

COMMUNITY STATEMENT – ICAAP 12

Dhaka, Bangladesh

March 14, 2016



We (People living with HIV, Sex Workers, Transgender, Hijra, MSM, People Injecting Drugs, Youth, Women, Migrants), the Community of the Asia Pacific Region

Recognize that we are at a critical moment in the HIV response.

We recognise the many successes achieved to date in the global response to the epidemic and the phenomenal scientific advancements with respect to HIV prevention and treatment. However, access to such advancements elude communities from the most marginalized and the poor in our countries.

Further, despite concerted efforts from Communities, regressive laws, criminal sanctions and dismal government responses continue to negatively impact the human rights of Sex workers, MSM, transgenders, hijras, migrants, people who inject drugs and people living with HIV/AIDS.

The Community Forum ICAAP12 urges Governments, the UN, and the Global Fund to help address the intersection of HIV-related discrimination with other forms of discrimination such as that based on sex/gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, drug-using status, employment as a sex worker, prisoner, migrant and immigration status.

We require that Governments, UN and the Global fund recognise the structural causes of our marginalisation and work with us to both understand better and address the reasons why the most marginalised are difficult to reach.

The Community forum of ICAAP12 also recognises that punitive laws are a critical barrier. The criminalization of same-sex sex between consenting adults, sex work, and drug use, possession of drugs for personal use are huge impediments to effectively engage marginalized people in HIV prevention and treatment.

If we are to end AIDS by 2030, we need the UN agencies, The Global Fund and other development partners to help address these issues with our respective Governments.

We demand that access to justice, removing legal barriers and full decriminalization of sex work, MSM and HIV exposure are prioritized in the strategy plans for our region.

We demand that our Governments, UN agencies, the Global Fund and other development partners show leadership in challenging inequitable, discriminatory and partisan patents.

We are outraged that intellectual property regimes and excessive profit-seeking in the pharmaceutical industry continue to impede access to many essential medicines, including ARVs. We believe that to continue to leverage the phenomenal scientific advancements of recent years and to move towards the end of AIDS, unjust patents must be challenged and alternative regimes put in place.

We're alarmed at the violation of people's rights on confidential HIV counseling and testing.

We're outraged that Access to treatment, care and support for communities remains poor.

We are concerned that denial in low prevalence countries is preventing effective responses.

We demand that Human rights of all communities be recognized and protected by all Governments of the Asia Pacific Region, we call for an end to punitive and regressive laws, creating an enabling environment to end stigma and discrimination.

We seek new generation prevention and outreach approaches & technologies, including combination prevention, PrEP, ICT, Scaling up access to treatment (including 2nd & 3rd line), and ensuring retention and viral suppression.

We demand better access to sustainable financing of communities' work including service delivery in order to fast track national responses.

We urge all governments of the Asia Pacific region to integrate all the issues raised by us in the National Strategic Plans of their countries and allocate sufficient resources for its effective implementation.

We urge Governments to meaningfully involve Sex workers, people who inject drugs, Transgenders, hijras, MSM, PLHIV, migrants in all decisions, laws and policies relating to them. We demand equal and meaningful partnership in the design, implementation and review of all programs that impact our lives.

We are an integral part of the Change for an AIDS free generation. We are part of the solution!