

MANIFEST

Of the people with HIV and AIDS at the World-AIDS-Congress 2008 Mexico City

The publication of the Swiss Federal HIV/AIDS Committee (EKAF) in "Schweizerische Ärztezeitung", January 30 2008 about the non-infectiousness of people with HIV* has stirred many reactions.

The resulting debate about the evidence of the studies on which the EKAF declaration is based, and the criticism concerning the broad publication of such knowledge has mobilised the organisations of people living with HIV and their representatives worldwide.

A. We clearly welcome the EKAF declaration

It is scientifically sufficiently based and favours life quality and- even more- social integration of people with HIV. It therefore promotes structural and lasting prevention for people who are not aware of their HIV status.

Unconditional access to all scientific data and facts is the base of any authentic education and information.

Only an educated and tolerant society, in which people with HIV and AIDS are integrated, can face the challenge of HIV and AIDS successfully.

B. In view of the EKAF declaration we call upon the representatives of science, medicine, economy, governments, the WHO and UNAIDS

- 1. to recognise the evidence of the EKAF declaration, which is based on scientific studies**
- 2. to respect the different life conditions of people living with HIV**
- 3. to accept the maturity of individual and society**
- 4. to guarantee full and unconditional HIV education**
- 5. to renew knowledge continuously**
- 6. to promote worldwide access to HIV drugs.**



LHIVE

Organisation of people living with
HIV and AIDS in Switzerland
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C. We recognise authentic commitment of players to our demands by the following hallmarks:

1. The discussion about the impact of the EKAF declaration on HIV prevention is objective and evidence-based.

Any attempt to stop information or discussion for moral, political, or other non-factual reasons is clearly rejected as unacceptable censorship.

The different individual HIV prevention measures and the related transmission risks are assessed strictly by equal scientific standards.

2. The hitherto existing public image of people with HIV is adapted to current life-realities.

That means first and foremost: The images of dangerous and irresponsible individuals or of wretched people devoid of personal responsibility are disclaimed.

3. The public is fully and unconditionally informed about prevention, treatment and current live conditions of people living with HIV and AIDS.

Strategies of HIV treatment and prevention are adapted to the requirements of social integration of people with HIV and AIDS; on both, the individual and the social level.

Responsibility is not divisible.

That means also: The legislation follows that principle and regards the scientific facts.

All patients have access to information and are free to choose their therapy and to decide about their individual strategies of HIV prevention and of harm reduction.

In the spirit of the WHO's Ottawa Charta, health promotion is an integral part of all strategies and measures. The aim is a process that allows all people to enjoy a higher degree of autonomy about their health and thus, to have the chance to eventually improve their health.

4. The hitherto successful way of HIV and AIDS-prevention based on impartial education campaigns is sustained and consolidated.

5. Studies orientated on current scientific results that include social factors (e. g. gender, lifestyle, life conditions) are specifically encouraged.

That could mean e. g. for the field of HIV transmission : Studies about risk minimisation in anal intercourse, studies about the relevance of STD's in HIV transmission, or studies about adherence and long term side effects of ART.

6. Efficient therapy is globally perceived as an efficient HIV prevention measure as well. The distribution of resources is promoted further.

Efficient HIV therapy is recognised as the precondition of treatment, health promotion and prevention.

The promises to level the gap between the poor and the rich are eventually fulfilled.

