



Human rights

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Human rights are essential for every person regardless of their nationality, place of residence, ethnicity, skin colour, religion, language or any other attributes. All people equally have human rights, excluding any kind of discrimination.

Universal human rights are often indicated and guaranteed by law in the form of agreements, general law principles and other sources of international law. International law imposes obligations on states to implement activities in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Violation of human rights



Notion «violation of human rights» includes violation of rights, freedoms and legal interests of a human depending on their sex, race, language, origin, financial and employment status, place of residence, attitude to religion, beliefs, involvement into public unions or any social groups.

Particularly, one of fundamental human rights is highest achievable level of healthcare services, which includes non-discriminative, available and acceptable access to high-quality services, goods and healthcare institutions. However, now even in the countries with developed healthcare services people face different forms of discrimination and violence.

Punitive legislation, policies and practices prevent disadvantaged and marginalized groups of population from receiving access to information, goods and services, vitally important for HIV prevention and treatment. There is a lot of evidence, which clearly demonstrate that such factors push people away from healthcare services, especially those who need them most.

Why human rights are so important in response to HIV epidemics

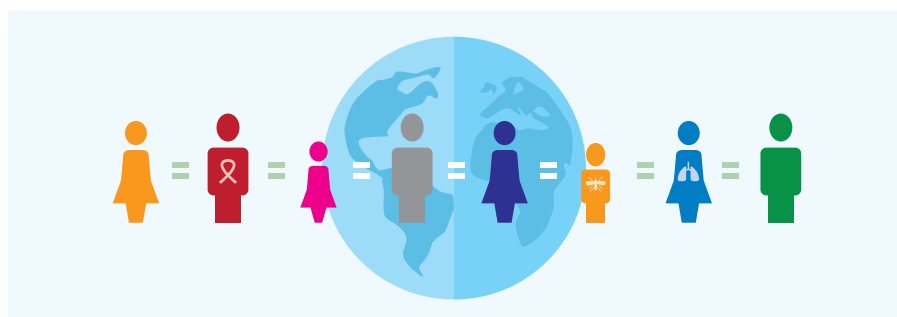


Principles of non-discrimination, equality, participation, access to justice and responsibility in the sphere of human rights are necessary for effective response to AIDS. From the moment of determination of GIPA principle, Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS, significant participation of civil society and key groups of population, especially on the level of communities, is a vitally important tool for implementation of effective response to the diseases for the last years.



Using language and power of human rights, people, living with HIV and human rights advocates, had many important legal and judicial victories over discrimination connected to HIV and human rights violations. Their demands of social justice led to improved access to medications, legal reform and inclusion of human rights programs into HIV response. They fight with AIDS denial; advocate for complete funding; demand access to their right of participation, discrimination reduction, information and treatment; fight for lowering prices for medications; challenge ineffective practices and policies in courts; mobilize patients against compulsory testing, isolation and other rights violations in healthcare system; provide legal services and develop legal literacy among people who are discriminated due to their social status or health condition.

Achievements of such work in human rights sphere were significant. HIV prevention and treatment became more available, HIV therapy have been developed, human rights were protected among groups of populations most affected by HIV (for example, women, young people, sex workers, gays and other men having sex with men, people using drugs, imprisoned and migrants). Work in human rights sphere led to unprecedented before global solidarity, including global funding, with the help of which world fights epidemics. It was advocacy by civil society, which led to creation of Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (Global Fund), one of the biggest world funding mechanisms for these three diseases. In its new strategy Global Fund makes a significant accent to human rights.



However, human rights advocates, including people living with HIV/AIDS, working for improvement of social justice and rights protection in response to AIDS all over the world still face stigma, discrimination and violence. Countries have to admit importance of such work in public and do more to create safer and more favourable environment for the work of legal advocates. Human rights advocates and civil society has to be provided with safe and non-repressive access and participation not only on UN fora, but also on regional, national and local levels. If people and organizations cannot safely demand adherence to their rights and rights of other people living with HIV/AIDS, this will be a direct violation of their rights, including right to health.

You can find overview of basic human rights publications here (<http://eecaplatform.org/resource/prava-cheloveka-obzor-osnovnyih-publikatsiy/>)

In the next publication on human rights we will tell you about the position of Global Fund in respect to human rights.