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SOCIAL SUPPORTING OF AIDS/HIV PATIENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS

**(based on the materials of the 22nd International AIDS Conference
“Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges”)**

Since the first case of AIDS diagnosed in 1983 Netherlands has shown a great progress both in treating and social supporting of these patients, whereas in post soviet countries this problem is supposed not to be mentioned aloud – except some sporadic strikes organized by different people and establishments which results aren't seen or slightly effective.

Every year a special conference is held in Amsterdam which provides a unique forum at the interface of science, advocacy, and human rights. This is the largest conference on any global health issue in the world. First convened during the peak of the AIDS epidemic in 1985, it continues to provide a unique forum at the interface of science, advocacy, and human rights. Each conference is an opportunity to strengthen policies and programs that can ensure an evidence-based response to the epidemic.

In early 1990s an AIDS diagnosis was a death sentence, but now AIDS/HIV patients are just taught how to cope with it and live common way as countless activities have been set up for people living with HIV

Going out. A few evenings a week, people with HIV can meet and have a drink at one of the special HIV cafes. In these cafes no one cares if you have HIV, and prices are kept low, so that everyone can afford a drink. For many people, the HIV café was the first step towards a new life with HIV. They come there to talk and exchange tips, and to make new friends.

Walking. Sailing. Swimming. For drug users with HIV there were walking trips in Ardennes, organized by Brijder. A foundation that specialized in treating drug addicts, and sailing trips, which the Duc d'Alf foundation organized for people with HIV or AIDS and their families from 1992 onwards. The AIDS Fund financed the purchase of the boat, the

lightning conversion of which into a luxury vessel, in just a few days, was televised in a special edition of the TV program De Uitdaging ("The Challenge"). The foundation Tiggertie also offered activities such as sports including HIV swimming sessions in water warmed to 32 °C.

Course. A course entitled "Living with AIDS?" was set up by Jan Ruiters where everyone is welcome to talk and discuss these issues in a very open way: people with HIV or AIDS, family and friends, doctors and nurses, psychologists and spiritual counselors – but also policy-makers and academics from the field of ethics.

HIVnet. Starting in the 1990s, the new online network HIVnet enabled people with HIV or AIDS to make new friends and find information anonymously, from the privacy of their own homes. This network always provided the most up-to-date information about HIV and AIDS, about research findings and clinical trials, and included a discussion forum. Many people with HIV bought their first computer especially to get onto HIVnet. In the 1990s the network had thousands of users. In addition, HIVnet helps people with HIV to become actively involved in research and treatment. It was partly thanks to a campaign launched by HIVnet users that combination therapy became available in the Netherlands in 1996. This transformed the lives of people with HIV: instead of preparing for death, they learned to live with a chronic disease.

Buddies. "Buddy" is a trained volunteer who provides a help for support. The buddy system was originated in San Francisco, where gay men helped each other from a sense of solidarity and commitment. In Amsterdam the first twenty buddies started training in the autumn of 1984. From 1985 onwards, dozens of buddies from various Amsterdam organizations visited AIDS patients to do some shopping or odd jobs, to take them for a walk, or simply to talk. Buddies also provided a form of end-of-life care they generally continued their support right up until the person's death. Nowadays buddies are also deployed to help people with a range of other medical conditions.

AIDS Unit. A proper AIDS Unit was set up in 1987, modelled on the famous Ward 5A at San Francisco General Hospital. Counseling and emotional support received ample attention.

The AIDS Funds were set up in the 1990s and they acquired a pivotal role in the fight against AIDS in the Netherlands. In 1992 the fund merged with

the National Committee for the Control of AIDS, and in 1995 it took over the management of the AIDS budgets of the Dutch government. In 1996, it teamed up with the Dutch HIV society to pressure the government to make the life-saving combination therapy available in the Netherlands as fast as possible. The AIDS Fonds have also financed countless projects in developing countries.

Activities mentioned above should be implemented in Ukrainian society too as our AIDS/HIV patients are often left on their own to fight for the right of normal living.

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CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO PHILOSOPHY

Despite the tradition of philosophical professionalism established during the Enlightenment by Wolff and Kant, philosophy in the 19th century was still created largely outside the universities. Comte, Mill, Marx, Kierkegaard, and Schopenhauer were not professors, and only the German idealist school was rooted in academic life. Since the mid-20th century, however, most well-known philosophers have been associated with academia. Philosophers more and more employ a technical vocabulary and deal with specialized problems, and they write not for a broad intellectual public but for one another. Professionalism also has sharpened the divisions between philosophical schools and made the questions of what philosophy is and what it ought to be matters of the sharpest controversy. Philosophy has become extremely self-conscious about its own method and nature. Other significant currents in 20th-century philosophy were the speculative philosophies of Henri Bergson (1859–1941) of France, John Dewey (1859–1952) of the United States, and Alfred North Whitehead (1861–1947) of England — each of whom evades easy classification — and the philosophical Marxism practiced from the early 20th century in parts of