

# HIV/AIDS advocacy in Hungary

EATG Training Academy

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**HCLU** HUNGARIAN  
CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

# What is the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union?

- human rights watchdog organization
- since 1994
- Main focus: (1) political rights (2) rights of disadvantaged groups, e.g. drug users and PLWH
- Activities: legal advocacy; monitoring the implementation and enforcement of certain legislation; legal aid service and strategic litigation; public education activities and legal empowerment trainings; awareness raising and contribution to the public discussion of issues of concern
- HIV/AIDS and human rights addressed since early 2000s

# Advocacy under difficult circumstances

## Case study

- Problem: there was only one hospital in the whole country where HIV/AIDS related care was provided
- Advocacy and lobbying at the Ministry for decentralization of HIV/AIDS related care
- Resistance of care providers, concerns about privacy
- Case at the Equal Treatment Authority against the Central Dentistry Institute and the Hungarian State (public authority proceeding)
- Petition to the Hungarian Ombudsperson for Fundamental Rights

# Advocacy under difficult circumstances

## Case study

- the report by the Ombudsperson claimed that there were multiple violations of fundamental rights (right to equal treatment, right to dignity, right to health and the rule of law)
- the ETA condemned the practice of the Central Dentistry Institute
- Agreement was reached with the Ministry as the representative of the Hungarian State: decentralization shall take by 1 Jan, 2014 (among others)

# Advocacy under difficult circumstances

## Case study

- Results:
  - three HIV centres were opened by 1 July, 2014
  - Protocol for dentistry revised but without consultation and not following international best practice
    - Difficulty:
      - Political climate turned from very to extremely unfavorable
      - Centralized decision-making and lack of platforms for real conversation (only once a year meeting by the AIDS committee)
      - Weak (and eventually non-existent) patient organization
      - Stigma of HIV/AIDS
    - Positive:
      - In 2015 medical students organized an event on the International AIDS Day on 1<sup>st</sup> of December

Thank you!

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