

Bibliographies

Nazik *Abylgazieva* is a prominent women's rights activist in Kyrgyzstan advocating for women vulnerable to HIV, i.e. key groups of women (women who use synthetic new psychoactive substances, LBT women, trans women sex workers). She serves as the Country Representative for the Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (EWNA) since March 2024. She is also an activist in the field of harm reduction, in particular participation in research, development of training modules, training in harm reduction programs.

Meryem *Grabski* is a psychologist currently working as a postdoctoral researcher at the Technische Hochschule Nürnberg. Her research interests include drug use and addiction both in licit and illicit substances as well as the investigation of novel treatment methods. She has been using different research methods to this end such as eye-tracking, pharmacological manipulations, online surveys and other data collection methods, such as mobile phone apps. She completed her PhD on the role of craving in tobacco addiction and potential treatments for it at the University of Bristol in 2018.

Galina *Grebennikova*, Obstetrician-Gynaecologist is an expert in reproductive health and family planning, Master of Medical Sciences, a member of the European Society for Contraception and Executive Director of the Kazakhstan Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health.

Oksana *Ibragimova* is a leading HIV activist in Kazakhstan and Advocacy Specialist at the Kazakhstan Union of People Living with HIV. Living with HIV for over 17 years, she was among the first in the country to openly discuss her status to combat stigma. Ibragimova conducts training sessions, collaborates with healthcare professionals to promote non-discriminatory practices, and works with international organizations like USAID to enhance HIV prevention and support services. She also addresses challenges faced by women living with HIV, including gender-based violence, playing a key role in advocacy and education across Kazakhstan.

Katarzyna Kinga *Kowalczyk* is a psychologist with a PhD in Economics (in the field of Management). Her expertise covers harm reduction, public health, and event management. She leads the Global Public Health Founda-

tion, an NGO dedicated to supporting organizations and institutions in implementing harm reduction initiatives. Her primary focus is on harm reduction strategies and key populations in the EECA region. Additionally, she serves as a lecturer at SWPS University in Warsaw, Poland.

Valentina Mankiyeva is a prominent HIV activist from Kazakhstan who has been living with HIV for over 26 years. She has dedicated herself to advocating for harm reduction strategies and supporting women who use drugs. Valentina collaborates with organizations such as the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association, the Eurasian Network of People Who Use Drugs, the Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS, and the Kazakhstan Union of People Living with HIV. Through her work, she aims to reduce stigma and improve access to essential services for women living with HIV in Kazakhstan

Natalya *Rakhalskaya*, is a Doctor, holds a Master's degree in Public Health. She is a President of the Kazakhstan Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health.

Oksana *Rusnak* is a prominent HIV activist based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. She has been living with HIV for over 20 years and has transformed from a dissident of antiretroviral therapy to a peer consultant, actively supporting others living with HIV. Oksana is affiliated with the organization "Ishonch va Hayot" (Trust and Life), where she contributes to various initiatives aimed at reducing stigma and providing assistance to people living with HIV. Her work includes conducting educational sessions and participating in public discussions to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in Uzbekistan.

Larissa *Steimle* is a social worker currently working as a research assistant at the Institute of Addiction Research at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. Further, she is completing her doctorate on the topic of professional, supportive relationships in the context of crisis interventions. As a social worker she worked five years with people with mental illnesses. Her main areas of research include topics related to mental illnesses/drug use, professional social work and harm reduction.