

The Proposed PANCAP Stigma and Discrimination Policy and Legislation

The Background

- **Caribbean governments have committed in political declarations and national strategic plans to reduce Stigma and Discrimination**

Background continued

- **The Policy follows a three prong approach to Stigma reduction. Empowerment, Education and Enabling Environment**

Content of the Policy

- These should focus on:
- Judiciary
- Education Sector
- Health Sector
- Legal Fraternity
- Security Forces including the Police
- Prison authorities
- PLHIV
- FBOs and Media

Policy Content continued

- Human Rights defended in the Policy:
- Non discrimination
- Health
- Equality between men and women
- Children
- Privacy
- Education and information

Policy Content continued

- **Work**
- **Marry and create a family**
- **Social Security assistance and welfare**
- **Liberty**
- **Freedom of movement**

Policy to law

- The Policy suggests that governments should establish laws to criminalize discrimination based on:
- Sex, gender, place of origin, political opinions, colour or creed, sexual orientation, age, disability, HIV or other health status, religion, pregnancy or conscience sex work

The Proposed Law

- **The Law is created to protect persons against discrimination, harassment, victimization and vilification on the grounds of HIV status, sexual orientation, lawful sexual activity, status as an orphan, disability and gender**

The proposal also includes:

- **Establishment of an anti-discrimination tribunal**
- **Functions of the tribunal to be hearing and determination of discrimination complaints**
- **Independence, composition and working protocols of the tribunal**

Specific Protections

- **Discrimination in these contexts:**
- **Employment**
- **Contract workers**
- **Partnerships**
- **Education**
- **Access to Premises**
- **Goods, services and facilities**
- **Land**

Specific Protections

- Clubs and incorporated associations
- Sport
- Travel
- Advertisement of laws
- Requests for information

Harrassment

- **Victimization**
- **Vilification**
- **Serious vilification**
- **Advertisements**
- **Incite doing of unlawful acts or offences**

HIV Testing

- **Testing Centres**
- **Counselling**
- **Prohibition on compulsory HIV tests**
- **Test Results**
- **Medical Confidentiality**

Others

- **Access to health care facilities**
- **Conduct by directors, servers, agents and other persons**

Next Steps

- **Process of review and acceptance by Caricom Countries**
- **Belize's vote**
- **Next step to legislation**
- **Role of the National Response to advocate for Belize's legalization of the proposed and validated PANCAP recommendations**