



# Strategic Plan

**Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (EWNA)**

2026–2030



**Sustainable regional network**



**Women's leadership and empowerment**



**Expert and advocacy resource**



**Activism and visibility**



**Organisational capacity**

Thematic areas of work and their connection to our strategic directions are set out at the end of this document.

# About EWNA

---

The Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (EWNA) unites women living with HIV who advocate for women's rights and support women's initiatives across Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) — in healthcare access, ending violence, and reducing HIV-related discrimination.

The idea of uniting women affected by HIV in the region emerged in 2011. By 2013, activists from five countries had come together, holding a founding meeting with representatives from 11 countries. Today, EWNA is a strong regional network with a modern, flexible virtual secretariat.

EWNA's work spans several thematic areas: sexual and reproductive health and rights, ending violence against women living with HIV, HIV treatment, care and support, cervical cancer screening and early detection, mental health and psychosocial support, HIV decriminalisation and legal support, and economic justice.

**80**

members

**3**

national organisations

**13**

countries in the EECA region

## Vision & Mission

EWNA envisions women affected by HIV feeling safe, confident, and able to fully realise their potential and leadership, with women's health — physical, mental, and social — supported through access to the services they need. The network exists to help women living with and vulnerable to HIV improve their quality of life through advocacy, health access, and inclusion in decisions that affect their lives.

## Key achievements, 2015-2025

- Built an effective regional governance structure and a functioning secretariat, with clear policies for transparency and accountability.
- Delivered six consecutive years of the Feminist School, uniting and inspiring activists from across the region.
- Conducted community-based research on the situation of violence faced by women living with HIV, including a 2025 study on gender-based and obstetric violence.
- Established accessible referral pathways for cervical cancer screening in seven countries, improving early detection and access to care.
- Led the regional "No Excuse for Violence!" campaign since 2015, amplifying women's voices and supporting the integration of violence-related services into national HIV programmes (e.g., Armenia, 2024).
- Built a self-care and mutual-support component into its work with community leaders (2022-2025), including regular webinars on psycho-emotional resilience and burnout prevention.
- Led an HIV decriminalisation initiative — an information and resource hub, regional legislative review, media monitoring, and direct paralegal and legal-representation support for women affected by criminalisation. From 2021-2025, joint advocacy contributed to legal reforms in several countries and greater alignment with international standards such as "Undetectable = Untransmittable."
- Represented the region within international structures, including ICW, the Communities Delegation to the Global Fund Board, and the WHO Regional Validation Committee, contributing evidence and advocacy on behalf of women affected by HIV.

# Strategic Directions, 2026-2030

---

Following a strategic planning session held in October 2025, EWNA's General Assembly confirmed five priority directions for the coming five years:

## 1 Sustainable regional network

Strengthening EWNA's long-term stability by diversifying funding sources, deepening partnerships, exploring new resource models, and reinforcing internal mutual-support systems across the network.

## 2 Promoting women's leadership

Building safe spaces and educational platforms where women strengthen advocacy skills, grow their confidence, and take on greater roles in decision-making — with particular attention to activist well-being and access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health and mental health support.

## 3 Expert and advocacy resources

Continuing community-based research, analytical reporting, and participation in international processes such as CEDAW, ensuring the region's perspective remains part of global discussions on women's health and rights.

## 4 Activism and visibility

Expanding participation in international platforms, advocating against violence affecting women living with HIV, and broadening access to screening and mental health services — increasing global visibility for the experiences and priorities of women in the EECA region.

## 5 Organisational capacity

Investing in regional coordination, peer support, psychosocial care for activists, and improved internal systems and processes — the foundation for a stable, effective network over the long term.

# Thematic Areas & How They Connect to Our Strategic Directions

EWNA's programme work is organised around seven thematic areas. Each one is delivered through — and reinforces — one or more of the five strategic directions for 2026–2030 set out on the previous page.

- 1 Sustainable regional network
- 2 Promoting women's leadership
- 3 Expert and advocacy resources
- 4 Activism and visibility
- 5 Organisational capacity

## Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

Delivered through safe spaces and training that build women's confidence to advocate for SRHR (Direction 2), and through advocacy to expand access to SRHR services at the regional and country level (Direction 4).

- 2
- 4

## Ending violence against women living with HIV

Addressed as part of activist support and service access under women's leadership work (Direction 2); grounded in community-based research on violence, including obstetric violence (Direction 3); and carried forward through advocacy against all forms of violence (Direction 4).

- 2
- 3
- 4

## HIV treatment, care and support

Supported through analytical materials and alternative reporting that keep this issue on the international agenda (Direction 3), and through advocacy to expand access to care and support services (Direction 4).

- 3
- 4

## Cervical cancer screening & early detection

Built through EWNA's own community-based research and referral-mechanism development (Direction 3), and scaled through advocacy to expand screening access across more countries (Direction 4).

- 3
- 4

## Mental health and psychosocial support

Embedded in leadership spaces that support activist well-being (Direction 2); expanded through advocacy for accessible mental health services (Direction 4); and reinforced internally through peer and psychosocial support systems for activists (Direction 5).

- 2
- 4
- 5

## HIV decriminalisation and legal support

Grounded in legislative review, media monitoring, and analytical work that inform regional advocacy (Direction 3); carried forward through advocacy for legal reform and participation in monitoring processes such as the Validation of the Elimination of Vertical Transmission (Direction 4); and delivered directly to activists through paralegal and legal-representation support tied to leadership and protection work (Direction 2).

- 2
- 3
- 4

## Economic justice

Supported at the institutional level through diversified funding and resource mobilisation for the network (Direction 1), and carried into the broader rights agenda through regional and international advocacy (Direction 4).

- 1
- 4

## Our Contacts

[ewna.office@gmail.com](mailto:ewna.office@gmail.com) · [www.ewna.org](http://www.ewna.org)