



With Dignity and Respect

NAPWA

National Association of People with AIDS



The Denver Principles (1983)

- **We recommend that all people:**
 2. Not scapegoat people with AIDS, blame us for the epidemic
- **People with AIDS have the right:**
 1. To as full and satisfying sexual and emotional lives as anyone else.

Principles of HIV Prevention with Positives (2005)

- **Prevention must be a shared responsibility.**

Developing prevention programs for positive people must not become an excuse for shifting all responsibility for prevention (or blame for new infections) onto the shoulders of people living with HIV/AIDS. A culture of shared responsibility that encourages communication and equality in relationships should be a goal of our prevention programming.

Principles of HIV Prevention with Positives (2005)

- **Effective programs must fully accept the right of people living with HIV/AIDS to intimacy and sexual health.**

Few issues are as emotionally charged as sexual activity by people living with HIV/AIDS. Providers must learn to be truly non-judgemental and support the human right to a fulfilling sexual life, while working with people to decrease potential risk to others and themselves.

Principles of HIV Prevention with Positives (2005)

- **Stigma, discrimination, shame and fear drive people underground and make prevention harder for everyone, especially positive people.**

Programs must function with an acute understanding of the centrality of these issues in the experience of people living with HIV/AIDS, must help people cope with their impact, and should challenge these harmful attitudes in communities.

Principles of HIV Prevention with Positives (2005)

- **Coercion/criminalization is not the answer – and certainly shouldn't be the first answer.**

It is impossible to retain the trust and honest engagement of people if our prevention strategies are predicated on the threat of criminal prosecution for engaging in consensual activities.

When principles and reality are far apart

- We must stay true to our roots as a self-empowerment movement and continue to ensure that individuals living with HIV/AIDS are treated with dignity and respect.
- In order to do this we must make sure that individuals have the information and tools they need to protect their rights while we advocate for the repeal of criminalization statutes and seek alternatives for addressing the public health challenge of non-disclosure.

Preserving Our Rights and Protections

- NAPWA, in partnership with the Center for HIV Law and Policy, is developing an important new resource manual that outlines protocols for legal and community advocates when PLWH/A face criminal prosecution for non-disclosure.
- The purpose of the resource manual is to help legal advocates, community advocates and PLWH/A respond to the criminal justice system and help PLWH/A facing prosecution and their counsel to understand their rights and protections under the law.

Knowledge is Power

- The resource manual will also provide:
 - Guidance
 - Tools
 - Legal Resources by US State
 - Website Links
 - Information on prosecutorial trends and number of convictions under these laws, and variable risks for prosecution, by geography, circumstance, demographic background, etc.

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