



Call for Candidates for Roster of Practitioners in HIV and Human Rights

Introduction

The global agenda for sustainable development includes a target for ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. To achieve this ambitious objective, UNAIDS has called on all countries to harness the next several years (until 2025) as a key window of opportunity for rapidly scaling up the HIV response in three main areas: HIV prevention, HIV testing and HIV treatment.

The Fast Track approach – endorsed by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in the 2016 Political Declaration on Ending AIDS – requires maximizing existing tools in order to spurn the pace of progress to achieve specific targets and end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030. Despite this, it will not be possible to Fast Track the HIV response and end the AIDS epidemic without addressing human rights.

Gender inequality continues to undermine efforts to address HIV among women and girls around the world, and while many populations remain highly affected by HIV, they have inadequate access to effective quality prevention, testing and treatment services. These populations, which are being left behind by the response, include adolescents and young people (particularly adolescent girls and young women in eastern and southern Africa), indigenous communities, sex workers, prisoners, migrants, gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people and people who inject drugs.

Human rights barriers – including stigma and discrimination, violence and other abuses, negative social attitudes and legal obstacles – contribute to vulnerability to HIV among these populations and limit their access to prevention, testing, treatment and care services.

Fast Track and Human Rights

UNAIDS is supporting countries to scale up testing, prevention and treatment programs to achieve their national Fast Track targets by 2025.

Efforts to Fast Track HIV prevention, testing and treatment services can and should be grounded in human rights principles and approaches that will help maximize the reach and impact of HIV prevention, testing and treatment programmes. It will also help to address potential human rights challenges and prevent abuses that may occur in the context of urgent efforts to Fast Track the HIV response.

In order to protect people living with and affected by HIV and to support effective responses to HIV, UNAIDS recommends that every national HIV response include key programmes to reduce stigma and discrimination and increase access to justice.¹ It is imperative that these programs are based on human rights principles, address barriers to HIV services and that they have no one behind!²

¹<https://www.unaids.org/resources/press-materials/press-materials-human-rights-programmes-in-2022-2025>
²<https://www.unaids.org/resources/press-materials/press-materials-2022-11-16/call-to-action-to-end-hiv-2022-11-16-1>