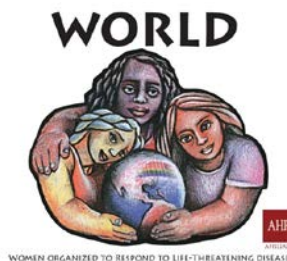


PROPOSED 2015 UPDATES TO THE NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY (NHAS)

APRIL 10, 2015

Submitted To the Office of National AIDS Policy By:



NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS



Individual Signatories:

Reginald T. Brown, Unity Fellowship Church Movement Anna Forbes, MSS, Consultant
Trevor Hoppe, PhD, MPH, Postdoctoral Scholar, Dept. Of Criminology, Law & Society, Univ.CA at Irvine

TO: Douglas Brooks, Director, and Office of National AIDS Policy

The following priorities should be incorporated into the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) because they will 1) promote modernization of disease-specific criminal laws and policies that perpetuate HIV stigma and discrimination; 2) prevent new HIV infections and better preserve health through sexual health literacy and care; 3) reduce HIV and other health-related costs that burden low-income communities by addressing the huge financial costs of over-criminalization and its role in the domestic HIV epidemic; and 4) promise to be both effective and uniquely cost-efficient responses to the HIV epidemic.

1. THE NHAS SHOULD ENDORSE AGGRESSIVE EFFORTS TO REMEDY WIDESPREAD IGNORANCE ABOUT HIV/STIs, SEXUAL ORIENTATION and GENDER IDENTITY THAT FUELS DISCRIMINATION WHILE BLOCKING DIAGNOSIS AND PREVENTION:

- Develop and execute a large-scale effort to address broad citizen ignorance about the routes, risks, and consequences of HIV transmissions and other sexually transmitted infections through issuance of a Surgeon General Letter to the American people on HIV and STIs.
- Develop and disseminate written policies, standards and training curricula to ensure that LGBTQ/HIV inclusive and affirming sexual health care, sexual health literacy, and related staff training are in place in all federally operated or funded correctional and detention facilities.
- The DOJ and HHS shall support the development of trainings and information sharing on HIV/STI transmission routes, risks, and current realities for criminal justice personnel.

2. The NHAS SHOULD INCREASE THE FOCUS ON THE INTERSECTION OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND HIV, AND EXTEND THE PROGRESS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S AND THE CDC'S POLICY STATEMENTS ON HIV CRIMINALIZATION:

- DOJ should develop a timeframe for meaningful follow-up to the July 15, 2014 best practices guide to reform HIV-specific criminal laws that includes outreach to individual states, with priority given to states with one or more HIV-specific prosecutions over the last two years.
- ONAP should develop guidance restricting the use of disease surveillance data for criminal law enforcement purposes.
- Identify and task the appropriate agency with development of joint guidance to state AIDS directors/health department commissioners and their counsel on best practices for handling complaints and law enforcement inquiries related to HIV/STI/Hip/HepC exposure and nondisclosure.
- Create a task force to develop national recommendations for criminal justice reforms that eliminate crimes, including sex offenses, related to consensual adult conduct.

We are happy to supplement these recommendations with rationales and supporting references if requested.

Respectfully submitted,

AIDS United
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Legal Referral Panel
American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan
The Center for HIV Law and Policy
Colorado AIDS Project
Health Legal Services
HIV Medicine Association
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance
Nashville CARES
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.
National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)
National Center For Transgender Equality
30 For 30 Campaign
Transgender Law Center
Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases (WORLD)

And the following individual signatories:

Reginald T. Brown, Unity Fellowship Church Movement
Anna Forbes, MSS, Consultant
Trevor Hoppe, PhD, MPH, Postdoctoral Scholar, Dept. Of Criminology, Law & Society, Univ.CA at Irvine