



Five years ago, the Global Commission on HIV and the Law reported that bad laws and policies were obstructing the global AIDS response. The Commission advised governments to remove legal barriers to HIV prevention and treatment and to end discrimination against people living with and affected by HIV. While there is still a great deal of work to be done, several countries have led the way in putting science before stigma. Here are five key takeaways:

Some countries are taking steps to reform their laws and policies following Legal Environment Assessments and legal reviews.

1

Mozambique revised its laws on criminalizing unintentional HIV transmission.

Ghana passed its AIDS Commission Bill – a bill prohibiting discrimination against people with HIV and upholding their rights to education, health, privacy and more.

Seychelles decriminalized consensual adult same-sex relations.

A national dialogue in Peru highlighted the need for a gender identity law, which spurred the development of a draft Gender Identity Bill that was presented to the National Assembly in December 2016.

2

National conversations on HIV and the law have catalyzed the development of legislation protecting the rights of people living with or vulnerable to HIV.

The Government of Panama pledged to develop a new national HIV law which has been drafted and is currently being reviewed prior to enactment.

Lawmakers, judges and law enforcement officials have helped change laws, policies and practices affecting people living with or vulnerable to HIV.

3

The High Court of Kenya found a law criminalizing HIV transmission to be unconstitutional.

The High Court of Botswana ruled that foreign prisoners living with HIV are entitled to receive life-saving antiretroviral treatment.

National authorities in Kenya examined laws and policies around gender-based violence in the context of HIV and created new guidelines on how to best address gender-based violence in HIV programs.

4

Countries and partners are taking steps to stop gender-based violence and promote gender equality, which are essential to ending the AIDS epidemic.

Governments and civil society organizations are advocating for the rights of key populations and are tackling HIV stigma and discrimination.

5

In Ghana, partners developed a stigma and discrimination reporting system that allows key populations, including people living with HIV, to file formal complaints about human rights abuses and seek redress.

While progress has been made, there is still more work to be done. To end the AIDS epidemic, countries must reform HIV-related laws and policies and take steps to protect and promote the human rights of people living with and vulnerable to HIV.