

COMMUNITY TEQUIO DECLARATION
August 8th, 2008

The following declaration is a combined effort of the 25 Red Ribbon Award 2008 winners. It reflects issues that come from personal experiences and that consist of the common concerns of community leaders, as they arose from presentations and exchanges during the XVII International AIDS Conference held in Mexico City, Mexico, August 3-8 2008.

The members have reached a consensus:

- 1)
 - a) That successful prevention initiatives with marginalized groups like sex workers, men who have sex with men and injecting drug users should be encouraged in a politically supportive environment that is promoted through proper implementation of special laws;
 - b) That efforts should be made to remove laws that are a hindrance to work with marginalized groups; and if not, that immunity be provided to communities working in the field with such groups;
- 2) That a proper grievance redressal process must be put in place with the backing of the local government so that ALL issues of stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV be documented and addressed on a priority basis;
- 3)
 - a) That children who are orphaned due to AIDS should be supported in an environment that uphold family values for them to have a 'regular' upbringing; that wherever possible, parents should be encouraged and supported to care after children living with HIV;
 - b) That children shall be given a chance to represent themselves and be involved in the issues that concern them;
 - c) That efforts should be made in the field of research on pediatric medicines so that children may have a better chance to grow and thrive;
- 4) That issues regarding people with disabilities must be addressed in a serious manner;
- 5) That sex education should be made compulsory in all secondary schools and be included in the curriculum of health;
- 6) That all programs should be sensitive to the subject of gender inequality, so that words are transformed into actions. Towards this, that the voices of grassroots women must be heard, integrated in the political environment, and promoted through proper implementation of specific laws; and
- 7) That the Red Ribbon Award winning organizations should be supported in their ideas over the next 2 years by the United Nations family to effectively implement and expand their programs by facilitating donor support.