

Gender perspective in treatment: what does it mean?

2nd Regional Forum on Addiction and Recovery

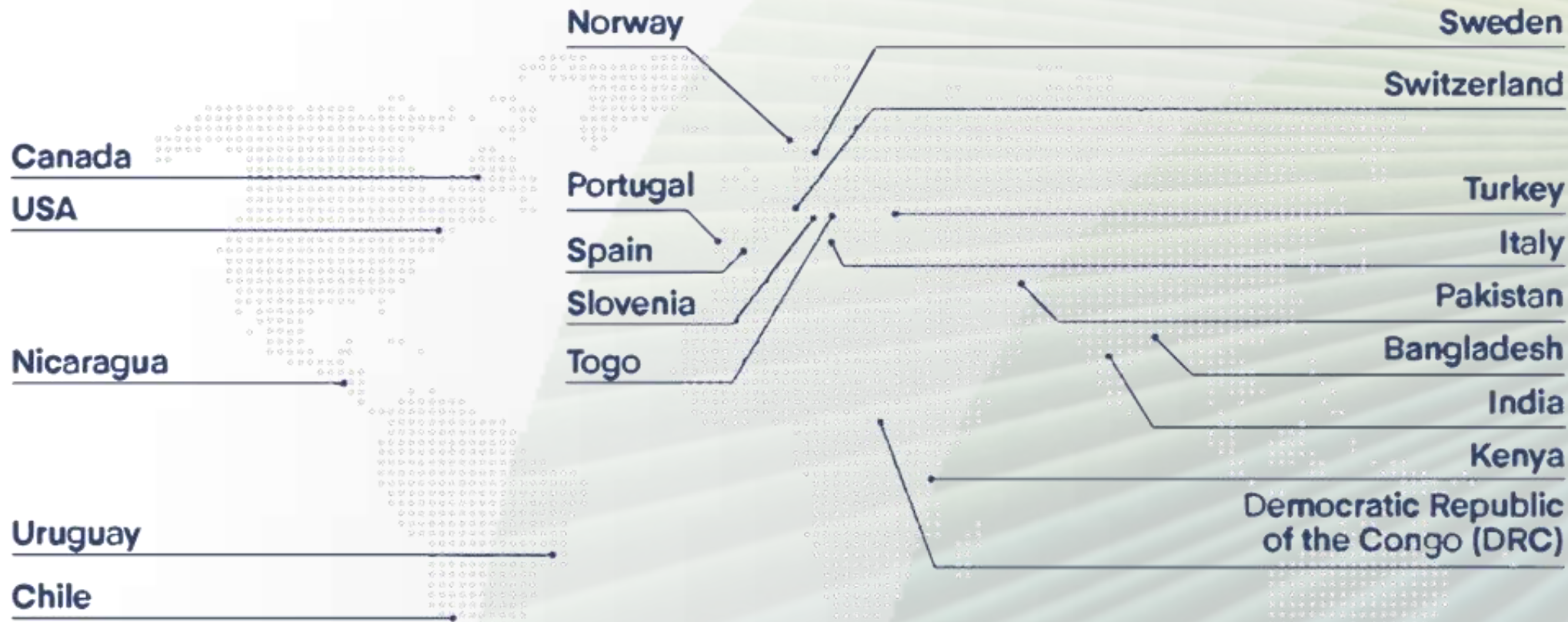
Belgrade, 8-10th November 2022

Lucía Goberna – Dianova

www.dianova.org

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learn | grow | achieve

+35 years of experience in the field of addiction prevention and treatment at grassroots level and also at the advocacy level



Awareness raising



Women account for only 1 out of 5 people in addiction treatment



Human Empowerment dianova



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EMPOWER WOMEN
EMPOWER SOCIETY

25 November,
International Day for the
Elimination of Violence
against Women



Human Empowerment

Most addiction treatment programmes don't account for the specific needs of women

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THE WAY FORWARD

DEVELOPING GENDER SENSITIVE TREATMENT PROGRAMMES TO ERADICATE BARRIERS FOR WOMEN

VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT HELD DURING THE 64TH SESSION ON THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

Thursday 15th April 2021, 10:00 - 10:50am CEST



Advocacy



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

UN Human Rights Council Session 42 - Panel

Women & Addictions

18th September, 2019 – 13:30 - 14:30, Room VIII
UN Palais Des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland



22 March
11:30 am - 1:00 pm EST
4:30 pm to 6:00 pm CET



CSW 65 Parallel Event



ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, A KEY ELEMENT IN GENDER-SENSITIVE ADDICTION TREATMENT PROGRAMS

65TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS - 2022

JOIN THE SIDE EVENT 17 March, 12:15 - 13:05 CET



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY PARENTAL DRUG USE: CURRENT GAPS AND PROMISING PRACTICES



CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON DRUGS IN THE EU

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS VIENNA

COMMISSION on the STATUS OF WOMEN



Why do we need a gender-sensitive approach?



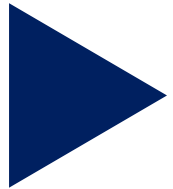
Drug use patterns :

Just one example - Men who use drugs are more likely than women to suffer from externalizing behavioural problems including attention-deficit hyperactivity and antisocial personality disorders, while women are more likely to suffer from internalizing problems such as depression and anxiety.

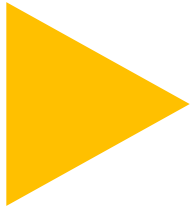


Progression of development of drug use disorders effects:

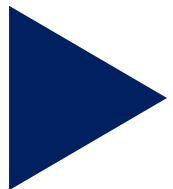
Men have a higher prevalence of drug use, but women are more likely to see a faster increase in rates of consumption and progression to substance use disorders than men



Social consequences: Double stigma, social penalties, severe vulnerabilities...



Access to treatment : fear of legal sanctions , increased social stigma, lack of childcare and fear of losing custody of their children while in treatment, and family expectations and responsibilities.



Adherence to treatment : women make less favourable progress than men in treatment = services does not take into account women's specific needs + greater pressure to leave the programs prematurely to resume family responsibilities

Promoting gender-sensitive addiction prevention and recovery services is critical to address gender-based violence

**EMPOWER WOMEN,
EMPOWER SOCIETY**




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Significant progress made in **recognizing** the need to develop gender-sensitive programs - but are they really **implemented on the ground?**

How to mainstream gender perspective?

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Existing structures and programs are not gender-neutral – androcentric perspective.

Unequal ratio men/women in mixed programs.

Trauma-informed

Gender-based violence

Childcare services

**Develop
specific
interventions**



Training professionals



Eliminate prejudices among addiction services professionals

Promoting a wider view, interventions and conversations.

Train all professionals in multidisciplinary teams to avoid lack of coherence

Women and non-binary only centers

Mixed programs: creating spaces that are physically and emotionally secure

Men programs: new masculinities

It should be developed in ALL programs modalities



Networking with other public services



Gender-based violence

Childhood services

Training and employment

**Do the programmes you implement have positive results for everyone?
If not, why not? What can be done?**

**Gather and process
gender-disaggregated
data**



Perspective of children whose parents or caregivers use drugs

Children are more likely to develop a range of health, social, physical and psychological problems.

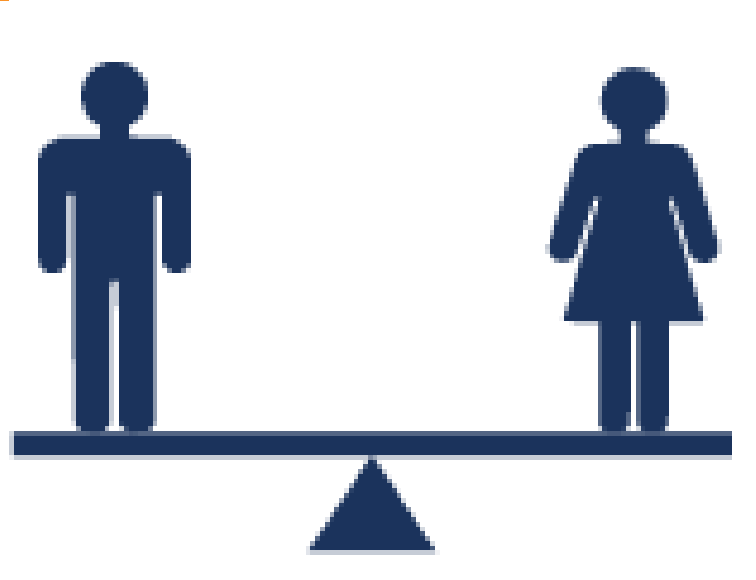
Families should be taken care of as a whole: treatment and pathways to recovery, supporting their parenting skills, and providing children with nurturing environments, whenever possible within their own family unit, with support from a network of dedicated services.

“Children do not have a choice in the kind of home environment they’re raised in. But as a community, we have the choice in the kind of community environment that supports them.”



PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY PARENTAL SUBSTANCE USE

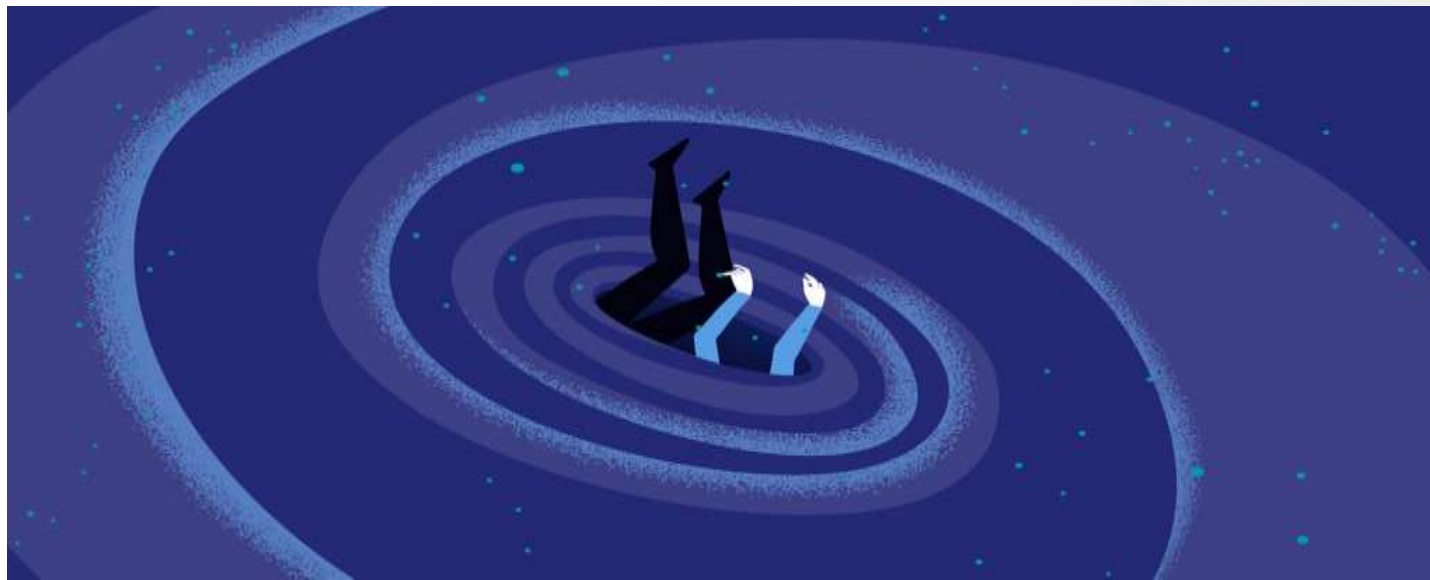
A Guide for Addiction Services



CHILDREN AFFECTED BY PARENTAL SUBSTANCE USE FACE ADDITIONAL RISKS AS COMPARED TO OTHER CHILDREN

- They are more likely to develop **health, social, physical and psychological problems**
- Parents with a problematic use of alcohol and other drugs may have **difficulties in fulfilling their responsibilities** towards their child due to their **situation of social vulnerability** that can directly impact the quality of life of children.





It is not enough to have a gender-sensitive approach on **paper** - it should be implemented on the ground and constantly be **updated and broadened**.

Person-centered services that fully respect human rights



Thank you!

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