

# LEAHN

The logo for LEAHN (The Centre for Law Enforcement and Public Health) is displayed in large, bold, red capital letters.

**Second Regional Consultation on Law Enforcement and the HIV  
Response**  
**Beirut, Lebanon, 21-22 November, 2016**

## **The Law Enforcement & HIV Network**

**Nick Crofts**

**The Centre for Law Enforcement and Public Health**

# LEAHN: Objectives



- ▶ LEAHN is a global network of serving and retired police
- ▶ LEAHN's focus is on reducing harm in communities by promoting access to health services for vulnerable populations
  - (particularly HIV prevention services)

## Objectives:

- ▶ To educate and advocate to police colleagues regarding HIV and harm reduction policing
- ▶ To build sustainable global and local police-civil society partnerships to work more effectively with vulnerable groups, including:
  - People who inject drugs (PWID);
  - Sex workers;
  - Prisoners;
  - Migrants and refugees; and
  - Men who have sex with men (MSM)

# LEAHN aims to:

- ▶ Increase knowledge about evidence-based harm reduction practices and approaches, particularly in low- and middle-income countries
- ▶ Promote key messages & benefits of HIV prevention for police
  - E.g.: reduce crime, workload, risk of occupational exposure
- ▶ Address myths and stereotypes of vulnerable groups using a human rights framework
- ▶ Promote inter-agency collaboration - develop role awareness and mutual understanding
  - Especially with CSOs, NGOs

# LEAHN Country Focal Points



## Country Focal Points

- ▶ Serving or retired police officer(s)
  - Volunteers – some official, others informal
- ▶ Educate and advocate in their own agency
  - “Peer educators”
- ▶ National webpages/websites
  - National language
  - Relevant and appropriate

## Current CFPs:

- Asia: Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Thailand, India, Nepal, Indonesia
- Africa: Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya
- EECA: Kyrgyzstan, Moldova
- Latin America: Brazil, Argentina
- MENA: **none ... yet**

# LEAHN Country Focal Points



# LEAHN: Activities



- Training and consultations
  - Global: 2012, 2014, 2016
  - Regional: Central Asia, Southeast Asia, southern Africa
- Disseminating news and updates
  - Newsletter
  - Websites: English, Russian
  - Facebook, Twitter
- Supporting research initiatives, study tours
- Developing training and advocacy materials
- Brokering training and engagement with police academies
- Maintaining online resource library
  - Clearing house: resources, latest research, evidence of best practice, examples of police/health collaborations
  - Increasing accessibility to resources: including languages

# LEAHN: Advocacy



## LEAHN Consultations:

### 2012: **Statement of Support**

- more than 10,000 police signatories
- launched at UN Crime Congress

### 2014: **Amsterdam Declaration**

- support by civil society and UN

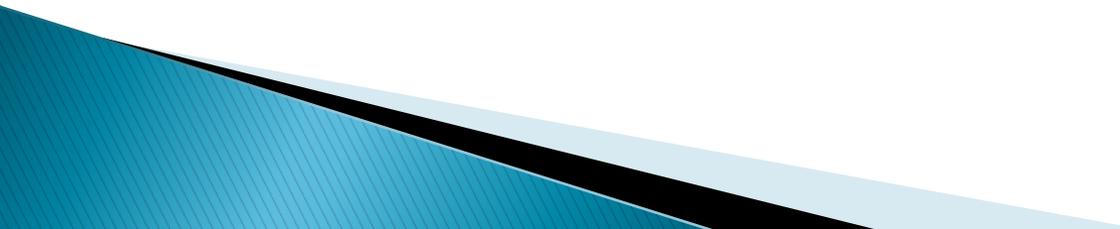
### 2016: **Principles of Policing Vulnerable Populations**



# Police Statement of Support for Harm Reduction



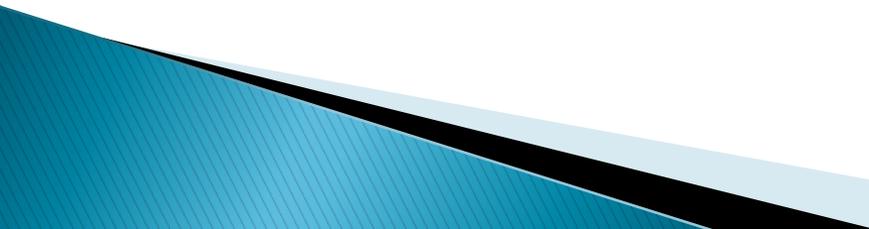
## Key principles of support:

1. Support for interventions for HIV prevention among and from people who use drugs, sex workers, men who have sex with men and other key populations.
  2. Support for all services oriented at reducing the harms associated with illicit drug use (e.g. prevention of drug overdose deaths).
  3. Support for a health and rights-based approach to sex work, and all services oriented at reducing the harms experienced by sex workers (e.g. violence and the transmission of sexually transmitted infections).
  4. Support for the appropriate use of administrative or criminal laws in ways which do not undermine HIV prevention programs among key populations.
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# Police Statement of Support for Harm Reduction



## Key principles of support:

5. Facilitate access to HIV/drug/sexually transmitted infection prevention, treatment and care services, including by adult and juvenile referral mechanisms.
  6. Identification and application of alternatives to arrest and prosecution in appropriate cases, reducing costs to their own and other criminal justice agencies, reducing incarceration rates and divert vulnerable individuals from other unintended harmful consequences of the criminal justice system.
  7. Support for comprehensive law enforcement training and education strategies, policy development and realistic performance indicators to ensure all individuals have access to essential HIV services
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Police can be the best friend  
or the worst enemy of HIV  
prevention and harm reduction.



Harm Reduction cannot and  
will not work without the  
active participation of police.

# LEAHN CFPs advocacy video



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzeBIYVRIYw&feature=youtu.be>

# LEAHN



- **Be part of the network - sign up to LEAHN!**
  - All police are invited to join the **LEAHN** by reading and signing a copy of the Statement of Support

[www.leahn.org](http://www.leahn.org)

- **Follow LEAHN on Facebook and Twitter**

[leahn@leahn.org](mailto:leahn@leahn.org)

[melissa.jardine@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.jardine@gmail.com)

[nick.crofts@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:nick.crofts@unimelb.edu.au)