



POZ YOUTH VOICES FOR ACTION! GET ON BOARD!

Our DECLARATION:

As POZ YOUTH ¹,

We have the RIGHT to:

- Access treatment, medication, medical coverage and appropriate health care
- Start families and be parents, including the right to adopt children
- Be in loving relationships
- Express our sexuality with whomever we choose
- Use discretion in deciding who we disclose our HIV status to
- Access housing, education, skills building and employment
- Travel the world without fear of discrimination
- Receive equal treatment before the justice system
- Privacy and discretion
- Be treated equally according to our human rights

We call upon POZ YOUTH to:

- Be proactive about our health
- Be proactive about educating ourselves and our communities about HIV/AIDS
- Be at the forefront of the HIV/AIDS movement
- Be advocates for our health and advocate with others
- Be free to seek diverse expertise regarding our health
- Participate meaningfully in advocacy campaigns for positive change
- Celebrate and utilize our differences and come together as one united voice in the HIV/AIDS movement
- Promote safer sex practices where and when it is safe to do so

We call upon the GENERAL COMMUNITY to:

- Provide poz youth with friendly and safe environments, understanding and support
- Provide the opportunity for poz youth to live our lives free of discrimination and judgment
- Take initiative, break the silence, learn and talk about HIV/AIDS
- Break down ignorance and misconceptions and combat stigma and discrimination about HIV/AIDS
- Work as allies with poz youth in the HIV/AIDS movement
- Encourage faith-based leaders to join and support us in HIV/AIDS education, prevention and care

We call upon SERVICE PROVIDERS to:

- Provide poz youth friendly programs and services that empower poz youth
- Be transparent and accountable in providing programs and services to poz youth
- Include poz youth in the development, implementation and evaluation of programs and services
- Provide programs and services that are anti-oppressive, non-judgmental, culturally sensitive, youth positive, gender sensitive, linguistically accessible and LGBTQ positive
- Engage and mentor poz youth to meaningfully participate on advisory committees, boards of directors and working groups
- Provide up-to-date resources and materials that include existing support services for poz youth at all stages of diagnosis
- Ensure a high quality of service that does not compromise our health
- Protect and maintain confidentiality of clients and clients' information



We call upon **POLICY MAKERS and DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS** to:

- Ensure that policies and laws provide poz youth with equitable and affordable access to housing, education, skills development and social programs
- Increase resources and funds for programs and services that are accountable to poz youth
- Provide funding specifically for the creation and establishment of an organization for poz youth with provincial, national and global networks
- Recognize and include poz youth as stakeholders and partners in decision making at all levels, including: municipal, provincial, federal and international levels
- Engage poz youth in creative leadership, peer mentoring, nation building and bridging gaps between poz youth and the general community
- Be accountable to past, present and future declarations and commitments in line with international norms that affect poz youth (e.g. Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Millennium Development Goals, Declaration of Commitment and the Political Declaration of Commitment)
- Lift travel bans imposed on people living with HIV/AIDS• Provide equitable funding for HIV/AIDS programs and services in rural areas and underserved communities
- Revise laws and policies that criminalize people living with HIV/AIDS

We call upon **RESEARCHERS, ACADEMICS and SCIENTISTS** to:

- Empower and educate poz youth to participate in research that respects and values us and our experiences in a non-tokenizing and non-objectifying manner
- Meaningfully involve poz youth in research coordination and knowledge transfer and exchange
- Mentor poz youth to develop our capacity to become Principal Investigators
- Continue research on HIV/AIDS at medical, social and community levels

We call upon the **MEDIA** to:

- Work with the HIV/AIDS community by providing a platform to respectfully educate the public with accurate and credible information to combat HIV/AIDS related stigma
- Show poz youth as role models and as one of the real faces of HIV/AIDS in a North American context

¹ "Poz Youth" refers to HIV positive youth.

"POZ YOUTH VOICES FOR ACTION! GET ON BOARD!" was written by the Positive Prevention Project Youth Advisory Committee (YAC): Henry Luyombya, Mary Ndung'u, Nello Nomcebo Msibi, Zolu Gobah and the other members of the YAC, with contributions from other poz youth in Toronto.

The Positive Prevention Project is a project by

In partnership with



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TORONTO



This project has been made possible through a financial contribution by the Public Health Agency of Canada. Funding for Planned Parenthood Toronto (PPT) has been provided by the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). Planned Parenthood Toronto is a United Way member agency.

The views expressed in this publication are the views of PPT and do not necessarily reflect those of the Public Health Agency of Canada or the Toronto Central LHIN.