

# INHSU 2026 Conference

## Session Proposal

### Format

- Sessions must be delivered face-to-face, no virtual-only sessions are available for 2026
- Maximum session length is 1.5 hrs
- Room hire and audio visual facilities are provided by INHSU
- Sessions are held within the main conference program (i.e. within the 3-day conference program, not as a satellite session before/after), unless discussed with the INHSU Secretariat
- We encourage innovative ideas and formats

### Session speakers

- Session organisers must ensure gender balance, geographic diversity and affected community representation where appropriate.

### Registration for speakers, chairs and session organisers

- We are unfortunately unable to offer complimentary conference registration to session organisers/speaker/chairs
- Organisers/speakers/chairs may be eligible to apply for a scholarship via the INHSU scholarship program
- Please note, the scholarship application deadline is **19 April 2026**

### Registration for attendees

- Please note, all session attendees must be registered conference delegates. 1-day registration rates are available.

### Submission deadline

- Deadline for submissions is **1 March 2026**
- Submit application to via the online submission portal.

Please complete the form below. Proposals that are missing details from the below table will not be sent to review.

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| Proposed session details | Session title                             | Scaling Harm Reduction Interventions in Prisons: Opportunities, Trade-offs and Future Directions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                          | Short description and aims of the session | <p>Prisons remain one of the highest-risk environments for the transmission of hepatitis C, HIV, and other infectious diseases, yet harm reduction interventions remain unevenly implemented or non-existent across carceral settings worldwide. While evidence supports the effectiveness of interventions such as opioid agonist treatment (OAT) (including long-acting formulations of buprenorphine), prison needle and syringe programs (PNSPs), overdose prevention services including take home naloxone, many systems continue to face barriers related to funding, policy, workforce capacity, and support from prison administration and correctional staff and bureaucracies.</p> <p>This session will explore the practical realities of implementing harm reduction interventions in prisons, drawing on experiences from different countries and program models. Through a series of short presentations followed by a moderated panel discussion, speakers will highlight both the benefits and</p> |

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|  |                                    | <p>operational challenges of scaling harm reduction services in carceral settings.</p> <p>By the end of the session, participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the current landscape of harm reduction interventions in prisons across different countries/regions</li> <li>• Gain practical insights into the implementation of selected specific interventions including facilitators/barriers</li> <li>• Identify in-country mechanisms which support scale up</li> <li>• Explore strategies for improving continuity of care and harm reduction coverage</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to strengthen harm reduction responses in carceral systems globally</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|  | Agenda and format                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 min introduction presentation by chairs and speaker introductions</li> <li>• 3 x 15 minute presentations</li> <li>• 35 minute Panel discussion with 3 speakers and 2 chairs</li> <li>• 5 minute conclusion remarks from chairs</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|  | Target audience                    | Anyone interested or involved in the implementation of interventions for harm reduction in prisons globally                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  | Chair/s name, role, organisation   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katrin Schiffer, C-EHRN (Netherlands)</li> <li>• Behzad Hajarizadeh, Kirby Institute (Australia)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|  | Speaker/s name, role, organisation | <p><b>1. Case Study - Prison Needle and Syringe Programs: Implementation Lessons (15 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marie Claire Van Hout, University of Galway (Ireland) –</li> </ul> <p>Overview of the uptake of prison needle and syringe programs (PNSPs) across Europe and practical implementation aspects. Topics may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The factors that have limited implementation across Europe including political and legislative barriers</li> <li>• Key enablers in jurisdictions where programs have been successfully introduced.</li> <li>• Uptake by people who use drugs in prison and program acceptability</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Case Study - Long-Acting Buprenorphine in Prisons: Expanding Access to Opioid Agonist Treatment (15 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>Justin Berk</b><br/><b>Brown University (United States)</b></p> <p>Exploring the role of long-acting buprenorphine formulations in a prison setting and its role in expanding access to opioid agonist treatment.</p> <p>Topics may include:</p> |

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|  |             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits of long-acting formulations in a prison environments over other forms of opioid agonist/other treatments</li> <li>• Ease of implementation compared with daily dosing models and relative costs</li> <li>• Clinical considerations and workforce training needs</li> <li>• Opportunities to expand OAT coverage in prisons and the community and the need for clear referral pathways</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Preventing Overdose in Custody and After Release (15 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>Sergei Bessonov, NGO Ranar, Kyrgystan</b></p> <p>Examining an emerging harm reduction approach aimed at reducing overdose risk during incarceration and following release.</p> <p>Topics may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overdose prevention initiatives in Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>• Overdose risk following release from custody</li> <li>• Naloxone distribution and continuity of care for people leaving prison</li> <li>• Identifying and supporting individuals at risk of treatment discontinuation</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <p>The panel will bring together different perspectives to discuss the broader implications of implementing a harm reduction interventions in prisons. At least one speaker will cover experiences within a LMIC.</p> <p>Key themes for discussion may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparative strengths and limitations</li> <li>• Sustaining treatment and harm reduction engagement following release from custody</li> <li>• Funding and sustainability challenges</li> <li>• The role of peer organisations and people with lived experience in program design and delivery</li> <li>• Improving clinical understanding and support among prison health staff</li> </ul> <p>Audience Q&amp;A will be incorporated into the discussion.</p> |
|  | Room set up | All sessions will be set to theatre style and cannot be changed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## Roles and Responsibilities

## The chairing organisation/s will:

- Complete the form above
- If the session is approved, select and invite speakers for their session
- Ensure speaker panels reflect equity and diversity considerations
- Provide final details of session including: session title, format, timing, speaker details, etc. by **1 June 2026**
- Ensure all speakers, chairs and attending organisers are registered for the conference before the early-bird deadline of **26 July 2026**
- Provide their logo for co-branding purposes
- Disseminate session marketing materials to their networks, as provided by INHSU
- Chair the session

## INHSU will:

- Review session overview and provide feedback, including how the session complements other conference programming and speakers
- Advise organisers on the outcome of their submission by **6 April 2026**
- Contact speakers once invited and confirmed by organisers to provide required information for their participation
- Provide organisers with co-branded marketing materials
- Ensure sessions feature on the INHSU conference program and promote via email and on the conference website
- Allocate a room for the session
- Provide opening and closing slides for the session
- Provide AV technical and logistical support on the day