

URGENT POLITICAL DECLARATION ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

In April, Caribbean civil society organizations, people infected with and affected by HIV and HIV response partners met to discuss our asks for the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV. With just one more week of negotiations before the HLM, some of our demands are not being reflected in the readings of the draft document. St. Kitts and Nevis is the lead negotiator for CARICOM at the United Nations in New York. We need your respective capitals to send specific instructions on these issues:

Issues

There has been lots of push back to listing the key populations, and in particular on including reference to sexual orientation and gender identity.



List the key populations

Asks

We call on governments to address the needs of a broad range of populations, especially those who are most marginalized including people living with HIV, sex workers, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, transgender people and people in prisons and other closed settings.

Some countries have requested that the term “community-led” (health systems) be replaced with “community-based”. Others are proposing the term “peer-led”.



Prioritize community-led health systems

We call on governments to prioritize community-led, people-centred service delivery to improve linkage to care for members of key and vulnerable communities, including the most marginalized and people in remote areas. We ask for recognition of civil society and communities as critical service providers. We must expand and fund their role in delivering prevention, treatment and care services.

There has been significant pushback on removing restrictive and punitive legal and policy frameworks and discriminatory laws and practices that block effective responses to HIV.



Commit to removing discriminatory and punitive laws

We call on governments to strengthen political will beyond the provision of treatment by committing and taking action to reduce human rights violations, remove discriminatory laws and build an enabling environment for key populations to access services and to eliminate gender-based violence.

There has been pushback on reaffirming the commitment to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and providing comprehensive sexuality education. While there is support for aspects of these agendas, there is not full acceptance.



Stand up for SRHR and CSE

We call on governments to assure every person access to stigma and discrimination-free sexual and reproductive healthcare services and to provide young people in and out of school with age-appropriate, evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education.

**what
now**



Pick up the phone. Speak to your connections in:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs . Ministry of Health .
National AIDS Programme . Office of the Prime Minister.
Ensure they instruct your Ambassador in NY to convey these sentiments to the CARICOM lead negotiator (St. Kitts and Nevis).