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YOUTH RISE IN 2019

2019 was a year of network strengthening and expansion for Youth RISE, with the aim to ensure better global representation at Youth RISE team and the network itself. In 2019 Youth RISE received its biggest funding in the history of its existence, which comprised of three projects implemented within two Consortia, and two funding streams from the [Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](https://www.globalfund.org/en/) and the [Robert Carr Fund for Civil Society Networks](https://www.ggg-cs.org/).

A team of 17 International Working Group Members and the Network Secretariat, representing all continents of the world, worked to implement Youth RISE activities of the most notable activities was the launch of the Youth RISE membership. Membership is intended for youth organisations who work in drug policy and harm reduction to become part of Youth RISE family. All the work of 2019 was for the first time monitored applying the newly developed Monitoring and Evaluations framework and was presented in the first Youth RISE Monitoring and Evaluations report.

Youth RISE successfully held a series of events including a strategic meeting and an e-network meeting. The former resulted in the development of a revised Youth RISE mission and vision. In addition, a new Youth RISE strategy was developed as a result of the strategic meeting and the priorities for future work were set. The E-network Summit brought over 13 youth organisations and 25 participants to share best practices in fields like communication, project management and e-learning.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

- YOUTH RISE MOBILIZES YOUTH TO BE ENGAGED IN FULL SPECTRUM HARM REDUCTION AND DRUG POLICY REFORM TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS.
To ensure network expansion, in 2019 Youth RISE allocated sub-grants and thus supported local and regional youth movements to establish themselves and grow. Implementation of subgrants spread across 15 countries including the Baltic region of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania; the Caucasian countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia; Ukraine in Eastern Europe; Nepal and Pakistan in South Asia; Ghana and South Africa in the African continent; Mexico, Chile, Costa Rica and the USA in the Americas. The subgrants facilitated the legal establishment and strengthening of national youth movements to advocate for youth-friendly harm reduction services and drug policy reform. Around 100 young people participated and received training in small grant implementation.

The improvement of communication channels and tools was another Youth RISE priority in 2019. To achieve this, a comprehensive communications strategy was developed and implemented. Throughout the year, work on communications was centred around establishing a cohesive organizational image and strengthening partnerships with other harm reduction organizations. **The Youth RISE website** was redesigned and modernized. The content on the website increased to 15 news and 13 blog posts, which resulted in a greater social media impact and presence. For the first time, Youth RISE produced a quarterly newsletter in 2019, which was sent to partner organizations. The newsletter outlined the work being done by Youth RISE as well as some of its most notable achievements. This has all gone a long way to improve our organizational image and memory for future generations of Youth RISE members.

**VISION STATEMENT**

YOUTH ARE VALUED, ACTIVE PARTNERS IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS ON THE LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.

Youth RISE also participated in the **Support. Don’t Punish** campaign by supporting local youth movements to implement their advocacy on the local level. Ireland, Lithuania, Mexico and South Africa held local events and produced blogs to spread knowledge about this Global Campaign and to get more young people involved in movements for change.
Youth RISE members represented the network and worked to voice youth position on drug policy and harm reduction in a number of external events, such as the High Level Ministerial Segment and the 62nd Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Harm Reduction International Conference, Lisbon Addictions conference, International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa, 2019 International Drug Policy Reform Conference. In total five external events i.e. CND in Vienna, HRI Conference, Training workshop in the USA, including conferences and training sessions were attended in 2019 by Youth RISE Secretariat and International Working Group members.

Finally, Youth RISE network crowned the year of organisation strengthening and expansion. The video was developed to invite individuals apply and become part of Youth RISE International Working Group and to encourage youth organisations to become members of Youth RISE network.

JOIN YOUTH RISE! PRISIJUNK PRIE YOUTH RISE! GHLAC PÂIRT IN YOUTH RISE! YOUTH RISE ना सामेल हुनुहोस्!
2019 was an important year for Youth RISE. The organisation had long established itself as a youth movement for drug policy reform and now it took a year of revising and solidifying the network itself to better serve its members and help achieve the goals that youth around the world are advocating for.

Our team grew and many young members took their leadership. The senior team focused on providing the new Youth RISE generation with skills and knowledge necessary to continue network’s work towards its vision.

I believe that today Youth RISE is stronger than ever and is well-equipped to continue its work of mobilizing youth, educating about full spectrum harm reduction, voicing young people’s needs and proving that youth is the key player driving the world towards progressive, evidence-based drug policies that respect human rights and leave no place for stigma.
In 2019, Youth RISE worked to strengthen and grow its team, which resulted in the organisation being able to represent a global perspective on young people affected by prohibitionist drug policies. The team met and spent three days together to define the organisation’s network, mission and vision, as well as future strategic priorities. The meeting resulted in a Strategic plan for 2019–2020, which among other things included a revised and updated understanding of who we are, what we do, and where we are moving towards, introduction of new tools to better coordinate distant work of the global team, and a plan for further network strengthening. Currently, 16 people from India, Ireland, Georgia, Ghana, Lithuania, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, South Africa, Turkey and the USA work to implement activities of Youth RISE.
In July 2019 Youth RISE in cooperation with consortium partners successfully carried out Global Training of Trainers for the Global Fund (GF) in Cape Town, South Africa. Young leaders from 18 countries participated in this workshop along with the representatives from The Global Fund (GF), UNAIDS and developing country NGO delegation members. The training was based on the toolkit “Making Money for Young People”.

Young activists have been skilled on HIV/AIDS issue for a better understanding of the epidemic, response and funding landscape. This workshop sparked the enthusiasm among participants to continuously advocate for the marginalized and now with the right toolkit they will be able to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes in their respective countries.

The strategic meeting was followed by the E-Network Summit. The Summit was attended by representatives of over 13 organisations and included 25 participants. Best practices in the fields of project management, communications and e-learning were shared in a jammed schedule presented by various participants. It was the first time that many of our partners and IWGs met with each other - a meeting of minds which has led to the cross-fertilisation of best practices, peer support, a greater understanding of other inadequately served populations and new partnerships (including new grant application consortia).

Both meetings were key for Youth RISE to later implement all of the organisational strengthening activities in 2019 and continue solidifying the Network in 2020. Youth RISE membership for youth organisations was launched in 2019 as one of the most important outcomes of strategic meeting.
PART II. NETWORK STRENGTHENING AND EXPANSION: NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

In 2019, Youth RISE implemented small grant initiatives in 15 countries: the Baltic region of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania; the Caucasian countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia; Ukraine in Eastern Europe; Nepal and Pakistan in South Asia; Ghana and South Africa in the African continent; Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica and the USA in the Americas. One more sub-grant which received co-funding in 2018 was finalised in 2019. Three of the sub-grants were implemented within the Count Me In, a Project funded by the Global Fund, while the rest were implemented within network development project funded by the Robert Carr Fund. Around 61 people participated and received training.

The Baltics and Caucasus for Better Drug Policies in Eastern Europe

Activists from Young Wave Lithuania and Community Alliance in Georgia developed applications together and aimed at bringing young activists from the Baltics (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) and Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) and building a stronger network among youth organisations in Eastern Europe. The activity was directed at developing a stronger regional youth block of activists for more coordinated action and experience exchange.

20 activists from 6 countries met for the first time and the meeting served as an invaluable opportunity for youth organisations to learn about each other’s work and challenges faced in the region of Eastern Europe.
Nepal Follows Lithuanian model for Training Law Enforcement

In 2019 Nepal youth decided to follow the Law Enforcement training model (THE ROLE OF POLICE OFFICERS FOR SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING COURSE GUIDE) developed by Young Wave within 2018 with Youth RISE sub-grants. This model significantly includes a group of trained youth activists delivering training for Police School Cadets on drug policy and the role of law enforcement.

Activist also had hands-on experience of working and providing harm reduction services to young people at a festival in Lithuania and developing and facilitating a workshop on drug use and HIV at the festival. Communication and experience exchange among the participants of the meeting continues at social media groups as two platforms (for the Eastern European common block and for Caucasus only) were developed for these purposes. Having learnt about Young Wave’s work in Lithuania and practice of educating nightlife organisers on harm reduction practices (including overdose management), Estonian youth activists went on and established their own youth organisation and are now adapting the Lithuanian training module to be implemented in Estonian nightlife settings.
For the conduction of training course Nepali team of Youth Rise Nepal adapted a training module developed by Lithuanian organization Young Wave to Nepal’s needs and requirements.

With this backdrop, Nepal team conducted training in Police Academy, Naxal, Kathmandu, Nepal on the 9th, 10th and 11th of November 2019 for the 190th Batch of Inspector Trainees with the 18 participants in it.

“I am here for the full Graduate Diploma in Police Sciences which is affiliated to Tribhuvan University with different skill development schemes like motor driving, equitation, swimming and other sports activities but never thought I would ever learn briefly about the role of police personnel in public health safety in so much detail. I feel lucky to acquire knowledge through this training”

- ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS STATED.

The major challenges of the training were to make participants understand the harm reduction measures and positive benefits regarding it as per the country situation drug use are still viewed as unacceptable behavioural pattern rather than the human condition. Also, few participants seemed less interested in the training if broadly observed in general.

The biggest achievement was to introduce the training guide to the grass root body of law enforcement and the initiation which had a positive impact on the institution itself by training 18 participants in general and the opening of doors for other follow up training in upcoming days.

“Drug users steal things and snatch necklaces on the road. Those are meant to be locked up and beaten to make them a better person. I think that is also one of the best ideas to control and handle the situation,”

- ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS SAID.
Ukraine Advocating for Comprehensive Youth-friendly Services

In 2018, Ukraine country partners implement the action plan created during the GF workshop in 2017. Actions to mitigate the HIV epidemic are most needed, because Ukraine has the second-largest HIV epidemic in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Youth RISE supported its country partner in Ukraine in implementing a stakeholder meeting. The key outputs were a strengthened YKP group, increased national recognition and an ability to speed up the advocacy work. The meeting turned out to be an excellent platform for healthy discussion among stakeholders and YKP in terms of inclusiveness of YKP while designing, programming and implementing youth friendly services. This is an example of how a loose group of YKP can play a proactive role in holding the programs and stakeholders accountable. It wouldn’t have been possible without the support from Youth RISE, consortium members and CRG S grant.

Formation of Youth-led Network in Georgia

In Georgia, as well as in general - on the globe, the drug scene began to change very quickly. Along with the change, activism in the field of drug policy has weakened. However, with the financial and technical support of YouthRISE, a new youth organization - Mandala (former name- Community Alliance) was formed in the country, which seeks to actively participate in an events, taking place in the country and contribute to the development of a humane drug policy.

At the moment, Mandala is the only organization that offers stakeholders new harm reduction services and strives to raise awareness among young people, who are the future of drug policy reform.

For over a year, the organization has received support from Youthrise several times. One of them is the CMI project, through which, at the first stage, the members of the organization gained knowledge about the Global Fund, and then received CRG small grant, through of which, young people gain more information and competence about the Global Fund and the country’s relationship.
Competence promotes our – young people’s effective involvement in the processes. Nowadays Georgia is in the Transition phase regarding Global fund grant, and it’s fourth year that the country is preparing for it. However, there is a risk that services may not be fully delivered, most importantly, it is necessary to control the procurement process and how services will be provided, as well as frequent advocacy to bridge the gaps.

Mandala and members of its partner organizations strive to work together and achieve a transition plan process happening properly in the country.

Pakistan Reforming National Network of YKP (Young Key Affected Population)

Pakistan Youth RISE was actively involved to strengthen the network of YKP’s in the region. Main focus of the project was to ensure to form effective voices for HIV response and to aware YKP’s about the need of Harm Reduction programs in Pakistani context. Specifically, the broad implementation of effective models on Harm Reduction programs in a youth-friendly environment on national level is mostly demanded.

Hence, YKPs’ National Alliance organized a training for young leaders in Quetta. Eventually, YKP’s National Alliance was reformed in the course of this workshop and appeared renamed as “Y-Plus Pakistan” on the surface.
Ghana and South Africa: Developing Basis for African Youth to Come Together

As part of the African Small Grant, Youth RISE’s Daniel Ankrah has been engaged in advocacy visits and conversations on Ghana’s Narcotics Control Bill in Parliament. These efforts in a bid to map stakeholder and strengthen YR networking efforts with youth organisations and other drug user and drug policy initiatives in Ghana. In particular, he has joined the Hemp Association of Ghana to facilitate partnerships and collaboration on drug use and drug policy issues.

Daniel has also mapped out successfully other harm reduction organizations and CSOs that work in Drug policy to hold a discussion on how to form a formidable network to champion progressive drug policy in Ghana and in the West African region at large.
In South Africa, part of the small grant was used for the establishment of Harm Reduction South Africa (HRSA). Being one of only a few harm reduction organisations in South Africa, HRSA is focussed on the following objectives:

01 To advocate for the provision of harm reduction services, interventions and approaches to people who use drugs as the standard response in the provision of health and social services and across the criminal justice system for people who use drugs.

02 To establish an inclusive, peer-led network that advocates for the rights and appropriate responses to people who use drugs at community, metropolitan and provincial levels.

03 To actively participate in addressing issues around intersectionality.

04 To contribute to the dismantling of the stigmatising and inaccurate narratives that dominate the discourse around drug use and the response to people who use drugs.

05 To establish partnerships, collaborations and projects with business, civil society and government for the benefits of the representative groups and PWUD.
Since its establishment, HRSA has already provided several harm reduction services including i) drug checking at 2 events; ii) workshops for people who use drugs on viral hepatitis; and iii) training on naloxone administration. In the coming months, HRSA will focus on capacity development and the strengthening of its membership. Capacity development will also be carried out throughout the country, increasing the reach of HRSA in South Africa.

Mexico: Latin America Cooperate To Implement Drug Education

The sub-grant activities in Mexico brought activists from Chile, Costa Rica and Mexico together to implement a drug and sexuality workshop programme. Young drug users and representatives of other key populations affected by drug policies, were invited to a safe space to display and showcase their views on drugs and sexuality through painting, music, film discussions. 2 such workshop interventions were implemented in Chile and 3 interventions for Mexico and Costa Rica. Young people who use drugs were extremely optimistic, their families also seemed interested in approaches that actually provide truthful and evidence based education. In some communities, we were approached by drug prevention centers to offer more workshops.

Concerts in Costa Rica and Mexico implemented with artists who perform various musical performance to engage community in conversations, allowing us to generate a critical discourse on the agents and hegemonic models that deal with the phenomenon of drug use and its impact in our countries.
Concerts in Costa Rica and Mexico implemented with artists who perform various musical performance to engage community in conversations, allowing us to generate a critical discourse on the agents and hegemonic models that deal with the phenomenon of drug use and its impact in our countries.

In Chile a film forum was held to project one or two audiovisual products (films, documentaries and short films) related to the phenomenon of drugs. When each film finished conversation about the audiovisual material a round of debate and forum revolved around the questions how the film helps us understand or question our context in relation to psychoactive substances.

Establishing the USA Movement: Following Pakistan’s Experience

Activists from the USA applied for a sub-grant to help young people working in drug policy and harm reduction in Americas meet and explore opportunities for establishing a regional youth movement in the Americas. Activists decided to follow the model of the establishment of Youth RISE Pakistan and held a workshop for youth activists from the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Nigeria and Pakistan.

11 people took part in the 3-day training, where Youth RISE history as an example of youth network was discussed and participants were able to present experiences of harm reduction service provision and drug policy in their respective countries and regions. Participants shared their skills and lessons learnt in establishing movements.
The meeting led to actions of establishing an American regional network (North, Central and South American Region) which will be focusing on drugs and harm reduction in this region. Registration is currently in progress and a follow-up financial support by Youth RISE will enable the newly registered movement to strengthen its structure and presence.

**Trauma-informed Policing in Ireland**

Since last year, Youth RISE has been working with Dr. Sharon Lambert (Lecturer, School of Applied Psychology, University College Cork), Quality Matters (a social services research organisation) and the Garda Youth Diversion Office (the Irish police’s youth diversion service) in a Youth RISE and Garda Youth Diversion Office co-funded project. The project has multiple components.

Firstly, youth workers working in Garda Youth Diversion Projects participated in two workshops in two cities: Cork (4 youth workers from 4 services) and Dublin (13 youth workers from 11 services). Youth workers discussed the various issues around trauma within their services. They were also taught how to use the adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) score sheet on previous case files.
PART III. STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATIONS: TRAINING, STRATEGY AND TOOLS

The development and strengthening of communication channels and tools were a key priority for Youth RISE in 2019. A communications strategy was developed and throughout the year, communications work was focussed on forming a cohesive organizational image and strengthening partnerships with other harm reduction organizations.

The Youth RISE website was redesigned and modernized. Youth RISE’s content grew to 15 news pieces and 13 blogs, leading to a higher social media presence and reach. Now you can also follow Youth RISE on Instagram. For the first time Youth RISE produced a quarterly newsletter in 2019, being sent to partner organizations outlining the work being done by Youth RISE. Youth RISE staff members also took part in a media and communications training organised by the Harm Reduction Consortium and funded by the Robert Carr Network Fund. Together, these previously mentioned activities have improved Youth RISE’s organizational image and created a platform for future growth of the organisation.

This data was then collected (n= 125) and will provide an understanding of the level and distribution of ACEs in a population who come in contact with the youth justice service. Subsequently, workshops were held in Cork and Dublin with Juvenile Liaison Officers (JLOs). JLOs are Garda (Irish police) officers which are assigned to work with youths in contact with the justice system to prevent re-offending. As a final step, findings will be discussed with Senior Irish police to develop policy recommendations. The report and findings will be launched in early 2020.
As part of the 4Youth Consortium Project, Youth RISE has built a multilingual e-learning platform ([www.youthriseacademy.org](http://www.youthriseacademy.org)). Initial modules and learning outcomes have been created through consultations with IWGs and partners. The content will be translated into a number of languages and piloted in early 2020.

Youth RISE also took an active part in the “Support. Don’t Punish.” campaign by supporting local youth movements to implement their advocacy on the local level. Ireland, Lithuania, Mexico and South Africa held local events and produced blogs to spread knowledge about this Global Campaign and to get more young people involved in movements for change. The campaign in Mexico was running online through Instagram and Facebook that raised awareness on the urgent need for a drug policy reform in the country. This campaign was a part of a broader sub-grant activities’ implementation in Mexico. The campaign posts focused on the harms of the drug war while also providing harm reduction information on the 4 most commonly used substances among youth: cannabis, alcohol, methamphetamines, specifically crystal meth and stimulants.
As part of the Support Don’t Punish Global Day of Action in South Africa, multiple events were held in Cape Town, South Africa. On June 26th, 2019, numerous organizations came together in support of harm reduction strategies and drug policies that prioritise public health and human rights. Youth RISE collaborated with the Western Cape Substance Service Sector Forum (WCSSSF) in hosting an award ceremony to acknowledge the progress being made by people in recovery. The event also included youth testimonies, as well as presentations from key stakeholders and government representatives. The focus of the event was to show the vital work being done in the harm reduction sector and the need to promote the message of the Support. Don’t Punish. campaign.

Similarly, the campaign in Lithuania implemented by Young Wave was centred around three key areas of drug policy and harm reduction, in Lithuania, as well as globally. Three posters about the poor coverage of Opioid Substitution Treatment in Lithuania, about the costs of criminalization in Lithuania, and about Harm Reduction services were developed and circulated on the social media.

ONLY 7-8 % OF PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS RECEIVE OST TREATMENT IN LITHUANIA
In addition, Youth RISE's team member MJ Stowe joined the Step Up Project on a day of outreach to the beneficiaries of their needle and syringe programme. The Step Up Project provides evidence-based mobile HIV/TB/STI prevention to people who inject drugs, using a harm reduction model. The aim of the day’s outreach was to introduce on-site drug safety testing using the Rapid Response™ Fentanyl Test Strip (BTNX, Inc.) to service beneficiaries of Step Up Project’s needle and syringe programme.

In Ireland, two events took place, one in Dublin and one in Cork. In both instances, key stakeholders were invited to participate in a small demo, while creating opportunities for future collaborations. In Cork, speeches were made, and a small concert took place with one of the organizers singing an original song of his. In Dublin, the event took place at the main park and shopping area, where participants were invited to distribute leaflets discussing the need for decriminalisation and drug checking facilities in the country.
In 2019 Youth RISE participated in 7 international events, which included the: i) High Level Ministerial Segment; ii) 62nd Commission on Narcotic Drugs; iii) Harm Reduction International Conference; iv) Lisbon Addictions conference; v) International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa; vi) 2019 International Drug Policy Reform Conference; vii) UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board 45th meeting. Youth RISE members also participated in 3 skills development events, which included i) a media and communications training (Lithuania); ii) a Training of Trainers for the Global Fund (South Africa), Organisational Development (Bali).

The High Level Ministerial Segment preceded the 62nd Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2019. A youth representative in the Civil Society Task Force, the International Coordinator of Youth RISE Morgana Daniele, presented the organisations position at the HLMS side event organised by the Norwegian government (“A health-centred approach to drug dependence, a multi-factorial health disorder”). Morgana urged the delegates to waste no more time and implement evidence-based prevention, harm reduction and treatment. She closed her speech with an emphasis on being action-orientated and making pragmatic decisions.

“And finally, be wise. Fight your own personal distaste for those ill with addiction, fight your anger, fight your fear of political opposition, fight your own indecisiveness. Be wise and work for lives and health of your children by providing them with as many means to overcome their illness as possible”.

- MORGANA DANIELE, YOUTH RISE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR
At the 62nd Commission on Narcotic Drugs, youth organisations from around the world came together for an orientation meeting. Youth RISE met with other youth organisations and discussed the dissemination of Youth ASKS (a youth statement, jointly developed specifically for CND), upcoming side events and possibilities for future concerted action. A Youth RISE team member gave a speech in a youth-organised side event entitled “Global Youth Perspectives on Shifting Drug Policies Towards Public Health and Human rights based approaches”. In addition, youth activists also met with a young member of parliament from New Zealand, who shared her experience working to introduce evidence-based drug policy in her native country.

At Harm Reduction International Conference, Youth RISE together with YODA and SSDP, had a side meeting entitled “Empowering Youth: networking, funding, participating”. This meeting brought together youth activists from around the world to discuss the lack of youth participation in formulating drug policies. During the meeting three organizations had a possibility to present their activities, projects and also barriers, which they face in their work. Furthermore, Youth RISE member Joana Canedo participated in the session “The Kids are Alright: Harm Reduction and Youth”, where she presented “YPWUD and Law Enforcement interactions – drugs are not born in trees or sent to parties with the force of a Jedi”. Joana presented that despite the decriminalization of drugs in Portugal, the number of infractions and arrests increased there, and that young people are stigmatized, discriminated and socially excluded, which means that legalization and regulation are urgently needed to end the above mentioned negative consequences.
In addition to some of the previously mentioned presentations, one more most prominent presentation delivered by Youth RISE in 2019, was at the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa by Youth RISE's Seyi Kehinde. Seyi presented his poster entitled—"Introducing PhotoVoice as an Advocacy tool for Promoting Harm Reduction and HIV prevention among People Who Inject Drugs in Nigeria." This was the outcome of a research conducted among people Who Inject Drugs in Abuja, Nigeria, to document their realities and generate evidence in advocating for a public health and human rights approach to drug use. During his session, he gave participants an overview of the drug use problem in Nigeria and spoke on the efficacy of PhotoVoice, which is a qualitative and participatory tool, in driving evidence-based advocacy. It was also an opportunity to share experiences and engage in other drug policy discourse with delegates.

Finally, Youth RISE International Coordinator Morgana Daniele gave speech at the 45th UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting. "Reducing the Impact of AIDS on Children and Youth" – this was the theme of the meeting, and Morgana spoke about the role that decriminalisation plays in reducing HIV and AIDS among young people who use drugs.

“I am here today to ask you to act urgently and end the punitive approach and move to a health-centred approach to drug use and possession for personal needs, in order to protect those thousands of young people in your homelands. Decriminalisation must lie at the foundation of all fight against HIV.”

– SHE SAID IN HER SPEECH.
PART V. PRODUCTS: VIDEO ABOUT OUR NETWORK

As in previous years, Youth RISE worked to produce an annual advocacy product in 2019. Given that this year’s focus was on network strengthening and organisational development, Youth RISE produced a video, presenting the essence of Youth RISE as a youth movement advocating for evidence-based drug policies. The Youth RISE team brought their voices together to encourage young people around the world to speak up for their needs and invite youth to join Youth RISE as a global network of young people who use drugs and are affected by drug policies.