Harm reduction services at festivals/events - providing welfare areas at international events offering psycho-education and psychological support to attendees and artists in Asia

An Anglo/Indian mental health awareness and emotional wellness organization is the only one in the whole of Asia that is providing harm reduction welfare areas at festivals/events. This is a new initiative/concept and part of our work is to create safe places and communities to encourage group work to identify the needs of those attending such gatherings. Festival producers are increasingly recognizing the necessity for spaces dedicated to helping individuals through the challenges that can result from the consumption of psychoactive substances. Psychological support services are beginning to be seen as equally important as medical care services in festival environments, where many individuals choose to use these substances. They offer peer to peer counseling with individuals who are trained to work with overwhelming experiences. Many of our volunteers are mental health professionals, psychedelic researchers, and medical service providers. Others have training in holistic healing modalities or other relevant experience. We provide our volunteers with an on-site comprehensive training which further prepares them for offering harm reduction services.

Biography
David Stanton is the Co-Creator and Consultant at TATVA and Founder/Owner of EDAS. He started his career in Mental Health in the UK over 30 years ago, in a community based project giving counselling, advice and information. For the past 19 years, he has been an International Psychotherapist, Supervisor, Trainer, Lecturer, Consultant and Coach. He has helped establish and manage a number of non-profits, private, community and residential addiction and mental health services in Europe, Africa and Asia. His goal is to continue helping people through his experiences, knowledge and research. He is dedicated to furthering mental health awareness through therapy and education and is especially interested in working with diverse cultures in various settings.

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Kripi Malviya is a Psychologist, Experiential Psychotherapist and Advocate with a Master’s in Clinical Psychology with an International Certification in Addiction Counselling and Training. She has worked with adolescents, adults, couples and families with multi-disciplinary teams of international mental health professionals, from varied cultures and therapeutic backgrounds. She facilitates addiction treatment and general mental health training workshops in the South Asian and South East Asian regions; including Bhutan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Thailand including her role as a Regional Resource Training Coordinator in India. She is an existentially inclined Psychotherapist and a Poet who promotes and facilitates the reciprocal connection and relationship between creativity and psychotherapy with respect, openness and vulnerability.

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