

# Policy recommendations on Access to HIV-, Viral Hepatitis-, and TB-Services for People in Prison and Other Closed Settings



*Although international law recognizes the right to the highest attainable physical and mental health of every individual regardless of being deprived of their liberty, people in prison and other closed settings often suffer worse health outcomes than those in the community outside these settings.*

These policy recommendations are based on and derived from the AIDS Action Europe policy brief on Access to HIV-, Viral Hepatitis-, and TB-Services for People in Prison and Other Closed Settings.

**R**eview and reform laws and policies that lead to the disproportionate incarceration of people living with HIV and other key populations, specifically, abolish any HIV-specific criminal laws and any laws or policies that mandate disclosure of HIV-status or partner notification, decriminalise all aspects of sex work, and decriminalise drug use;

**C**ollect and analyse disaggregated and anonymized data on health conditions and services in prisons and other closed settings, respecting confidentiality of medical data and information;

**C**onduct key population and HIV-specific awareness training for members of law enforcement and the criminal justice system;

**P**rovide access and the continuation of the same prevention, treatment and care services for those in prison and other closed settings that are available in the community;

**W**ith the involvement of civil society organizations, medical and public health professionals, develop or adapt already existing, regularly review, and implement national guidelines of HIV-, viral hepatitis-, and TB-service delivery in prisons and other closed settings;

**R**educe the size of prison population via criminal law reform and introduction of alternatives to incarceration.

**E**nsure that policies designed to support access to prevention, treatment and care are properly implemented, and that staff in closed settings are trained sufficiently to execute such policies;

**I**ntroduce or improve existing multilevel collaboration between ministries and authorities responsible for health, law enforcement and immigration to plan, deliver and coordinate comprehensive and quality prevention, treatment and care services for people in prison and other closed settings during stay, transfer and following release;