

The Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

Background

- In June 2001, a United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on HIV/AIDS was held
- All 189 member states of the United Nations endorsed the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, sometimes called the UNGASS Declaration

What is the UNGASS Declaration?

- The Declaration contains sets out a comprehensive strategy for dealing with HIV/AIDS, with clear targets and timelines, in 11 broad areas:
 - Leadership
 - Prevention
 - Care, support and treatment
 - Human rights
 - Reducing vulnerability
 - Children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS
 - Alleviating economic and social impact
 - Research and development
 - HIV/AIDS in conflict and disaster-affected regions
 - Resources
 - Follow-up

So what? The Relevance of the Declaration for Canadian ASOs

- The Declaration's vision for dealing with HIV/AIDS is more detailed than anything produced in Canada and the Government of Canada is committed to its implementation.
- ASOs can use the Declaration as a lobbying tool with the federal and other levels of government to improve the domestic and international response to HIV/AIDS

What Can You Do?

- Familiarize yourself with the content of the Declaration
- Distribute copies of the Declaration to organizations in your community who are working on HIV/AIDS, human rights and international development
- Connect with other organizations that have used the Declaration in their work
- Connect specific sections of the Declaration to work your organization is already doing and use its authority to make your work stronger
- Use the Declaration to identify future program development not yet served by your organization
- Formally endorse the Declaration
- Use the Declaration to support your funding proposals
- Use the Declaration as a tool to advocate for improved programs and greater resources to combat the epidemic in your province or territory
- Work with other ASOs to develop strategies to monitor the implementation of the Declaration in your province or territory, as well as at the national level
- Share your experiences and lessons learned with other ASOs. Join the Canadian UNGASS Network by contacting AIDS Calgary. The Canadian UNGASS Network is a collective of community-based organizations, national NGOs, government, and AIDS activists working with the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment.

Last Updated May, 2004