



## NEWS REPORT

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| <b>Date:</b>                     | 29 June 2011  |
| <b>Expert:</b>                   | Romanița Iordache   |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | Report on women living with HIV reveals discrimination in access to medical services regarding sexual and reproductive health |
| <b>Country:</b>                  | Romania   |
| <b><u>Context</u></b>            |   |
| <b>Issue at stake:</b>           | Analysis of access to sexual and reproductive health medical services for women living with HIV                               |
| <b>Ground of discrimination:</b> | Disability, women living with HIV   |
| <b>Source:</b>                   | Report  |
| <b>Field:</b>                    | Access to medical services  |

### Content

**Development:** The report *Cazul femeilor care trăiesc cu HIV* in Romania [the Case-study of Women Living with HIV in Romania], released on June 29<sup>th</sup> 2011 by the Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives together with the National Union of Organizations of Persons Affected by HIV/AIDS, found that women living with HIV are denied access to sexual and reproductive health services, they are discriminated against on grounds of their sero-positive status, including being segregated from the rest of the patients and that their right to confidentiality regarding medical data is infringed.

The report is based on a series of in-depth interviews with young women living with HIV who delivered or needed various medical services in Romanian hospitals and were confronted with discriminatory behaviours and practices. The report revealed the challenges women living with HIV in Romania are confronted with in relation to: medical assistance during childbirth, post-abortion, other sexual and reproductive health care services, and measures to prevent the HIV transmission from mother to child, segregation in hospitals or in isolated rooms, discriminatory and degrading treatments, breach of confidentiality regarding the HIV status.

The report also discusses the legal and human rights implications of these violations and suggests concrete recommendations for different key actors. One of the key findings is that while the general medical guides and

protocols observe human rights concerns, the measures provided for are not always implemented or are implemented only by few, specialized medical centers, while a large number of public ob-gyn departments ignore them and refuse providing gynaecological consultations, delivering or providing related services, hence breaching both legal and medical standards.

As root causes of the discriminatory attitudes, the report identifies lack of coherent regulations as well as lack of education on sexual and reproductive rights, lack of training for the medical personnel.

**Internet link source and additional information:** Report available at: <http://www.ecpi.ro/Publications.php> (29.06.2011).