DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY TUBERCULOSIS

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND HEALTH CARE WORKERS?

Regional Capacity Building Forum on the Law, HIV, TB and Human Rights for Law Enforcement Officers and Healthcare Workers

27-28 August 2019
Nairobi, Kenya
Why human rights are relevant in context of TB?
History

- Patients Charter for TB Care (2006)
- A list of rights – and responsibilities of TB patients
- Issues: language, content, responsibilities, copyright, terrible translations, no follow up
Process behind the Declaration

• Discussions since 2013-2014
• Zero draft: based on community consultation in December 2017
• A small grant from Stop TB to develop the Declaration (2018-2019)
• First draft prepared by the international team of experts
• Global consultations (survey and interviews)
• Finalization of the Declaration, AND...
THE LAUNCH

• Launch in Geneva on May 2013 as an official Global Fund Board premeeting
• Co-hosts: three civil society delegations of the Global Fund Board, TBpeople and Stop TB Partnership
• Attendees: more than expected
• Film: Tribute to Dean Lewis
• High-level speakers and panelists
• Snacks and drinks (including wine and beer)
NEXT STEPS

• Translations
• Endorsements
• Operationalizing the Declaration
• Making human rights of people affected by TB a reality
• Telling stories to our grandchildren (who will be living in a world free of TB and free of human rights violations)
Now, what does the Declaration mean for health care workers?

• A reminder of rights – people with and affected by TB are entitled to fundamental human rights, including:
  • The right to life
  • The right to dignity
  • The right to health
  • The right to information
  • The right to liberty and security of person, etc.
Now, what does the Declaration mean for health care workers?

• An aide in understanding human rights: The Declaration of Geneva

AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION:
• I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE to dedicate my life to the service of humanity;
• THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MY PATIENT will be my first consideration
• I WILL RESPECT the autonomy and dignity of my patient
• I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for human life
• I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient
• I WILL RESPECT the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died
• I WILL NOT USE my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat
Now, what does the Declaration mean for health care workers?

• A moral aide: Hippocratic Oath
  • I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world may know
  • I will remember that I do not treat a fever chart, a cancerous growth, but a sick human being, whose illness may affect the person's family and economic stability. My responsibility includes these related problems, if I am to care adequately for the sick
Now, what does the Declaration mean for health care workers?

• A defense
• Healthcare workers are a group that is particularly vulnerable to TB
But what does the Declaration mean for law enforcement officers?

• Definition first:

• Law enforcement is any system by which some members of society act in an organized manner to enforce the law by discovering, deterring, rehabilitating, or punishing people who violate the rules and norms governing that society. Although the term encompasses entities such as courts and prisons, it is most frequently applied to those who directly engage in patrols or surveillance to dissuade and discover criminal activity, and those who investigate crimes and apprehend offenders, a task typically carried out by the police or another law enforcement organization.
But what does the Declaration mean for law enforcement officers?

• People affected by TB sometimes are – or are seen as – offenders; they are still entitled to the fundamental human rights
• Non-adherence to treatment is NOT a crime!
• People affected by TB sometimes are victims – and their rights need to be protected
• And – law enforcement officers may be the ones having or being affected by TB!
THANK YOU!
ASANTE!
MERCI!