

PANCAP DECLARATION

GETTING TO ZERO DISCRIMINATION THROUGH JUSTICE FOR ALL

We, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community endorse the actionable recommendations of the PANCAP Justice For All and Human Rights Consultation meeting at the Pegasus Hotel, Kingston Jamaica on 10-11 April, 2014;

Aware that despite the gains made in treatment, prevention, care and support in the Region, the AIDS epidemic is far from over and needs to be sustained in the post 2015 development agenda;

Conscious of the collective actions which have in the past fuelled regional integration, the goal of which is to enhance the well-being of the citizens of our countries;

Recalling the Nassau Declaration (2001), that “the health of the Region is the wealth of Region”, which underscored the importance of health to development; the PANCAP Declaration 2010 on reducing stigma and discrimination and the UN High Level Meeting Political declaration 2011 with reference to human rights in the AIDS response

Inspired by the successes of our joint and several efforts that resulted in the Caribbean being the first Region in the world to eradicate poliomyelitis and measles;

Affirming the main recommendations of the consolidated JFA report of the national consultations in Guyana, Grenada, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis and Suriname which included strategies to create facilitating and protective environments as well as legal reforms to address human rights and HIV related stigma and discrimination ;

Impelled by a determination to reduce the suffering and burdens caused by HIV and AIDS on the citizens of our Region which is the one worst affected in the World;

Fully convinced that HIV related stigma and discrimination which contribute to the persistence of AIDS in our Region can be reduced and eliminated through collaborative programmes, partnerships and policies supported by governments, private sectors, FBOs NGOs, youth and our other social, regional and international partners;

Seized with the spirit of optimism, courage and determination in creating a just Caribbean;

Declare -

- Our full support for the initiatives and mechanisms in the PANCAP Justice for All Roadmap aimed at increasing access to treatment including affordable medicines, reducing gender inequality including violence against women, promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights, achieving legislative rights for modifying and repealing discriminatory laws;
- That we strongly encourage the efforts to ensure that the Caribbean is the first region in the world to achieve the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV by Aug 2015;
- That we will support the principle of the enactment of laws to ensure universal coverage for treatment by 2018;
- Our commitment to amend existing equal opportunity acts setting out the prohibited grounds of discrimination in employment practices including HIV status, disability and sexual orientation by Aug 2015;
- Our commitment to inclusive, respectful and systematic support for partners of Faith and Faith based groups in eliminating faith driven stigma and discrimination by 2015;
- Our support for the enactment of an overarching anti-discrimination Act utilizing the Model Policy Legislation approved by the CARICOM Legal Affairs Committee (2012) by August 2015;
- That as part of the anti-discrimination Act, HIV be treated as a pre-existing condition for the purposes of assessment for insurance as applied to other diseases between 2015 -2018;
- Our endorsement of the need to strengthen the laws related to domestic violence and other forms of abuse against women and girls, youth and children by 2015;

Our endorsement of cultural and edutainment programmes in changing attitudes and beliefs that help to fuel stigma and discrimination;

- Our support for the revision and strengthening of the health and family life (HFLE) curriculum to include more relevant age appropriate information on Stigma and discrimination with reference to youth and adolescents, and particularly information on sexuality, sexual and reproductive health including HIV and AIDS and other STIs between 2015 and 2018;
- Our support for developing standardised modules for the delivery of HIV and AIDS education activities with particular focus on appreciating and understanding vulnerabilities and demystifying cultural myths that reinforce stigma and discriminations between 2015 and 2018;
- That we will develop and implement special programmes and provide special facilities for the differently abled, especially those living with HIV and AIDS between 2015 and 2018;
- That we will establish procedures to accelerate the process for the repeal of laws decriminalising sexual acts in private between consenting male and female adults and replace with or retain the provision criminalising sexual acts between any person in public, with the use of force, and acts of indecency committed against any person of less than 16 years of age between 2015 and 2018;
- That we encourage and support our institutions of higher learning and other agencies to build research and training capacity in medical, social and behavioural studies in health and development collaboration with other regional and international agencies, thereby providing policy makers and practitioners with the evidence based information to make

appropriate decisions;

- Our commitment to support national sustainability plans for HIV including issues of intellectual property, strong monitoring and accountability mechanisms as well as access to treatment and human rights;
- Our continuing support for PANCAP Coordinating Unit along with UNAIDS Joint programme and other members of PANCAP to accelerate the policies and programmes toward the HIV related elimination of stigma and discrimination in keeping with the international principles of human rights.

We hereby declare this Justice for ALL Roadmap to be a guiding principle of the AIDS Responses catalyst for social justice and human rights for all.