Drug Treatment in Crisis: Rehab and Human Rights in Russia

Masha Ovchinnikova
FrontAIDS, Alternative Vision, Russia

Diederik Lohman
Human Rights Watch, USA
Research results looking at Russian narcological treatment from a human rights prospective: Human Rights Watch & Russian NGO FrontAIDS 2007
Basic Statistical Data on Russia:

- About 3 Millions Drug Users (UNODC 2006)
- 4-12% IDU are HIV+ (UNAIDS)
- about 50% of all HIV cases are from drug use
Availability and accessibility

- Medical services must be present in the amount needed, they must be acceptable economically and shouldn't discriminate against anyone.
- A lack of state rehabilitation centers
- Long waiting list for detox
- Official registration & bureaucratic procedures
- Financial inaccessibility
Acceptability

- Services must correspond to the principles of medical ethics and allow for the cultural variations of different groups
- Sharing of patient information to third parties
- Humiliating treatment of patients
Quality

- Services must be processed with medical and scientific validity and be high-quality
- Ignoring the nature of drug addiction
- Lack of information about HIV, HCV ext.
- Scientifically unwarranted use of sedatives during detox
Recommendations:

- The adoption of substitution treatments
- Establishment of a state rehabilitation system and an expansion of the existing detox and rehabilitation programs
- The reformation of the existing official narcological registration system and the guarantee of confidentiality
- Creating adequate hygiene and sanitary conditions for patients
Thank you...