

DECLARATION ON “YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN DRUG POLICY DEVELOPMENT”

During the third Regional Meeting on “Youth engagement in drug policy development” conducted in Khujand-Tajikistan from 9th-13th of October 2017 we, volunteers of RC from Tajikistan, Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan became familiar with the significant role of youth in humanitarian drug policy that needs to be spread all over the world.

We became aware of the insufficiency of our countries’ drug policies. It is evidence based that drug addiction is not a crime but it is a serious disease, which needs humanitarian approach, intake and treatment. We became aware that compassion and solidarity are not enough, but there is a need for actions to be taken by young RC volunteers.

So we have decided to:

- Conduct advocacy campaigns against stigma and discrimination and in favor of human rights
- Conduct peer education programs on prevention of infectious diseases, promotion of healthy lifestyles and fight against stigma
- Hold workshops on humanitarian drug policy at schools and universities
- Involve medical and psychological experts in training and empowering young volunteers to enable them to work with DUs
- Encourage medical students to volunteer at RC because they have easier access to DUs
- Educate influential people like community and religious leaders in humanitarian drug policy
- Create an online network of young volunteers from different countries to share experiences
- Collect data about the drug situation in our communities
- Create family support groups for DUs
- Attract donors and related NGOs to support our activities and gain better access to vulnerable groups
- Organize outreach activities among DUs using the RC emblem (distributing leaflets, condoms and syringes; conducting HIV/HCV tests; etc.) under expert supervision (doctors and psychologists)

In order to carry out the above mentioned activities, we ask to our NS to support us with:

- Human resources
- Financial resources
- Technical Resources (computers, video projector, headphone, printer, etc.)

- Logistic support
- Official permits from the police and governmental drug-related organizations
- Authorization to collaborate with other NGOs using the RC emblem
- Training volunteers on how to work with DUs
- Allowing volunteers to take initiative in contacting other NGOs for referring DUs and PLHIV and PLHCV to specialized treatment centers

In order to implement the above listed activities, we ask public authorities to:

- Giving us data about DUs
- Giving us permission to directly contact DUs
- Financial support
- Recognizing the significant role of volunteers in drug policies
- Producing short infomercials to tackle stigma (drug users are sick not criminals)
- Providing free HIV and HCV testing and treatment for DUs
- Improving legislation on drug abuse in order to facilitate their access to treatment and care

With the Financial Support of:

