



Incorporate Human Rights in TB interventions

Today, 24 March 2017, is World Tuberculosis Day. It is also one year since a landmark judgment in Kenya declared that **TB is Not a Crime**. The case challenged the widespread practice in which Kenya's Public Health Act was invoked to incarcerate TB patients who defaulted on their medications.

Despite the fact that TB is a curable disease, it is the leading cause of death worldwide arising from a single infectious agent, surpassing HIV/AIDS in 2014. The burden of TB is disproportionately borne by low and middle income countries, which account for 95% of all deaths from TB globally.

The Kenya Legal & Ethical Issues Network on HIV and AIDS (KELIN) joins the local, regional and international community in calling for the scale up of measures to #EndTB, using a rights-based approach.

KELIN calls upon the National and County governments in Kenya to:

- (i) Undertake measures to ensure timely diagnosis, treatment, care and support of persons with TB;
- (ii) Promote adherence to TB medication through adopting a patient-centered and rights-based approach to treatment, care and support;
- (iii) Avail TB medication to all Kenyans, especially the recently launched pediatric TB formulation.
- (iv) Develop an isolation policy to guide the involuntary isolation of persons who have challenges adhering to TB medication; and ensuring that all hospitals have proper TB isolation facilities.
- (v) Urgently address ALL factors exacerbating the spread of TB, including congestion in prisons, poor or lack of effective diagnostic equipment, lack of nutritional support for TB patients, among others.
- (vi) Integrate TB with other healthcare services.

Recently, Stop TB Partnership signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with KELIN and the University of Chicago Law School International Human Rights Clinic (IHR Clinic) to implement a **human rights based approach to TB** ("The Nairobi Strategy"). The Nairobi Strategy on TB and Human Rights offers concrete plans to implement human rights programs and activities at local, regional and global levels. It includes several streams of work that will foster diverse, focused and sustained advocacy efforts directed at key stakeholders, including policymakers, legislators, health care workers and judicial officers, led by people with TB, TB survivors and other allies. Join us in this strategy.

To contribute to the discussions on this forum, follow KELIN on our social media platforms:
Twitter: @KELINKenya using these hashtag **#TBisNotACrime**; **#StepUpforTB**; **#UnitetoEndTB**.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/kelinkenya>

We also invite you to join us in watching and sharing [this video](#) outlining the journey to the TB is not a crime judgment in Kenya, using the hashtag #TBisNotACrime.

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