

## COMPENDIUM OF RESOURCES on 'ADVOCACY'

### *Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS*

**Title:** Niche Area Four: Ending stigma and discrimination of people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS

**Author/Institution:** Tearfund

**Description:** NGO Code of good practice for programmes tackling stigma and discrimination against PLWHA

**Target audience:** NGOs particularly those working with Tearfund

**Geographical scope:** General

**Directions for Ghana Project:** Women are particularly vulnerable to negative stereotyping due to HIV and AIDS. They are likely to be perceived as having been unfaithful to their husband, or of being a sex worker, or of having brought bad luck to the family. This attracts disapproval, a denial of rights and often violence and abandonment. Where a woman is perceived as being the property of her father or husband, HIV testing of her fiancé prior to marriage is unlikely to take place'. Code of good practice states that programmes need to specifically target women in areas outlined in the document.

Useful for policy advocacy, a good practice policy model

**URL:** <http://tilz.tearfund.org/webdocs/Tilz/Topics/HIV-AIDS/Good%20Practice/4%20Stigma%20and%20Discrimination.doc>.

**Acquisition cost:** Free

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### *Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS*

**Title:** Strengthening Resistance: Confronting Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS

**Author/Institution:** Center for Women's Global Leadership Cynthia Rothschild, Mary Anne Reilly and Sara A. Nordstrom

**Description:** Primarily concerned with links between violence against women and HIV as intersecting pandemics

**Target audience:** Advocates against violence against women and HIV

**Geographical scope:** 9 case studies in innovative advocacy around the world

**Directions for Ghana Project:** "A lack of respect for women's rights both fuels the epidemic and exacerbates its impact." Provides rationale for linking action against violence against women with concern for HIV-AIDS. Considerable discussion of how stigma against women (lack of respect for women's human rights) is linked to HIV stigma.

Definitely food for thought, and the case studies are interesting.

**URL:** [www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/globalcenter/publications/strengthening.pdf](http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/globalcenter/publications/strengthening.pdf)

**Acquisition cost:** None

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### *Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS*

**Title:** The Role of Religious Leaders in Reducing Stigma and Discrimination Related to HIV/AIDS

**Author/Institution:** CORE (Communities Responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic), World Conference of Religions for Peace, and USAID.

**Description:** A Report of 2003 Round Table Discussion organised by ICASO and moderated by Stephen Lewis.

**Target audience:** Religious leaders

**Geographical scope:** Global

**Directions for Ghana Project:** Gathers views on steps that need to be taken by religious leaders to reduce HIV stigma. Dr Musa Dube emphasized the need for the Church to understand issues that drive the HIV epidemic such as gender inequality, social injustice and denial of rights. Religion needs to address women as a social category of the population that is affected by HIV/AIDS. Rev Jape Heath said "“The ABC (abstain, be faithful or use condoms) language of HIV/AIDS is stigmatizing. If you go to buy a condom people will presume that you cannot do the other two!”

Useful for helping religious leaders to see their role. Has specific concrete suggestions of what needs to be done differently.

**URL:** [www.coreinitiative.org/Grants/cigrants/uploads/1115735617WCRP ICASA symposium on stigma report-final.pdf](http://www.coreinitiative.org/Grants/cigrants/uploads/1115735617WCRP_ICASA_symposium_on_stigma_report-final.pdf)

**Acquisition cost:** None

## COMPENDIUM OF RESOURCES on 'ADVOCACY'

### *Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS*

**Title:** Gender, Sexuality, Rights and HIV: An overview for community sector organizations

**Author/Institution:** International Council of Aids Service Organizations (ICASO)

**Description:** This document is a resource for NGOs and CBOs to build greater understanding of how gender and sexuality determine vulnerability to HIV. The document also highlights major human rights declarations, treaties and recommendations that can be used by individuals and associations to advocate for their rights and hold decision makers accountable to their commitments. This document is a summary of a desk-based review of literature that examines the factors that contribute to the vulnerability and risk of HIV infection in men, women, and men-who-have-sex-with-men (MSM). Though other sexual minorities such as transgender are equally vulnerable to HIV, vulnerabilities of transgender and other sexual minorities are outside the scope of this guide.

**Target audience:** Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

**Geographical scope:** Global

**Directions for Ghana Project:** Very strong of socio-cultural, economic and political dimensions of gender. Well presented. Easy to read.

Overall Conclusions and Recommendations set parameters that need to be taken into account in planning advocacy work.

**URL:** [http://www.icaso.org/publications/gender\\_EN\\_1.pdf](http://www.icaso.org/publications/gender_EN_1.pdf)

**Acquisition cost:**

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**Title:** Start the Press: How African communities in the UK can work with the media to confront stigma

**Author/Institution:** PANOS

**Description:** In the UK, African migrants are among the social groups that are most vulnerable to HIV, accounting for the greatest number of new diagnoses in recent years. HIV has always thrived in the fractures of society, among groups who are marginalised because their sexuality, race, poverty or lifestyle choices (such as selling sex or injecting drug use) don't conform to social 'norms'. Once seen as being about individual attitudes and prejudice, stigma and discrimination are now recognised as broad social processes that sustain power inequalities. The media can play an important part in challenging stigma around HIV and AIDS. By speaking out, people living with HIV and leaders among African communities can raise awareness about stigma and tackle the discrimination experienced by African communities and people living with HIV in the UK.<sup>5</sup> One way to achieve this is through better engagement with the media – by supporting responsible journalism that can challenge stigma, and equally by spotlighting inaccurate or misleading coverage that reinforces stigma.

**Target audience:** People living with HIV, journalists, HIV advocates, Africans living in the UK and policymakers.

**Geographical scope:** United Kingdom

**Directions for Ghana Project:** Generally useful from both perspectives: "Efforts to address stigma need to tackle social inequalities and marginalisation. To be effective, this includes providing accurate information, breaking taboos, and empowering people who are most affected by HIV to speak out. It is also vital that people living with HIV are involved in designing, facilitating and delivering anti-stigma initiatives to ensure that any responses are relevant to the specific needs in that group or community. Stigma and social inequality are two sides of the same coin – success in overcoming HIV vulnerability depends on tackling both."

Useful pointers in context of UK: "Raising critical and accurate public debate that includes the perspectives of people most affected – and most marginalised – by HIV is a necessary step to confront stigma. By scrutinising inequality and challenging taboos, responsible journalism can help turn the vicious cycle feeding stigma and marginalisation into a virtuous cycle of inclusion and social justice." AND "People living with HIV and their advocates can engage the media better and build relationships to encourage responsive

and responsible journalism. At the community engagement meetings, journalists offered the following suggestions for people living with HIV and their advocates, to help them work more effectively with journalists to enhance media coverage of HIV in the UK: Build relationships with journalists, to give them an added interest in checking the accuracy and language of their stories. By building trust, it is easier to ensure that the issues and interviews are accurately represented. Complaints about a specific article should be directed in writing to the editor of the journalist concerned. Complaints about the accuracy of an article should be directed to the Press Complaints Commission: [www.pcc.org.uk](http://www.pcc.org.uk) Journalists always want a human angle for their stories. Although it takes courage to speak out, journalists recognise that HIV advocates have quotes, case studies and the power to generate a story.”

**URL:** [http://www.ghet.org.uk/Documents/Information\\_Bank/African/start\\_the\\_press%20-%20Africans%20in%20UK%20-%20working%20with%20media%20to%20con.pdf](http://www.ghet.org.uk/Documents/Information_Bank/African/start_the_press%20-%20Africans%20in%20UK%20-%20working%20with%20media%20to%20con.pdf)

**Acquisition cost:**

## COMPENDIUM OF RESOURCES on 'ADVOCACY'

### *Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS*

**Title:** Monitoring HIV/AIDS: Reporting through a gender lens

**Author/Institution:** Women's Media Watch (South Africa)

**Description:** This booklet looks at how current HIV/AIDS reporting relates to gender. The booklet serves as a resource for media practitioners and media advocates. It provides a practical media monitoring and media awareness tool that aims to empower media advocates to analyse and challenge content and style of reporting critically. As media advocates, one of our functions is to work effectively with media professionals and lobby for increased visibility, and improved reporting of issues that affect the South African population. Civil society has a critical role to play in monitoring media's performance on gender, as well as raising awareness amongst media practitioners and campaign over issues they regard as unfair and discriminatory. Being able to present objective, verifiable statistical data as well as in-depth analysis is critical in order to raise awareness and to pro-actively discuss the importance of gender mainstreaming and gender sensitive reporting with media practitioners.

**Target audience:** Media practitioners and media advocates.

**Geographical scope:** South Africa

**Directions for Ghana Project:** Very useful. "Gender crosscuts with race, class, sexuality and social and cultural norms and morals. The combination of these factors has significant impact on the transmission of the HI virus. HIV+ women and men experience the challenge of HIV/AIDS differently. Patriarchal cultures leave women and girls more exposed to violence and abuse and require boys and men to exercise power over women. This promotes the spread of HIV/AIDS. Women are particularly vulnerable to being ostracised because of their subordinate position. The more vulnerable are being further stigmatised. HIV+ women are often considered promiscuous, judged as 'improper' women and hence isolated. While women are seen as the guilty agents of infection, men's active role in spreading the virus is often neglected."

Content is more aimed at media reform, sensitisation, and an appropriate code of practice. But all of this could underlie advocacy approaches. The booklet is concise (20 pages) and informative.

**URL:** <http://www.genderandaids.org/downloads/topics/monitoringHIVaids.pdf>

**Acquisition cost:**