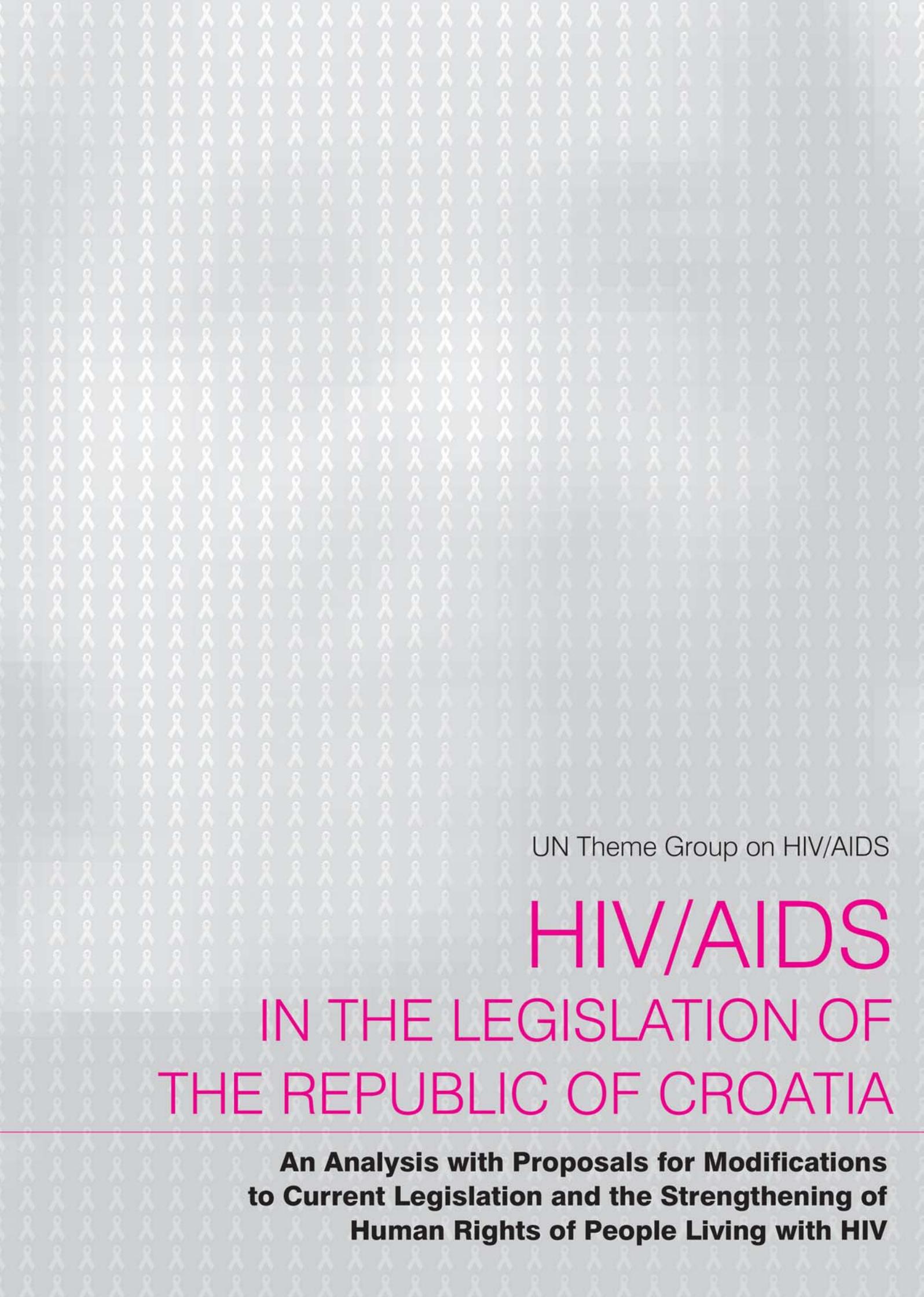


UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS

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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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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