

The long-term goal of the Right to life project was to improve the enjoyment of human rights of women from vulnerable communities and their access to health care and social protection in areas with high prevalence of drug use and HIV infection. Using the data collected in 2017 in Estonia the [report](#) was submitted and in April 2018 presented to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights. As a result, Estonian government received questions regarding the availability of «gender-specific interventions targeting women drug users, particularly those who are pregnant or have children, and on the support provided for them, including rehabilitation facilities». In order to promote the results on national level a small grant was given to LUNEST, who presented the more [detailed report](#) to the Minister of Health and to the Estonian centre for Human rights. Additionally to that, there were quite a lot of publications in the media featuring this report including the [TV story](#), and Estonian Social Security Department requested a special training for its employees on how to work with women who use drugs. Based on this survey EHRA, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and LUNEST published an [article](#) in the Harm Reduction Journal.

In September 2018 EHRA together with experts from Canadian HIV/AIDS legal network organized one-day workshop “Documenting cases of human rights violations of women who use drugs and/or living with HIV” in Saint Petersburg, Russia for women who use drugs, local NGO’s working in harm reduction and other activists, and then collected 27 in-depth interviews. The results of Estonian and Russian researches were presented during the [AIDS2018](#) conference, at the Regional workshop on community-based monitoring, «Understanding the Gendered Impacts of Drug Policy» course at the Central European University in Budapest and at the latest European Harm Reduction Conference in Bucharest. Other relevant results:

- EHRA developed safety protocol for conducting human rights research (available upon request)
- One of the Estonian research findings was lack of legal support for women and in order to tackle this problem, LUNEST in partnership with one of the lawyer firms developed a system of providing free legal assistance for people who use drugs and members of their families.
- In March 2018 EHRA participated in the [workshop](#) on developing reporting guidelines for NGOs to report to CEDAW on the violations of the rights of women who use drugs organized by International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP Asia Pacific).
- Women’s and feminist movements and organizations turned out to be very resistant to include the issues of women who use drugs in their agenda. Due to the de facto criminalization of people who use drugs, they are perceived as criminals and failed women who chose this path and deserve the consequences. To address this issue in May 2018 The Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) in collaboration with EHRA organized the meeting in Berlin for feminist and women who use drugs activists. Participants discussed intersectional feminism, the inclusion of women who use drugs in the global feminist movement, and the gendered consequences of repressive drug policies. Within this project a special closed group was opened in Facebook, a webinar about feminism was organized and now EHRA with activists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Estonia are conducting a survey on gendered consequences of repressive drug policies. The results of this research will be presented at the second joint convening in February 2019.