



WORKSHOP: HIV/AIDS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

At the 2006 UN High Level Meeting on HIV, world leaders reaffirmed that “the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is an essential element in the global response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.” Yet, 25 years into the AIDS epidemic, this “essential element” remains the missing piece in the fight against AIDS. Women and girls, young people, people who inject drugs, sex workers, gay and bisexual men, and incarcerated people are most in need of comprehensive HIV prevention and treatment programs, including access to ART, yet they continue to face discrimination and abuse and are often denied access to life-saving programs. As a result, HIV continues to spread unchecked.

This workshop will make HIV and human rights issues accessible for participants. By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- (1) name 10 reasons why, now more than ever, human rights should occupy the center of the struggle against HIV and AIDS
- (2) show that human rights approaches to HIV are not abstract, but real, practical, and cost-effective
- (3) provide concrete examples of human rights actions for universal access in national responses to HIV
- (4) provide concrete examples of how the 2010 International AIDS Conference in Vienna can make a major contribution towards greater action on human rights in the context of HIV, at the national, regional, and international level.

Methodology

A mix of a short introductory presentation, small group work, and plenary report back and discussion with the workshop facilitators will enhance the learning experience. In addition, participants will receive written materials that will allow them to deepen their understanding after the workshop.

Facilitators

Jonathan Cohen is the Director of the Law and Health Initiative (LAHI) at the Open Society Institute (OSI) in New York. For the last three years, LAHI has spearheaded an international coalition of HIV and human rights organizations and networks from around the world, and taken the lead in developing accessible documents explaining the link between HIV and human rights, including the declaration: “Human Rights and HIV/AIDS: Now More Than Ever”.

Ralf Jürgens is one of the co-founders of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and was its Executive Director from 1998 to November 2004. Since December 2004, he has worked as a consultant on HIV/AIDS, health, policy and human rights in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa and Canada. In 2006, Ralf co-chaired the “Policy Track” of the International AIDS Conference in Toronto.

Both Jonathan and Ralf are members of the UNAIDS Reference Group on HIV and Human Rights.

Das Seminar findet am 24. 3. 2009 von 10.00 bis 13.00 im Rahmen des Seminarprogrammes der Aids Hilfe Wien in Zusammenarbeit mit dem „Community Forum Austria 2010“ und dem „Österreichischen Aktionsbündnis gegen HIV/Aids“ im Aidshilfehaus Wien Mariahilfer-Gürtel 4, 1060 Wien statt.

Anmeldungen bitte bis 12. März 2009 an das Präventionssekretariat der Aids Hilfe Wien (Katalin Kovacs, kovacs@aids.at). Die Teilnahme ist kostenlos.