

**KNOW YOUR  
UNIVERSAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS**



With every Right, there is a Responsibility

**HIV/AIDS**

## WHAT IS AIDS?

AIDS is the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, which is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Discovered in the early 1980s, HIV is transmitted from person to person through unprotected sex, transfusion of infected blood, sharing of contaminated needles and from mother to child during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding.

By the end of 2005, 39 million adults and children were living with HIV and AIDS. More than 4 million people were infected with HIV in 2005, and almost 3 million died of AIDS-related illnesses.

## THE LINK BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND AIDS

Respect for human rights is critical to preventing the spread of HIV, and reducing AIDS-related stigma and discrimination.

“Realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is essential to reduce vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.”<sup>1</sup>

Millennium Development Goal 6 includes the target of halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015.<sup>2</sup>

“A human rights-based approach to development insists that women and men have equal access to development health, an education, employment and adequate housing.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly Special Session, Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, June 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Millennium Development Goals, the Millennium Declaration, September 2000.

<sup>3</sup> Kemal Derviş, UNDP Administrator, Human Rights Day Statement, December 2005.

## THE LINK BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND LAW

The law tells us what rights we enjoy, as well as our duties.

In order for human rights to be respected and enforced, they must be recognized in law.

When human rights are recognized and protected by law, people are free to live healthier, happier and more fulfilling lives. In order to claim human rights, one has to know what rights are recognized by the legal system of one's country.

“We should have laws to protect us so that we can enlighten society and erase the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A person living with HIV from Sudan.

## RIGHT TO LIFE

Everyone has the right to life. “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services...”<sup>1</sup>

Human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, therefore the right to life is linked to the right to food, the right to adequate housing and the right to a healthy environment.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.

## WHAT THIS RIGHT MEANS TO YOU

The right to care, support and treatment means that States must ensure access to services for sexually transmitted infections, means of prevention such as male and female condoms, clean injection equipment and life prolonging treatment such as antiretroviral therapy.

With respect to the integrity and dignity of the human body, drugs and therapeutic tests such as vaccines cannot be tested on individuals without their informed consent.

African leaders committed themselves to “...protect those not yet infected, particularly women, children and youth...” and to “the strengthening and development of special youth programmes to ensure an AIDS free Generation.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Article 23 of the Abuja Declaration, endorsed by African Head of States, April 2001.

## RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Everyone has the right to privacy. The right to privacy is a fundamental human right that is vital to the concept of human dignity.

“No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honour and reputation.”<sup>1</sup>

“States... should ensure privacy and confidentiality and ethics in research involving human subjects...”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1976.

<sup>2</sup> HIV/AIDS and Human Rights International Guidelines (Guideline 5), OHCHR, UNAIDS, 1998.

## WHAT THIS RIGHT MEANS TO YOU

The right to privacy means that you have the right to keep your HIV status to yourself and you cannot be forced by any means to have a blood test without your informed consent.

Your doctor cannot inform your family of your status without your consent. However, you are responsible for informing your sexual partner(s) of your status and for not engaging in behaviour that may put others at risk of infection.

This right is important because without it, people who might be HIV positive are less likely to seek counselling, testing or treatment out of fear of stigmatization.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_13084](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_13084)

