

TO:

Steering committee, staff and members of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA)
Donor organizations and Technical Partners working in CEECA region

Date: 13.11.2017

In the light of recent collapse of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) caused by actions of the new tandem of EHRN's owners which led to withdrawal of almost all donors funding from the organization and cessation of all EHRN's program activities we, the undersigned representatives of the professional community working in the field of HIV and TB prevention and control, as well as in advocacy for humane drug policy all over the globe, would like to support and welcome the establishment by the former EHRN Steering Committee members and its core management staff of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA).

We appreciate EHRN's long history of being for almost 20 years a true community-led civil society network and a leading force promoting evidence-based health policy and practice and defending the human rights of people who use drugs in the Central and Eastern European and Central Asian (CEECA) region and beyond. Unfortunately, though the legal form of the organization which allowed individuals to own the organization and interfere with ongoing activities ignoring the opinion of the democratically elected Steering Committee and the members it represented – proved to be to leave the network vulnerable and unsustainable. That is why we welcome that the newly established Eurasian Harm Reduction Association has a democratic legal form with the general assembly of its members as main decision-making body.

We acknowledge that the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association, its management and members are the true inheritors of the EHRN legacy including its advocacy capacity and partnership with harm reduction activists and organizations from CEECA and beyond. We wish success to the EHRA in continuing to promote the humane, evidence-based harm reduction approaches to drug use in CEECA region, with the aim of improving health and protecting human rights at the individual, community, and societal levels.

We also call the donor organizations and Technical Partners working in CEECA region to support this new organization and give it a start in life as now there is more than ever a need for having a strong partner in the region advocating for access to the essential medical and social services for PUDs and safeguarding their interests and rights.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Rick Lines Executive Director Harm Reduction International	Judy Chang Executive Director International Network of People who use Drugs
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