

THE PHILADELPHIA DECLARATION

In Support of Human Rights of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Africa

Assembled at the University of Pennsylvania on January 25, 2002 to explore workable strategies to confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa, we, health care and public health professionals, faculty members and students, business and civil society, human rights and AIDS advocacy groups, community activists, and concerned citizens,

REAFFIRM that all people have the right to the highest attainable standard of health as a prerequisite for the full enjoyment of all other human rights;

RECOGNIZE that the achievement of health depends on the full realization of social, economic, political, cultural, and civil rights;

NOTE that the AIDS pandemic is a worldwide health crisis with an estimated 65 million people now living with HIV/AIDS, 15,000 new infections each day, almost all (95%) in the world's poorest nations, 22 million people already dead from the disease, and 13 million children orphaned by AIDS.

HEREBY DECLARE:

ARTICLE 1

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is one of the most formidable public health crises of our time and is both instrumental to and a product of human rights violations that requires not only immediate large-scale prevention and treatment action, but also implementation of the right to health and respect for the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS.

ARTICLE 2

Nations of the world have the resource capacity to assist resource-poor nations in HIV prevention and treatment, and to provide life-saving drugs to people living with AIDS, regardless of their social, economic, cultural, and educational condition. HIV prevention and treatment must not be limited to the provision of antiretroviral treatment, and must also include preventative Tuberculosis therapy, adequate nutrition, clean water and decent housing.

ARTICLE 3

Nations have an obligation to support and promote the work of responsible and qualified non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work to prevent and contain HIV infection and to provide treatment.

ARTICLE 4

Everyone directly or indirectly affected by HIV/AIDS is entitled to assistance, protection, respect, and dignity. This includes all children, whether orphaned by AIDS or born with HIV infection, having the same rights and dignity.

ARTICLE 5

1. Nations and multinational pharmaceutical corporations have an obligation to help contain the epidemic and to find ways to make their life saving and life prolonging drugs accessible and affordable to resource-poor countries for as long as the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues. Specifically, drug treatment that can prevent HIV transmission from mother-to-child must be provided to pregnant women and their infants;

