

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
for the Africa Regional Dialogue

GLOBAL COMMISSION ON
HIV and the LAW

LAW can **change your life**
LAW can transform **HIV** responses
BUT IT STARTS WITH YOUR VOICE
SPEAK UP AND LEAD!



- *Have you experienced discrimination or unfair treatment because of your HIV status?*
- *Are you a woman with HIV who experiences stigmatisation, blame, violence from partners or discrimination from health carers because of HIV? Do you feel that the law and the police protect you?*
- *Are criminal laws used to penalise and discriminate against you because you are HIV positive, a drug user, transgender person, sex worker, or a man who has sex with men? Do you experience violence and harassment? Does this make it difficult for you to use HIV health care services?*
- *Are you a child or young person affected by HIV? Are you orphaned or caring for other family members? Are you treated badly at school and at clinics? Can you get health care and social assistance?*
- *Have you been treated unfairly by health care workers [or employers] because of your HIV status?*
- *Are cultural norms and practices putting you at risk of HIV?*
- *Are you able to access treatment for HIV and AIDS? Is your government doing enough to provide HIV-related health care? Are intellectual property laws restricting (or increasing) access to treatment?*
- *Can you get legal assistance from the state or NGOs to protect you from HIV-related discrimination? Can you bring these problems to court?*
- *Do you provide legal services to people living with HIV, women, children, people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, sex workers, prisoners, migrant workers or mobile populations?*
- *Do you work to develop protective laws, challenge laws in court and improve the legal situation of people living with HIV, women, children, people who use drugs, men who have sex with men, sex workers, prisoners, migrant workers and mobile populations?*
- *Are you a researcher or activist whose work builds evidence around the impact of human rights on HIV and AIDS?*

**Share your experience with the Commission.
Make a submission TODAY**

Your submissions will shape the Commission's conclusions
Selected submissions will be invited to the Regional Dialogue!

Why a Regional Dialogue in Africa?

The latest data from the UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic find that Africa, particularly sub-Saharan Africa, continues to bear the greatest burden of the global HIV epidemic, with over two-thirds of the global total of people living with HIV coming from sub-Saharan Africa, and more women than men living with HIV. The epidemic has long been fuelled by stigma, discrimination and the limited realisation of basic human rights, issues which have not been adequately addressed through national legal systems. Several countries still have policies that interfere with the accessibility and effectiveness of HIV-related measures for prevention and care. Examples include laws perpetuating the unequal status of women, criminalising HIV transmission or exposure, criminalizing consensual sex between men, criminalising aspects of sex work, prohibiting condom and needle access for prisoners and prohibiting young people from accessing HIV prevention independently of their parents. At the same time, laws and regulations protecting people with HIV from discrimination are not enacted, fully implemented or enforced.

The Global Commission on HIV and the Law seeks to further efforts in the region to improve HIV responses by addressing key legal barriers and promoting enabling legal environments. On 3-4 August 2011, the Commission will host an Africa Regional Dialogue in Johannesburg, South Africa to learn the experiences and perspectives of individuals, communities, policy and law makers and law enforcement actors in the region. The Regional Dialogue will be an opportunity for those profoundly and directly affected by and vulnerable to HIV, including **those whose voices are silenced by restrictive legal environments**, to be heard on issues of human rights, law and HIV.

What is the Global Commission on HIV and the Law?

The Global Commission on HIV and the Law was launched in June 2010 to develop **actionable, evidence-informed** and **human rights-based recommendations** for effective HIV responses that protect and promote the human rights of people living with and most vulnerable to HIV.

To this end, the Commission shall focus on some of the most challenging legal and human rights issues in the context of HIV, including **criminalisation of HIV transmission**, behaviours and practices such as **drug use, sex work, homosexuality**, and issues of **prisoners, migrants, children's rights, violence against women**, and **access to treatment**.

For more information on the Commission, please visit: www.hivlawcommission.org

How can the law play a central role in the HIV response?

Imagine living in a world where the law fully protects the human rights and dignity of all. In that world women, children and people living on the fringes of society – sex workers, drug users, homosexuals, transgender people, prisoners and migrants – could safely and freely take steps to protect themselves against HIV infection and to stay healthy if they are living with HIV. They would be able to access services that benefit not only them but those that they come into contact with.

The law can protect those vulnerable to and living with HIV against abuse and harassment by the police and against discrimination by healthcare workers and employers. The law can make it possible for people at risk of HIV to access the tools they need to stay HIV-free. Likewise, the law can make it possible for people living with HIV to access life-sustaining treatment. **A world in which laws support human rights for all can be a world without HIV!**

The Global Commission on HIV and the Law wants to hear from YOU

Why is your submission important?

To have the greatest impact, the Commission is seeking inputs from diverse civil society groups and individuals, including those advocating for human rights, women's issues, etc. The Commission is looking to learn from the **experiences and knowledge** of those most affected by both disempowering and empowering laws and practices. By speaking out now, **your experience and knowledge will help to shape the Commission's thinking and recommendations, and influence the HM response in your region.**

WHAT TO SUBMIT

The Commission wants to learn from your **experience or knowledge.**

1. In many parts of Africa, as in other parts of the world, the law treats people vulnerable to HIV as criminals. Many African countries criminalise a wide range of behaviors that may expose a person to HIV, making potential criminals of people living with HIV. In other countries, it is illegal to be a sex worker, a homosexual, a transgender person, a drug user or a migrant. Even in places where these behaviours are not crimes, law enforcement agencies, including police officers, harass or abuse members of these groups. **Are you are a member of one these groups who has been cast as a criminal or mistreated by police because of who you are? Do you work with marginalised people whose lives are criminalised? Share your experience of how the law impacts your life or the lives of those you work with.**
2. Similarly, women and children often experience violence, discrimination and inequality, and are unable to access basic rights for survival, increasing their vulnerability to HIV. Too often, the law does little to promote equal access to their rights, prevent discrimination and violence or to help those who have suffered. **Have you lived this experience? Do you work with people who have? Share your experience with the Commission.**
3. In many places, intellectual property laws create barriers to HIV-related treatment access, resulting in inflated prices and reduced supplies of life-saving medicines. **Are you an academic, researcher or human rights advocate who has been working on intellectual property rights in the context of HIV-related treatment access in your country? Share your work and your perspective with the Commission.**

HOW TO SUBMIT

1) Countries covered by this call

You are invited to make a submission if your experience has been in a country within the African Union.

Submissions will be reviewed by a selection committee created by the United Nations and the Global Commission and a set of authors of submissions will be invited to Johannesburg to participate in the Regional dialogue, which will be conducted with simultaneous translation between English, French and Portuguese.

2) Languages

Submissions are welcome in English, French and Portuguese.

3) Confidentiality of Submissions

Submissions can be made at two levels: **Public** or **Confidential**. You should **clearly state if you would like it to remain confidential**. All submissions will be collected by the Secretariat of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law for an objective review. The Secretariat will then submit the relevant submissions to a Regional Advisory Group which will select the submissions to be shared at the Regional Dialogue. On behalf of the Commission, the Regional Advisory Group will be convened by UNDP and UNAIDS and will involve members from regional civil society advocacy networks and human rights advocates.

If you would like your submission to be treated as confidential, then please provide **two versions** of the submission: (1) a confidential version, which will be viewed only by the Commission Secretariat, (2) a public version with all confidential information removed, which will be submitted to the Regional Advisory Group for review.

Please note that while only some submissions will be selected for the Regional Dialogue, all submissions sent to the Regional Advisory Group are important and will inform and shape the Commission's findings.

4) Format of Submissions

All submissions must follow the template for submissions prescribed below.

- **Letter format:** Submissions should be no more than 3 pages long (maximum 1500 words in the main body of the submission), on A4 size paper. If sent by email, submissions should be in PDF (.pdf), RTF (.rtf) or Word Doc (.doc; docx) format. (Please note if your submission is confidential, only the public version will be shared with the Regional Advisory Group for review).
- **Audio/Video format:** Submissions in audio or video format should be no more than 10 minutes long. (If your audio or video submission is confidential, please do not mention your name and contact details in the submission. Instead, please include this information in the submission template accompanying your submission.)
- **Online Audio/Video submissions:** Submissions that cannot be sent via mail or email can be submitted online. They may be uploaded on "youtube.com", "dailymotion.com" or "vimeo.com" using a personal account. Please make sure to secure your video as "private" and send us the link and password to your video.

5) Deadline

10 June 2011

Please note that only 1 submission per individual or organisation will be accepted.

The Global Commission on HIV and the Law wants to hear from YOU

Send your entries to:

- **Via Email to:** info@hivlawcommission.org
Subject line should be: "Submission Africa Regional Dialogue-level of confidentiality-Key issue(s)". (e.g. *Submission Africa Regional Dialogue-Public-Criminalisation of drug use*).
- **Via Mail to:** Global Commission on HIV and the Law – Secretariat
United Nations Development Programme
BDP, HIV/AIDS Practice
304 East 45TH Street – FF1180
New York, NY 10017, USA

Download the submission form

English:

Word: http://www.hivlawcommission.org/images/stories/rd_africa_call_en.doc

PDF: http://www.hivlawcommission.org/images/stories/rd_africa_call_en.pdf

French:

Word: http://www.hivlawcommission.org/images/stories/rd_africa_call_french.doc

PDF: http://www.hivlawcommission.org/images/stories/rd_africa_call_french.pdf

Portuguese:

Word: http://www.hivlawcommission.org/images/stories/rd_africa_call_portuguese.doc

PDF: http://www.hivlawcommission.org/images/stories/rd_africa_call_portuguese.pdf

For more information, questions or concerns, please contact: info@hivlawcommission.org

 Join the Commission on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/HIVLawCommission>

 Follow the Commission on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/HIVLawCom>

AFRICA REGIONAL DIALOGUE 2011

SUBMISSION FORM

Contact Details	
Name of Author:	
Name of Organisation:	
Are you submitting as an Individual or on behalf of an organisation? <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Organisation	
Please note that you can only make 1 submission per person and per organisation.	
Phone Number:	
Email address:	
Website:	
Date of submission:	
Address:	
City:	
Country:	
Submission:	Maximum 1500 words. Please attach additional sheets.
Confidentiality	
<p>Submissions can be made at two levels: Public or Confidential. You should clearly state if you would like it to remain confidential. All submissions will be collected by the Secretariat of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law for an objective review. The Secretariat will then submit the relevant submissions to a Regional Advisory Group which will select the submissions to be shared at the Regional Dialogue.</p>	
Do you want this submission to be treated as confidential? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If YES, please submit two versions of the submission: (1) the confidential one which will remain with the Commission Secretariat, (2) the public one with the confidential information removed for selection by the Regional Advisory Group.	
Submissions Deadline	
Submissions should be received by email or mail, by close of business Friday, 10 June 2011 .	