Stigma and Discrimination Towards Key Populations

HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum

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Stigma and Discrimination – Main Obstacles for Access to prevention, testing, treatment and care

- Huge progress in the field of treatment and diagnostics within the last 30 years – Minor progress respective backlash in the field of discrimination and stigma

- Why is that?
  - Hard data vs. Soft data (Perception)
  - Companies vs. Civil Society
  - Provision of means and supplies vs. Change of attitude
  - Exceptionalism vs. Normalisation (Presumption that with treatment of HIV stigma and discrimination disappear)
  - etc.

Obstacles in General

- GO tend to doubt or trivialise that there is discrimination in their countries. It is not on top of the agenda of GO.

- Normativity – how much difference is acceptable?

- Human Rights, Discrimination, Stigma have become an empty phrase or cliché, overused and therefore sometimes counterproductive

- Conservative backlash in a lot of countries. Legislation (gay propaganda law, sex work legislation) boosts discrimination.

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Access to Prevention Services

- Fear to be associated with key populations

- "Do we do the right things right?"

- Stigma induced law enforcement (sex work, drug use)

- Putative disturbance of social order due to stigma (consumption rooms, street sex work in the neighbourhood)

Access to Testing

- Fear to be blamed and self-blamed and have failed (I / (S)He should have known better as part of a key population)

- Assumed higher level of responsibility (by oneself or by others)

- Inappropriate behaviour of health professionals

- Self degradation (e.g. internalised homophobia)

- Fear of discrimination within the community

- Fear of being tested positive

Access to Treatment and Linkage to Care

- Inappropriate behaviour of health professionals

- Fear of rejection

- Assumed non-adherence to treatment and care

- Fear of being outed as HIV positive by visiting HIV or STI clinics

- …

Good practice to fight stigma and discrimination regarding key populations

➢ Participation of key populations in developing services

• „Be who you want to be! For greater Acceptance in the scene." (Jeder wie er will)

• „Testhelden" (test heroes)

• Sensitisation Trainings for law enforcement in EECA

• Sensitisation Trainings for physicians