



## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION, HIV, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAW

---

Kisii County: 26-27 April 2018

Concept note

### 1.0 Introduction and background

HIV & AIDS continues to have devastating effects on peoples' lives. At the end of 2013 for instance, there were 35 million people living with HIV globally. This number is rising as more people are living longer because of antiretroviral therapy (ART), alongside the number of new HIV infections. According to the Kenya AIDS response report 2016, HIV prevalence is 29% for female sex workers (FSW), 18.2% for men who have sex with men (MSM) (12.2% for MSM, 26.3% for MSW), and 18.7% for persons who inject drugs (PWID). Most to worry about is the general contextual analysis of the HIV response in Kenya. It reveals that rapid progress to address the disease continues to be impeded by social conservatism, a lack of support for evidence-based programming, and an on-going erosion of the civil and human rights of key populations (KPs) by the state and service providers. Narrowing down to Kisii County, the HIV prevalence is estimated at 4.5 percent which is more than half the national prevalence rate.

Gender based violence (GBV) has been identified as a significant driver of HIV/AIDS infections in women in the region. Most international organizations are increasingly focusing on the elimination of violence against women as key in the battle against the spread of HIV. The circumstances underlying the correlation between violence and HIV are a complex weave of social, cultural and biological factors existing in the county of Kisii. According to a research titled "[My Action Counts: An Assessment of Gender Based Violence Responses in Nine Counties of Kenya](#)", the probation service handles an average of 2000 – 3000 cases of GBV annually in Kisii County, while in Migori County 1000 cases of GBV have been reported at the Migori Law Courts.

Most damaging is that laws that are not grounded on human rights create social inequalities and exacerbate human rights violations against vulnerable groups. For instance, laws that criminalize the actions or behaviors of key populations have fueled stigma, discrimination and violations against MSMs, sex workers, transgender and persons who inject or use drugs (PWIDs). Further, legal prohibitions on the provision of sterile needles and syringes directly impede HIV prevention efforts amongst PWIDs. Also, the punitive use of certain laws such as the Public Health Act of 2012 and municipal environmental edicts exposes these vulnerable populations to further human rights violations.

## **2.0 Justification**

From the above, it is clear that there is need for enhancing the capacities of the key population communities on aspects of preventing violence meted against key populations (KP). This is mostly because the community has a sole responsibility in ensuring their own security and safety against any form of violence. Violence against KP is epidemic. According to the July 2016 FHI 360 linkages newsletter, sex workers, MSMs, transgender and PWIDs are deeply vulnerable to violence. The laws that criminalize same sex relationships , “gender impersonation” , drug use and sex work create an environment in which violence against KPs by police ,clients of sex workers and others is tacitly accepted or even considered justified.

In the light of this, KELIN in partnership with PITCH (Partnership to Inspire, Transform and Connect the HIV response) seek to conduct a two days training on violence prevention, HIV and Human rights and documentation of human rights violations for the key population community including gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM), sex workers, PWIDs, LBQ women and transgender. The forum will be premised on the crucial role that the community has to play to support prevention of violence and access to healthcare services for the Key population.

## **3.0 Objectives**

The key objectives of this meeting include:

- To enhance understanding of the linkages between violence prevention, HIV and human rights.
- To increase support for key populations’ access to justice in the context of HIV.

- To strengthen the capacity of the key population community in responding to cases of violence meted against their members and advocate for access to comprehensive HIV services.

#### **4.0 Expected output.**

- Collaboration among the community members in promoting violence prevention and access to health for key populations.
- Development of an action plan by the participants to follow up on the recommendations made at the forum.

#### **5.0 Methodology**

The forum will involve oral presentations from experts, panel discussions, group discussions and question and answer session among the participants.

#### **6.0 Participants**

A total of 30 participants are expected to take part in this forum. They will include key population community comprising of men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers, and persons who use drugs.

#### **7.0 Date and Venue**

The two days forum will be held on 26-27 April, 2018 in Kisii County