

# ACCKWA Position Statement on the Paris Community Declaration

## What is the Paris Community Declaration?

- The [Paris Community Declaration](#) is a statement released in July 2017 at the 9<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science. Written by self-identified Key Affected Populations living with or affected by HIV, the declaration asserts the importance of the [Denver Principles](#) and the [GIPA Principles](#) and requests that Key Affected Populations be well-represented in decision making regarding HIV research funding, treatment, care, and policy-making and implementation.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Within the context of the declaration people living with HIV, gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, people who are transgender, people who inject drugs, and people who are incarcerated are considered the main Key Affected Populations.
- The declaration also considers indigenous peoples and racialized groups, women and girls, youth, and migrants and refugees as possible Key Affected Populations.

## Why is this important?

The declaration highlights changes that are necessary to improve the experiences of people living with HIV. Involving Key Affected Populations in decisions regarding HIV research, advocacy, and policy-making can lead to policies and practices that will more effectively address the wants and needs, as well as quality of life for a more comprehensive range of people affected by HIV.

## Context and Additional Considerations

The Paris Declaration presents key actions required to improve the experiences of people living with HIV. However, additional contextual factors must be taken into consideration. These include:

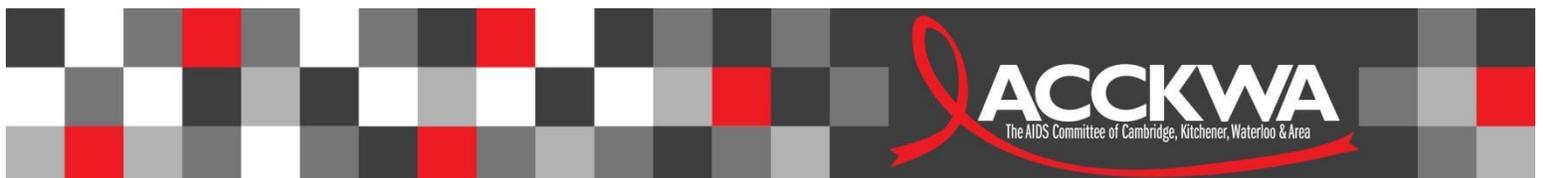
- Consideration of African, Caribbean and Black women as a Key Affected Population, as they are disproportionately represented in HIV diagnoses globally.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Agosto-Rosario, M. (2017). *Living the Denver Principles*. Retrieved from: <http://www.nmac.org/living-denver-principles/>

<sup>2</sup> Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. (2007). *The Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV (GIPA)*. Retrieved from: [http://data.unaids.org/pub/briefingnote/2007/jc1299\\_policy\\_brief\\_gipa.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/pub/briefingnote/2007/jc1299_policy_brief_gipa.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Challacombe, L. (2018). *The epidemiology of HIV in females*. Retrieved from the Canadian Aids Treatment Information Exchange website: <https://www.catie.ca/en/fact-sheets/epidemiology/epidemiology-hiv-women>



- Key Affected Populations are disproportionately affected by the criminalization of people living with HIV<sup>4</sup>, largely on account of systemic and institutional contextual factors. Systemic and institutional contextual factors that contribute to the disproportionate effects of HIV on Key Affected Populations must be taken into consideration.
- The declaration advocates for global adoption of the [U=U movement](#). While the U=U movement represents positive steps forward in addressing stigma and advocacy, contextual factors that contribute to obtaining and maintaining an undetectable viral load must be considered.<sup>5,6</sup>
- The declaration focuses on expanding evidence-based research to guide policy. In addition to research, an understanding of historical and current social inequalities should also guide HIV policy.

## ACCKWA Position Statement on the Paris Community Declaration

ACCKWA recognizes that the Paris Community Declaration presents many key requirements to improve the outcomes of the fight against HIV. ACCKWA further endorses the creation of policies that address the role of systemic and institutional barriers in the disproportionate effect of HIV on marginalized people.

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<sup>4</sup> Mykhalovskiy, E., Betteridge, G. & McLay, D. (2010). *HIV non-disclosure and the criminal law establishing policy options for Ontario*. Toronto: Ontario HIV Treatment Network. Retrieved from Ontario HIV Treatment Network website: <http://www.ohtn.on.ca/Documents/Publications/HIV%20non-disclosure%20and%20the%20criminal%20law.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Women and HIV/AIDS Initiative. (2017). *Living in the Asterisk*. Retrieved from: <http://www.whai.ca/ModuleFile?id=269>

<sup>6</sup> Ontario AIDS Network. (2018). *Position Statement U=U*. Retrieved from: <https://oan.red/u-equals-u/>

