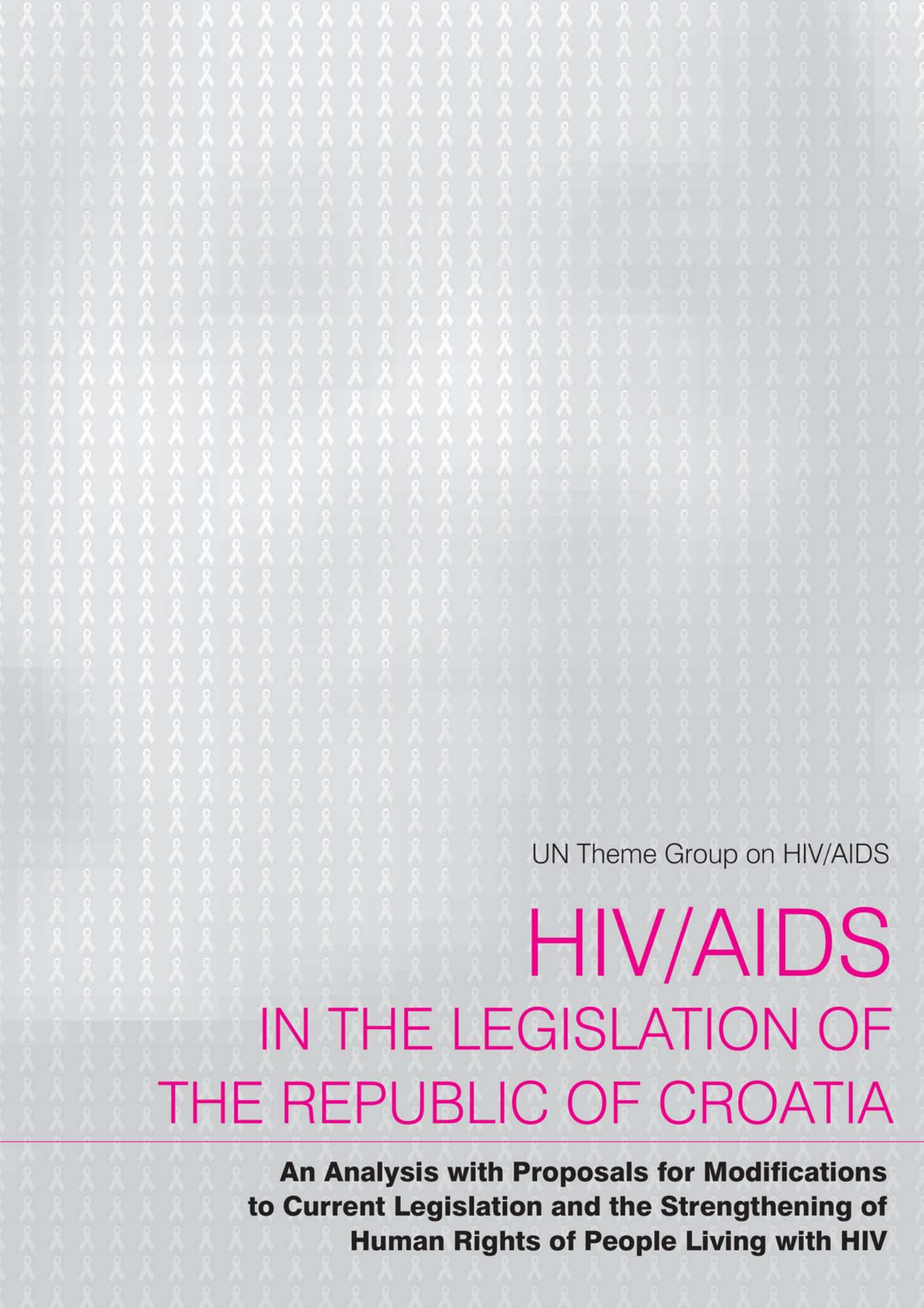




UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS IN THE LEGISLATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**An Analysis with Proposals for Modifications
to Current Legislation and the Strengthening of
Human Rights of People Living with HIV**



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The UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, as the main instrument of United Nations co-ordination on HIV/AIDS in Croatia, supports national institutions, develops monitoring and evaluation systems and reinforces UNAIDS co-sponsors' activities. Its main objective is to strengthen the national HIV/AIDS response. Members of the UN Theme Group are representatives of: UNHCR, UNICEF, WB, WHO, IOM, UNFPA and UNDP.

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CONTENTS

1. FOREWORD	6
2. RIGHT TO PRIVACY AND HIV STATUS	9
2.1. HIV TESTING	11
2.1.1. Non-mandatory testing in the Republic of Croatia (voluntary, routine and diagnostic)	11
2.1.2. Mandatory testing in the Republic of Croatia	12
2.1.2.1. Testing of blood of voluntary blood donors	13
2.1.2.2. Testing of organs and tissue for transplants	14
2.1.2.3. HIV testing of prisoners	14
2.1.2.4. Testing of pregnant women	14
2.1.2.5. Testing in connection with employment and work	15
2.1.3. Testing for the purposes of research	15
2.1.4. Testing for the purpose of protection of a third party (e.g. doctors)	16
2.1.5. Proposals for legislative modifications regarding the performance of HIV testing	16
2.2. Right to confidentiality of information on the health of people living with HIV	16
2.2.1. Confidentiality of testing	18
2.2.2. Maintenance of the register of people living with HIV	19
2.2.3. Medical records	20
2.2.3.1. Electronic databases	21
2.2.3.2. Access to medical records	21
2.2.3.2.1. Protection of confidentiality of information on people living with HIV in judicial proceedings	21
2.2.3.2.2. Protection of the privacy of people living with HIV in the media	23
2.2.3.2.3. Disclosure of information on HIV status to another doctor	23
2.2.3.2.4. Disclosure of information on HIV status to a sexual partner of a person living with HIV	24
2.2.4. Proposals for legislative modifications regarding the protection of confidentiality of information on people living with HIV	24
3. ADMINISTERING MEDICAL AID	27
3.1. Obligation to administer medical aid	28
3.2. Administering of medical aid by doctor living with HIV	29
3.3. Suggestions for modification of legislation regarding administering medical aid	29
4. MEDICAL RESEARCH ON PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV	31
5. HEALTH INSURANCE AND PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV	33
6. TRANSMISSION OF HIV AS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE	35
6.1. Transmission of sexuality transmitted diseases	36
6.2. Transmission of infectious diseases	38
6.3. Other criminal offences that may be applicable	38
6.4. Proposals regarding criminal liability	39
7. HIV, PRISONS AND PRISONERS' RIGHTS	41
7.1. Proposals for the treatment of prisoners living with HIV	43



44	8. COMPENSATION
45	8.1. Compensation for transmission of infection
46	8.1.1. Compensation for transmission of HIV infection by blood transfusion
47	8.1.2. Compensation for transmission of infection via sexual intercourse or needle-sharing
47	8.2. Compensation in case of defamation of charter or unauthorised disclosure of HIV status
48	8.3. Compensation for fear resulting from the possibility of transmission of the disease even though infection did not occur
48	8.4. Proposals related to compensation
49	9. CHILDREN AND HIV
50	9.1. Children's right to consent
51	9.2. Children's right to privacy
52	9.3. Taking care of children living with HIV
52	9.4. Education
53	9.5. Proposals regarding improvement of the status of children living with HIV
54	10. HIV AND EMPLOYMENT
55	10.1. International guidelines on HIV/AIDS workplace policies
56	10.2. Discrimination at work or in connection with work
57	10.2.1. Examples of discrimination based on HIV status in Croatian legislation
59	10.2.2. Compensation for discrimination
59	10.2.3. Criminal liability for discrimination
60	10.3. Proposals regarding the improvements of status of workers living with HIV
61	11. HIV AND SOCIAL WELFARE
63	12. HIV AND THE RIGHT TO ASYLUM
66	13. BURIAL OF AIDS-INFECTED PEOPLE
68	14. CONCLUSION
72	15. APPENDIX
73	15.1. List of international documents
74	15.2. List of acts
75	15.3. List of instructions
75	15.4. List of decisions
75	15.5. List of ordinances
76	15.6. List of regulations
76	15.7. List of institutions



HIV/AIDS

has claimed 25 million lives and estimated 40 million persons got infected with HIV since it was first recognized in 1981. Its destruction is fuelled by a wide range of human rights violations, including sexual violence and coercion faced by women and girls, stigmatization of men who have sex with men, abuses against sex workers and injecting drug users, and violations of right of young persons to information on HIV transmission. Human rights violations only add to the stigmatization and marginalization of persons at highest risk of infection and drive underground those who need information, preventive services, and treatment.

The Analysis with Propositions of Modifications of Current Legislation and Strengthening of Human Rights of People Living with HIV provides us with answers to following questions;

- is the current legislation sufficient to protect people living with HIV from any form of discrimination in all areas of life, ranging from access to labour market to access to services,
- are the particular legal provisions in accordance with international recommendations, and to which extend they foster human rights based approaches,
- how does the current legislation address confidentiality of medical information, and are there provisions that ensure it,
- are the existing social welfare/support provisions sufficient to ensure support and protection of people living with HIV,
- to what extent the legal provisions regarding groups particularly vulnerable to HIV are human rights based, and facilitative of targeted HIV/AIDS prevention services etc.

The text also provides us with examples of discrimination that occurred and with concrete recommendations and models for the legislation reform.

It is of the most importance to emphasize that the members of the National AIDS Commission, a multisectoral national AIDS authority, gave very constructive suggestions and comments that are incorporated in the final text and therefore making its recommendations a national priority in scaling up HIV/AIDS response in Croatia.

UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, as a coordination mechanism of United Nations activities at the country level, will use this document to advocate for changes in laws and by-laws that are currently discriminatory towards people living with HIV or where such persons are not guaranteed sufficient protection.

We will base our work and annual activities on implementing recommendations and starting with developing a handbook on rights of people living with HIV.

I would like to thank prof. dr sc. Ksenija Turković and her team for doing a marvellous job and thoroughly analysing 13 international documents, 25 acts as well as many ordinances, regulations and decisions.

Yuri Afanasiev
UNDP Resident Representative and
Chairperson of UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS





1. FOREWORD

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