

ADVOCATES SPEAK



Noel Gordon @noelgordon09

30+ states have HIV-specific criminalization statutes that are outdated, unsound, and work counter to public health



Aaron Matthew Laxton

@aaronlaxton

We have to look at people whose mere existence is already criminalized. #sexworkers #trans



PWN-USA @uspwn

Susan Mull: We know we're not a just society when we're targeting specific pops and warehousing ppl



Mathew Rodriguez

@mathewrodriguez

The United States leads the world in poorly-written and ill/conceived HIV transmission laws, many 4 biting and spitting.



nainadevi @nainadevi

HIV criminalization laws are just another way to police POC, LGTBQ folks, and WOC bodies, sexuality, & reproduction.



Catherine Hanssens

@CatHanssens

HIV, even if "recklessly" transmitted, never merits a 25 yr prison term. Sentences that equate HIV trans w/ murder = stigma, not science.



nainadevi @nainadevi

Understanding intersectionality = knowing that HIV criminalization is not disconnected from racism, sexism, homophobia



ACT UMD @ACT_UMD

Current HIV laws are rooted in homophobia and racism, not current scientific research or public health recommendations



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Deon Haywood @WWAVinc: we need #reproductivejustice and #racialjustice analysis around #HIV #criminalization



Erik Roldan @rolderik

HIV Criminalization affects broad intersections of marginalized communities including race, class, & faith communities.



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If we don't understand #HIV #criminalization laws are proxy 4 #racism #sexism #homophobia
WE'RE MISSING THE BOAT



HIV Plus Magazine

@HIVPlusMag

RT @nainadevi: intersectionality = HIV criminalization is not disconnected from racism, sexism, homophobia



Aaron Matthew Laxton

@aaronlaxton

We are so focused on stopping sex that we put the public at risk in the process by upholding draconian laws.



HIVPreventionJustice

@HIVPrevJustice

#HIV criminalization laws are framed as protective for women, when in reality it does the opposite.



Ivan Espinoza

@IvanEspinozaESQ

There is a major lack of racial & economic justice analysis in the HIV movement.



nainadevi @nainadevi

MT @IvanEspinozaESQ YES! Make HIV crim more than a "gay issue" its a #racial & #reproductive #Justice issue

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.@WWAVinc nails it: we need a reproductive #justice lens and racial justice lens to address #HIV #criminalization.



nainadevi @nainadevi

@rolderik Agree PLHIV leadership needed- Also need to increase POC leadership in grassroots vs grasstops



Mathew Rodriguez

@mathewrodriguez

Telling people that grassroots HIV organizing isn't important means that trans women, gays and poor ppl are not important.



Center4HIVLaw&Policy

@CtrHIVLawPolicy

Decriminalization always leaves someone out. We need to ask ourselves who is being left out?



nainadevi @nainadevi

Critical 2 bring impacted folks in from beginning & at every stage of process. Not just tokenize PLHIV for our "stories"



Ivan Espinoza

@IvanEspinozaESQ

Instead of #identity-based alliances, coalitions & messaging, it may be useful & powerful to use #values-based approach.



Center4HIVLaw&Policy

@CtrHIVLawPolicy

Who is at the table? Who gets to make the compromises?



nainadevi @nainadevi

Nothing about us without us.



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Sen. Matt McCoy was stunned and offended, as a gay man, by the amount of #stigma talking about #criminalization uncovered



HIVPreventionJustice

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Important comm advice from @mathewrodriguez: Make stories people centered, always give dignity and respect to the story.



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It's hard to come out as #LGBT or #HIV+; easier to attack each other; is this not the story of our movements?



Center4HIVLaw&Policy

@CtrHIVLawPolicy

Iowa is one option. Query whether it makes sense for other states with different needs and diverse communities.



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What are education opportunities that happen before and during the legislative process when introducing a bill?



Center4HIVLaw&Policy

@CtrHIVLawPolicy

Every state is different. We need multiple legislative options & strategies reflecting diversity & nuances of each state.



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@wshabazzsmiles evokes Frederick Douglass: "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."