



## Information Sheet

### Human Rights of PLHIV

Human rights violations, stigma and discrimination have a serious negative impact on prevention efforts and the accessibility and effectiveness of treatment, care and support. Despite various international declarations emphasizing the importance of human rights in national responses to HIV, many countries are yet to develop effective strategies to address the human rights violations suffered by people living with HIV (PLHIV) on account of their HIV positive status. Loss of life, denial of education or employment opportunities and denial of reproductive rights etc, are some of the violations experienced by people living with HIV.

### About the Human Rights Count!

The Human Rights Count! is an evidence-gathering methodology initiated and led by the Global Network of People living with HIV (GNP+) to document HIV-related human rights violations against people living with HIV and convert the evidence into advocacy, policy and programmes.

The aim of the Human Rights Count! is to decrease the number of human rights violations against people living with HIV by coordinating evidence-informed advocacy against these violations.

Implementation of the programme is guided by the following principles:

- Respect for human dignity
- Respect for free and informed consent
- Respect for vulnerable persons
- Respect for privacy and confidentiality

### What are the Objectives of the Human Rights Count?

The objectives of the Human Rights Count! are:

- To document HIV-related human rights violations against people living with HIV on account of their HIV positive status;
- To quantitatively and qualitatively analyse human rights violations and provide follow-up recommendations to help reduce these violations;
- To increase and improve the understanding of human rights amongst people living with HIV;
- To capacitate people living with HIV to claim their rights; and
- To inform future policies and programmes on rights issues at national, regional and global levels.

### Who implements the Human Rights Count?

The Human Rights Count! is based on PLHIV led methodology and is implemented by networks of people living with HIV in-country with technical support provided by GNP+. A questionnaire to guide data collection was developed after extensive consultations involving, among others, PLHIV and human rights organisations.

## Key elements of the Human Rights Count! Methodology

The programme has two interlinked elements:

- to document human rights violations; and secondly,
- to use this information to inform advocacy to reduce these violations.

The capacity to do this work is spread over different types of organizations. Therefore, partnership working and comprehensive human rights training are important elements of successful implementation.

**Implementing partnerships:** Collaborative working between networks of people living with HIV and human rights / legal organisations or advocates is integral to successful programme implementation. Human rights organisations/advocates will be instrumental in informing and ensuring that the evidence collected in this programme informs action plans for advocacy that will ultimately result in the decrease in human rights violations against people living with HIV. Human rights/legal support organisations will also offer first hand support to people who report violations where immediate support is sought and can be given. Organisations working with PLHIV will help to widen the reach of the programme, so that as many people who have experienced human rights violations on account of being HIV positive can have these experiences documented.

**Human Rights training programme:** Training on human rights has been included as an integral part of Human Rights Count! A training programme which can be modified to suit different settings has been developed. The aim of the training is to give the implementers of the programme a good understanding of human rights and HIV and a clear guide on how to document human rights violations against PLHIV through the implementation of the Human Rights Count! The training will enhance human rights understanding amongst individual implementers as well as within the country.

**Evidence-based Advocacy:** the Human Rights Count! is a means of gathering evidence on HIV-related human rights violations which contributes to advocacy against these violations. During implementation, advocacy alerts can be used to alert human rights defenders of ongoing violations.

## Further Support

It is recommended to allow at least 6 months for implementation – from planning to final reporting. Information and guidance on implementation is provided by GNP+. More information about the Human Rights Count! can be obtained at:

<http://gnpplus.net/en/programmes/human-rights/global-criminalisation-scan>.

For information on the HIV Leadership through Accountability programme visit [www.hivleadership.org](http://www.hivleadership.org).