stories/2023/June/unodc-and-partners-convene-first-ever-community-forum-of-women-with-hiv-aids-who-inject-drugs-in-mozambique.html>

DRC Congo

This program offers free medical care, nutritional service, clothing assistance, gender-based violence support, education on sexual and reproductive health, voluntary screening and free care for all women/girls affected by HIV.

- <https://youtu.be/htnINOKt35Y?feature=shared>
- <https://www.facebook.com/100080254128831/posts/pfbid0bQkUkwVw7gWHyUEpTiyPP6Tajhob5UhVnZYyf2ZNHAYRQHb1ppco3Fw63kBZq8kul/?app=fbl>
- <https://www.facebook.com/100064927531285/posts/pfbid02Cao5Ymwy4NWd47CX9py3bCoTTacR6jyo9QsTxvUzTTMEs3UQybyqYs7g74KtXejmYl/?app=fbl>

Kenya

Women in Response to HIV/AIDS and Drug Addiction (WRADA)

WRADA is a network of groups of women who use drugs from eight counties in Kenya, the first network of women who use drugs in East Africa. They conduct capacity building sessions for women who use drugs, legal aid and paralegal support and referral, and advocacy for increased gender-responsive and sexual and reproductive health services.

- www.wrada.org
- <https://www.facebook.com/KaaWRADA/>
- https://x.com/wrada_ke
- https://www.instagram.com/wrada_ke/?locale=id

Women Nest

Women Nest offers shelter for women who use drugs especially those experiencing intimate partner violence, provides sustainable livelihood activities and conducts advocacy for increased access to harm reduction and sexual and reproductive health services. Women Nest also works with incarcerated women who use drugs to provide a safe space after imprisonment.

- <https://whrin.site/whrin-interview-catherine-mwangi-about-women-nest-nairobi-kenya/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/womennestkenya>
- <https://www.womennest.org/>

MEWA, Mombasa

This faith-based centre offers women specific programmes, including drop-in centres and ancillary services (e.g., showers, women's hygiene kits, nutritional support and laundry) with health services, methadone and needle syringe programmes. Women's safe space activities take place weekly and gender-based violence couples sessions focus on women who use drugs and their sexual partners to create awareness and information on gender-based violence prevention and responses.

- <https://hospital.mewa.or.ke/harm-reduction/>

Mauritius

CUT

Collectif Urgence Toxida (CUT) offers specific harm reduction services to women through a community-based space, and sexual and reproductive health rights empowerment to women who use drugs and partners of people who use drugs.

- <https://cut.mu/fr/>

AILES and Parapli Rouz

These organisations offer service delivery for women by women, including needle syringe programmes and condoms with client led options for counselling or support, meaningful involvement in day to day running of program activities, sexual and reproductive health services and accompaniment to gender-based violence service referrals.

- <https://ailes.mu/partner/parapli-rouz/>

Nigeria

Greater Women Initiative for Health and Right (GWIHR)

GWIHR is a youth-led, community-based organisation that promotes gender equality, health equity, safeguarding human rights, and empowering diverse sexual minorities (male, female, and LGBTQ sex workers) including those who use drugs.

- <https://gwihr.org.ng>

Drug Free and Preventive Healthcare Organisation (DAPHO)

This organisation hosts a project entitled “Catalysing uptake of Gender-sensitive Harm Reduction Services for Women Who Use/inject Drugs in Gombe” which has been identified as successfully responding to the needs of women who use drugs.

- <https://dapho.org>

YouthRISE Nigeria

YouthRISE Nigeria in collaboration with the National Hospital Abuja provides mental health and psychosocial consultation to women who use drugs addressing the mental health challenges and needs of women who use drugs. They provide day and night safe space for survivors of gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health services, nutritional support, mother and child services, recreation and relaxation therapy.

- <https://youthriseng.org>

Senegal

REFEIC, Réseau des Femmes Incluses au CPIAD

This is a women’s group under the national people who use drugs network.

- <https://refeic020202.jimdofree.com/>

Centre de Prise en Charge Intégrée des Addictions de Dakar (CEPIAD)

The Centre de Prise en Charge Intégrée des Addictions de Dakar (CEPIAD) is part of the University Hospital of Fann in Dakar, Senegal. CEPIAD remains a key facility in Senegal's efforts to support individuals dealing with opioid dependency. It also offers services addressing related health risks, such as HIV and tuberculosis.

- https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2020/december/20201204_dakar-addiction-centre-reaches-out-to-women

South Africa

Tinswalo, Indibano, Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre

The Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre promotes the fundamental human rights of all and believes in decriminalisation and the provision of low threshold evidence-based harm reduction services. They have a safe space for women.

- <https://bellhavenharmreductioncentre.co.za/about/>

COSUP in Tshwane

COSUP delivers a range of gender responsive services, including family planning services, counselling, social services, HIV and TB screening, opioid agonist therapy, needle syringe programmes, peer outreach services, HIV testing and treatment and ART and post-rehabilitation support for women who use drugs.

- <https://www.tshwane.gov.za/?p=55112>

SANPUD

SANPUD is a registered network of people who use drugs that provides harm reduction services that are gender responsive such as HIV and TB screening, opioid agonist therapy, needle syringe programmes, and in initiatives assisting in the establishment of women led networks, participating in SDP and EVAWUD campaigns as well as the allocation of funding specifically towards gender specific activities.

- <https://www.sanpud.org>
- <https://whrin.site/whrin-interview-sanpud/>

TB/HIV Care Step-Up Programme

The Step-Up Project, run by TB HIV Care, opened a new drop-in center in Cape Town to provide harm reduction services for people who inject drugs. This center offers sterile injecting equipment, opioid substitution therapy, HIV testing, and psychosocial support. The project aims to reduce risks like HIV and hepatitis, and social marginalisation. It has already supported over 900 people, distributed thousands of harm reduction packs and promoting safe needle disposal.

- <https://tbhivcare.org/news/step-up-project-opens-new-centre-for-people-who-use-drugs-in-cape-town-city-centre/>

Tanzania

Salvage in Der es Salaam

Offers a shelter service and referral linkages for women who use drugs.

- https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2020/october/20201005_tanzania-women-who-use-drugs

TANPUD

TANPUD aims to empower people who use drugs to participate in community development and be involved in planning and decision making that affects women who use drugs in order to have equal rights and access to health services.

- <https://tanpud.or.tz>

Sierra Leone

There are no identified gender responsive services in Sierra Leone.

Annex 8. Western Europe

Netherlands

The Prinsenhof, Amsterdam (part of De Regenboog group)

Princehof is a specific shelter programme for women, operating during the weekend and two weekday evenings. They have a bi-annual women's night, where women are specially invited to the facilities to access the needle and syringe programmes, use of the drug consumption room, clean clothes, food and drink, massage, to get a haircut and nails done. There is also music and an opportunity to socialise and seek support and advice.

- <https://www.deregenboog.org/en/De%20Regenboog%20Groep>

Portugal

GAT in Mouraria

GAT in Mouraria is a community-based centre for integrated responses aimed at people who use drugs for peer-led, rapid, anonymous, confidential, and free HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and syphilis testing as well as the provision of safe injecting and smoking equipment. There are opening hours exclusively for women and gender diverse people who use drugs.

- https://www.gatportugal.org/servicos/gat-in-mouraria_18

GAT in Intendente

GAT Intendente is a community-based centre for sex workers and clients, gender diverse people, people in migration situations, and people who sleep on the streets for rapid, anonymous, confidential, and a free screening of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, sexual counselling, and healthcare referrals.

- https://www.gatportugal.org/servicos/gat-intendente_3

Kosmicare

Kosmicare provides gender inclusive interventions in nightlife settings and runs "SOMOS" an informal mutual support group that advocates for the rights of women who experience homelessness, sex workers, women who use drugs.

- <https://kosmicare.org>

Spain

Metzineres

Metzineres is a community-based non-profit cooperative founded by women to address the challenges faced by women and gender-diverse people who use drugs and provides services including a supervised consumption room, socio-legal advice among others.

- <https://whrin.site/whrin-interview-metzineres-barcelona/>
- www.metzineres.org

Sweden

Identified providers are rehabilitation focussed.

France

Identified providers are focussed on rehabilitation.

Scotland

Connect Hub, Glasgow

The Connect Hub is a community space for women that works with statutory and third sector organisations to ensure women can access tailored support and unfettered access to gender responsive harm reduction services. This organisation is designed and led by women with lived experience.

- <https://www.simonscotland.org/service/the-connect-hub/#:~:text=The%20Connect%20Hub%20is%20a,through%20support%2C%20connection%20and%20community.>

Italy

CrissCross

CrissCross aims to address gender-based violence in venue settings and also offers HIV and HCV tests, counselling, and sexual health information for women and gender diverse people who use drugs.

- <https://crisscrossproject.org/it/>

Orientadonna, Turin (ospedale Amedeo di Savoia)

The centre offers women-led and trans-led harm reduction services for women, trans and non-binary people who use drugs. The low threshold harm reduction service located in the drop in premises at the Amedeo di Savoia Hospital, is designed for women who use drugs. Orientadonna works in collaboration with the network Chemical Sisters.

- <https://www.facebook.com/OrientaDonna/>

Verona, "Substantia"

Substantia focuses on harm reduction, substance information, SOGIESC, gender responsiveness, and counter-information without stigma and prejudice under the ItarDD Network. ITARDD is a network of operators, people who use drugs, associations and local authorities working towards rights-based approaches to drug use and against ineffective policies centred on prohibition and 'drug war' narratives.

- <https://www.itardd.it>
- https://www.instagram.com/substantia_verona/

Beat Project, Bologna

Beat Project is a peer led harm reduction network that focusses on chemsex and harm reduction with a gender lens through information sharing at venues, events and through social media.

- <https://www.facebook.com/riduzionedeirischi/>

Chemical Sisters

Chemical Sisters is an Italian feminist collective of women and gender diverse people who use drugs, providing harm reduction advice and information.

- <https://www.facebook.com/chemicalsisters420/reviews/>

Switzerland

Identified providers are rehabilitation focussed.

Northern Ireland

Identified providers are rehabilitation focussed.

Ireland

Identified providers are rehabilitation focussed.

UK-England

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

This site in Nottingham provides 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)

MASH 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/>

One25

One25 is a charity in Bristol, UK, that supports women involved in street sex work. It provides outreach services, offering food, showers, and practical support, as well as access to specialist services including health care, addiction treatment, and mental health support. Night Outreach mobile van provides harm reduction packs to street-based sex workers.

- <https://one25.org.uk/>

Oasis Project

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/>

Germany

Freiraum/ Abrigado Hamburg

The association "freiraum hamburg e.V." provides low threshold harm reduction services such needle syringe programmes, drug consumption rooms, opioid agonist therapy, harm reduction information, wound treatment, HIV and HCV counselling and linkage to care, peer support, legal advice, hygiene and well-being packs for women and gender diverse people who use drugs and employs women nurses and peer counsellors.

- <http://www.freiraum-hamburgev.de/offers.html>

The Phoenix eV, Lower Saxony, Hanover (the Phoenix project, La Strada and the night shift project)

The project works with female sex workers and women who use drugs to provide gender responsive harm reduction services.

- <https://www.la-strada-hannover.de/>

Wigwam Connect

Wigwam Connect is a part of the Wigwam Zero project in Berlin, focusing on supporting pregnant women and families struggling with substance use issues. This includes services such as outreach and support for pregnant women with substance use disorders (SUD), residential and community-based support, as well as providing housing assistance.

- <https://vistaberlin.de>

Frauentreff Olga

An active support and counseling center for women who use drugs (WUD), transgender women, and sex workers. It offers a range of services including psychosocial support, medical help, and specialized counseling for women involved in drug use and sex work.

- <https://drogennotdienst.de/nur-fuer-frauen/frauentreff-olga/>

Bella Donna

Bella Donna is part of the Suchtkooperation NRW and offers a broad range of support for women affected by substance use. These services include consultation, housing, and outreach, particularly targeting women involved in sex work. The organisation works in close collaboration with StrichPunkt, providing harm reduction services such as advisory services, access to health care, and social integration programs. They are known for their inclusive, gender-responsive approach that ensures women and those involved in sex work receive the support they need.

- <https://www.landesfachstelle-belladonna.de>

Social Service of Catholic Women (SkF)

SkF provides support and assistance for women who use drugs and those involved in sex work. Their services include offering a café for women using drugs (WUD), which provides a safe space and support services, including outreach to women in need. They work closely with other social organizations and institutions to address the specific needs of these women, offering harm reduction and social assistance. SkF is involved in the broader network of care for marginalized women, linking with other services to provide comprehensive support.

- <https://www.skf-koeln.de>

Lilith e.V.

Lilith e.V. is a non-profit organisation based in Nuremberg, Germany, that provides specialized services for women who use drugs (WUD) and their children. It offers a range of support services, including counseling, crisis intervention, therapy, and housing assistance. The organisation integrates feminist and child-specific approaches to address the unique needs of drug-using women and their families, aiming to help them lead independent, violence-free lives. Services for pregnant drug users are a key focus, with plans to expand these services further.

- <https://lilith-ev.de>

Ragazza e.V.

Ragazza offers a wide range of harm reduction services for women who use drugs (WUD) and those engaged in sex work. Their services include a drug consumption room (DIC), as well as access to food, showers, clothing, hygiene products, legal information, referrals, and outreach support for women in the St. George district of Hamburg. They also offer a mobile outreach service that provides direct support to women, distributing condoms, lube, and offering on-the-spot advice on social, medical, and legal issues.

- <https://ragazza-hamburg.de>