

UNAIDS and the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights

The [International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights](#) sponsored by the joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS ([UNAIDS](#)) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), were originally adopted in 1996. Since then they have been revised and expanded.

The Guidelines were developed in order to provide guidance for governments “on how to best promote, protect and fulfill human rights in the context of the HIV epidemic.”

The rights outlined in the Guidelines extend far beyond internationally recognized human rights and seek to impose controversial policies that recommend protecting behaviors that actually fuel the AIDS epidemic. Most troubling are the various new sexual rights and harmful practices that the Guidelines advance, specifically:

- A “right” to engage in prostitution (called “sex work”);
- A “right” for men to have sex with men;
- Legalized same-sex marriage;
- A “right” to abortion on demand;
- Mandatory sex education for children without regard to religious and cultural values; and
- Penalties for the “vilification of people who engage in same-sex relationships.”

Excerpts from the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights

Legalizing Illicit Sex (Pages 29-30)

21(b) – Criminal law prohibiting sexual acts (including adultery, sodomy, fornication and commercial sexual encounters) between consenting adults in private should be reviewed, **with the aim of repeal.**

Legalizing Prostitution (Page 30)

21(c) – With regard to **adult sex work** that involves no victimization, **criminal law should be reviewed with the aim of decriminalizing . . .**

Legalizing Abortion (Page 35)

22(f) – **Laws should also be enacted to ensure women’s reproductive and sexual rights, including the right of independent access to reproductive and STD health information and services and means of contraception, including safe and legal abortion . . .**

Legalizing Same-sex marriage and Penalizing Criticism of Homosexuality (Page 36)

22(h) – Anti-discrimination and protective laws should be enacted to reduce human rights violations against men having sex with men, including in the context of HIV . . . These measures

should include providing **penalties for vilification of people who engage in same-sex relationships, giving legal recognition to same-sex marriages and/or relationships and governing such relationships . . .**

Mandatory HIV/AIDS Sex Education Regardless of Religious/Cultural Traditions (Page 96)

136 – It is the State’s obligation to ensure, in every cultural and religious tradition, that appropriate means are found so that effective HIV information is included in educational programmes inside and outside schools. **The provision of education and information to children should not be considered as promoting early sexual experimentation; rather, as studies indicate, it delays sexual activity.**

[Click here](#) to access the full text of the HIV/AIDS Guidelines.

[Click here](#) to read Family Watch International’s policy brief on the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights.