

# THE UNION WOMEN CENTER – HOW WE DO ADVOCACY IN GEORGIA

Union Women Center works on Family Planning, Counselling services, HIV/AIDS, STIs prevention, Sexuality education

## ➤ How can civil society maintains its role to advocate in the field of HIV policies?

- Civil society organizations have extensive experience in advocacy related to HIV and AIDS.
- The civil society maintain its role to advocate in the field of HIV policies through a global campaign (example ASTRA NETWORK for access of people living with HIV to SRH services tailored to their needs)
- National campaign for example HIV positive women networks to advocate for increased and improved services reducing stigma and discrimination, developed skills of network that allow them to better support their members and communicate and coordinate with government and other NGOs.
- Through Civil Society Networks/Coalitions; and promoting the ability of citizens to recognize and demand quality services in their communities.

## ➤ How can civil society in your region be strengthened in times when the influence of civil society organizations is pushed back?

- Civil society groups
- Community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Civil society groups (LGBT, HIV positive women)
- Civil society organizations: women's groups, labor unions
- Youth reproductive health and right group provide consulting services educate individuals about HIV prevention.
- Work community self-groups with local Municipality on lobbying the needs of local communities
- Civil society in our region be strengthened through Networking of NGOs which in partnerships with institutions, private sector, insurance company, local government, local businesses, banks, Foreign Embassy which located in Georgia, International Donors

## ➤ What should AAE's role be to support advocacy and how passive, active or proactive should AAE be when it comes to advocacy at national level?

Role of AAE's to support advocacy at national level must be active and support:

- In enacted and enforced Laws and policies that directly address gender inequality and bias against people perceived to be at heightened risk for HIV, including sex workers and men who have sex with men, LGBT
- Social mobilization campaigns against gender inequality and HIV related stigma and discrimination
- The technical assistance/capacity building of Civil society organizations especially community organizations working with key affected population such as MSM/TG, Drug-users and sex-workers
- The advocacy funding programs for civil society organizations from International donors.