



ICASO Board Policy Statement

November 2005

Evidence-informed policies

ICASO categorically opposes any laws or policies that undermine best practice in public health and/or that violate human rights. This includes, but not limited to, opposition to the US Government's anti-prostitution legislation¹ that restricts funding and support for sex workers, and to other ideologically-based prevention policies such as abstinence-only approaches and restrictions on the availability of comprehensive sex education, condoms and harm reduction programmes.

Such policies and restrictions only serve to undermine the fight against HIV and AIDS and to increase the fear, stigma and discrimination of the most vulnerable and marginalised in society. The result is to disempower these groups, placing them at further risk of violence and exposure to HIV and reduce their access to the necessary prevention, care and treatment services.

ICASO will continue to actively oppose any law or policy that restricts and undermines its own commitment to human rights, the reduction in the spread of HIV, and the care and support for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

¹ United States leadership against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003, 22 U.S.C. Sections 7601-7682 (2003), known as the Global AIDS Act.