



EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA NETWORK
FOR CRIME AND SUBSTANCE USE
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.



PRESS RELEASE

As the world Marks the International World AIDS Day today, 1st December 2020, we, the East and Central Africa Network for Crime and Drug prevention, join the world especially members of the CSO and state parties within the region to celebrate the day. On this special day we would like to highlight the following issues from East and Central Africa and globally that member States and the international community should address immediately to save the upcoming generation. We are grateful to the help lines that have been created within the region to help address the cases that have emerged, however the access to medication to the victims of GBV should be treated as a priority regardless of the age, race, religion etc.

We acknowledge the impact and the effects Covid-19 has had to the world at large, realized that cases of GBV are on the rise. As the United Nations and other international bodies come in to intervene, there is need for member States to avail adequate resources to be able to protect young women and teenage girls, who have mostly fallen victim to the prevailing situations.

Due to the underlying Social and Economic conditions, mental health issues have become worrisome, with spill over habits such as domestic violence, drug abuse among others rising in Kenya. The efforts being done to implement the mental health policy for 2015-2030 is laudable, and we urge other members states to follow suit with regards to the implementation of the same to the latter including the international policies, treaties and convention.

The situation has also contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS among the young people. Access to medication and treatment to persons using drugs in the region has not been given adequate priority.



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It therefore remains a concern. We wish to urge state parties to promote the preventive and treatment interventions in the communities.

We as umbrella CSOs commit to work with our governments in the region to help protect our young people from the vices of poverty, ignorance, HIV/AIDS and Substance abuse even as we join hands in combating the harsh effects of the current COVID pandemic.

Sincerely

East and Central Africa Network for Crime and Substance use Prevention and Treatment

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