

## **HIV Outcomes' reaction to the INI Report on Towards a Common European Action on Care**

On 22 June, the European Parliament adopted the *INI Report on Towards a Common European Action on Care*. In the report, MEPs call for bold reforms in long-term care (LTC) to ensure access to quality care services for those in need, whilst those working in care benefit from better conditions. The European Commission is preparing a **European Care Strategy** due in Q4 2022 and two proposals for a Council Recommendation are envisaged, one on LTC.

HIV Outcomes welcomes the INI Report and **attention to the quality of life of those in need of care**. It is important that the European Care Strategy **protects and improves wellbeing for every person in need of care** by ensuring quality LTC services. This should include **people living with long-term conditions** such as HIV, who self-report **poorer wellbeing** than the general population and **greater care dependency**.

The Report rightly calls for the implementation of **quality indicators** to guide care delivery effectively. **Health-related quality of life** (HRQoL) is an umbrella indicator to capture with self-assessment tools, the multi-dimensional issues affecting the wellbeing of those in care (i.e., mental, physical, social, etc). Traditionally used in health technology assessment, HRQoL is **being increasingly adopted in clinical settings** as a measurable and implementable indicator.

We also commend the Report for recognising the importance of achieving an **integrated approach to care** with attention to people's physical, mental, psychological and social needs. Integrated models guided by HRQoL and based on **multi-disciplinary cooperation between care and healthcare practitioners have proven best positioned to meet the needs** of those in care.

Lastly, we **condemn every form of discrimination and stigma against care workers** and welcome measures to combat this. Meanwhile, attention should be drawn to the **stigma and discrimination often reported against people living with HIV in care settings** (or with other stigmatised conditions). With the increase in life expectancy, the ageing population living with HIV is larger than ever and at risk of **triple stigma** from ageism, HIV and anti-LGTBQ prejudice; hence signaling the need to educate care workers.

Altogether, we recommend that in line with the Report, the European Care Strategy calls for:

1. the implementation of **HRQoL as a quality indicator to guide care delivery and improve wellbeing for those in need of care;**
2. the **adoption of integrated models of care guided by HRQoL**, as best positioned to meet the physical, social, mental and psychological needs of those in need of care;
3. measures to **combat stigma and discrimination towards care workers and people in care living with HIV** or other stigmatised conditions.

#### INITIATIVE PARTNERS



#### OBSERVER MEMBERS

- European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS)
- European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- Fast Track Cities
- UNAIDS
- UNITE

HIV Outcomes reiterates the support for the Strategy and the Report and looks forward to continuing this collaboration. For more information, please read our [input](#) to the Call for Evidence on the European Care Strategy or contact us at [secretariat@hivoutcomes.eu](mailto:secretariat@hivoutcomes.eu)