


Stigma & Discrimination: The Undoing of Universal Access??



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Acknowledgements

Anand Grover

Susie Mclean

Kajal Bhardwaj

Shezad Mansuri

Jonathan Berger

Cheryl Overs

Andrew Hunter

Julian Fleet

Susan Timberlake



Method

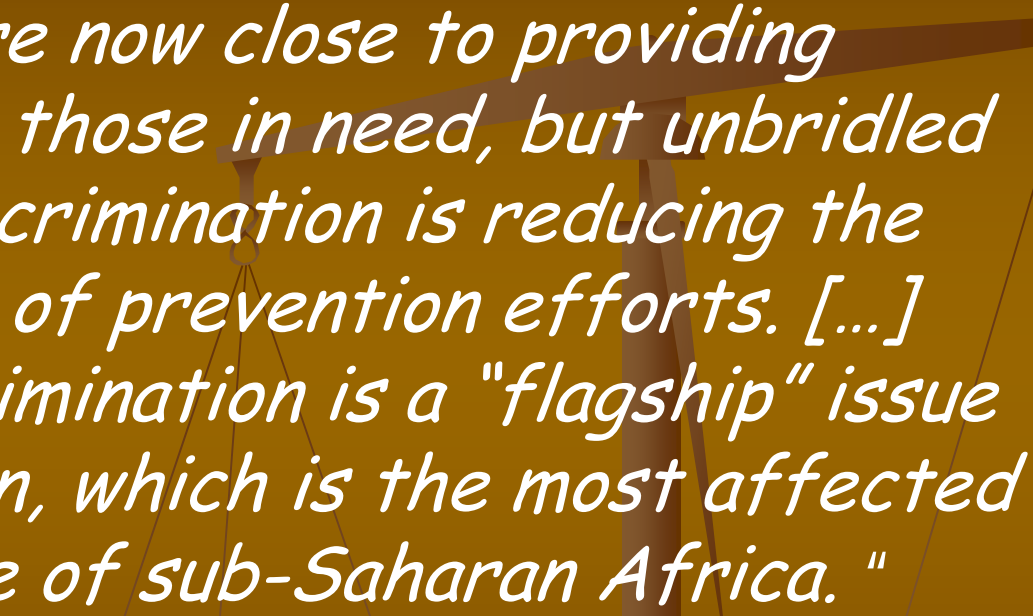
Analysis of:

- Global Steering Committee process
 - GSC meetings & reports
 - 51 country consultation reports
 - 4 regional consultation reports
 - International HIV/AIDS Alliance's civil society consultation on achieving universal access
 - High Level Meeting on AIDS (Jun 06)
 - Lawyers Collective HIV/AIDS Unit studies & reports
 - Discussions at the International AIDS Conference
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Context



- Historic commitments to universal access by 2010
 - *G8 - Gleneagles (2005)*
 - *UN World Summit (2005)*
 - *Abuja Declaration (2005)*
 - *High Level Meeting on AIDS (2006)*
- Translating international commitments into implementation at the country level



"Some countries, like Barbados and the Bahamas, are now close to providing treatment to all those in need, but unbridled stigma and discrimination is reducing the effectiveness of prevention efforts. [...] stigma and discrimination is a "flagship" issue for the Caribbean, which is the most affected region outside of sub-Saharan Africa. "

(UNAIDS 2006)

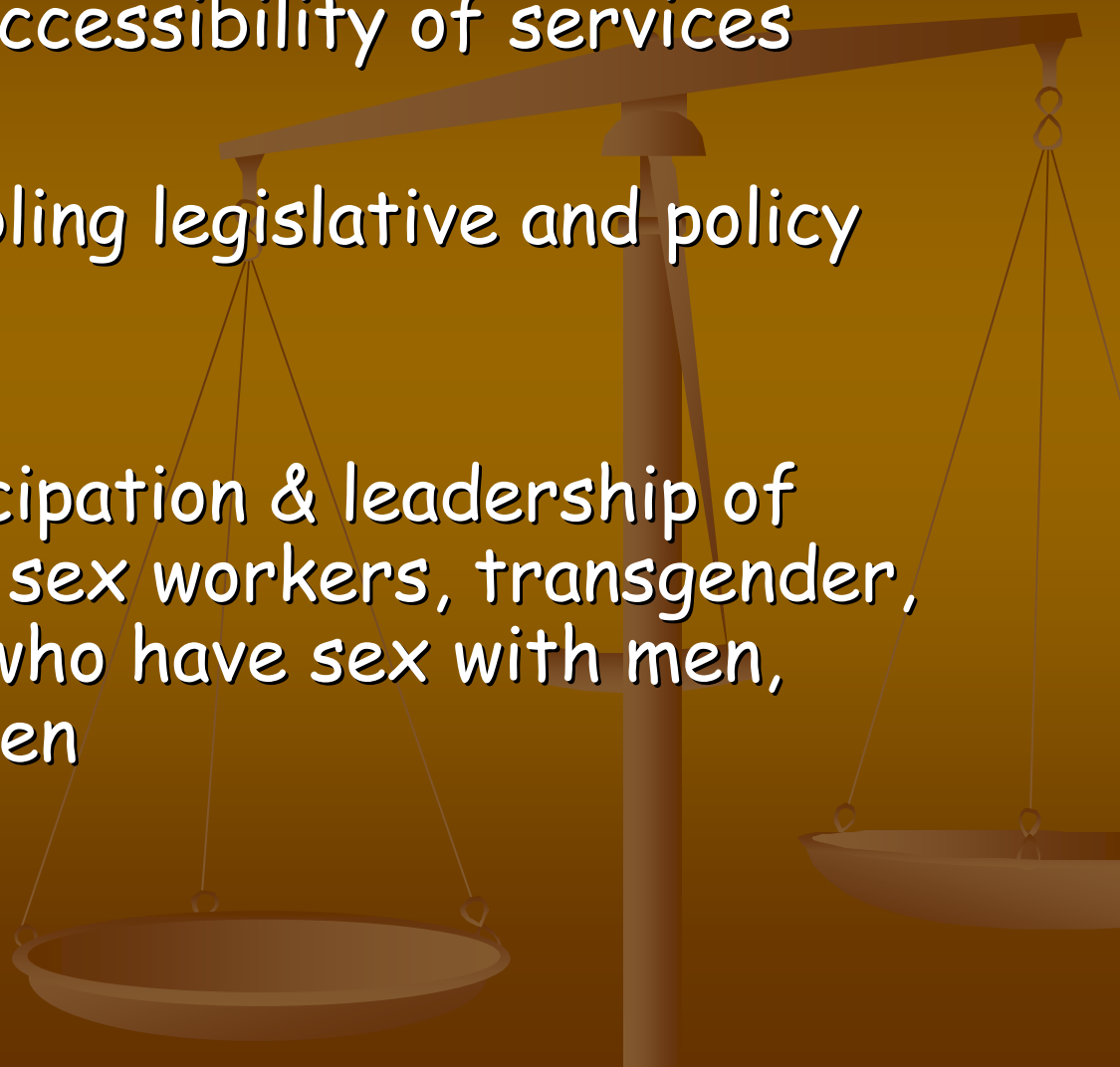
Issues



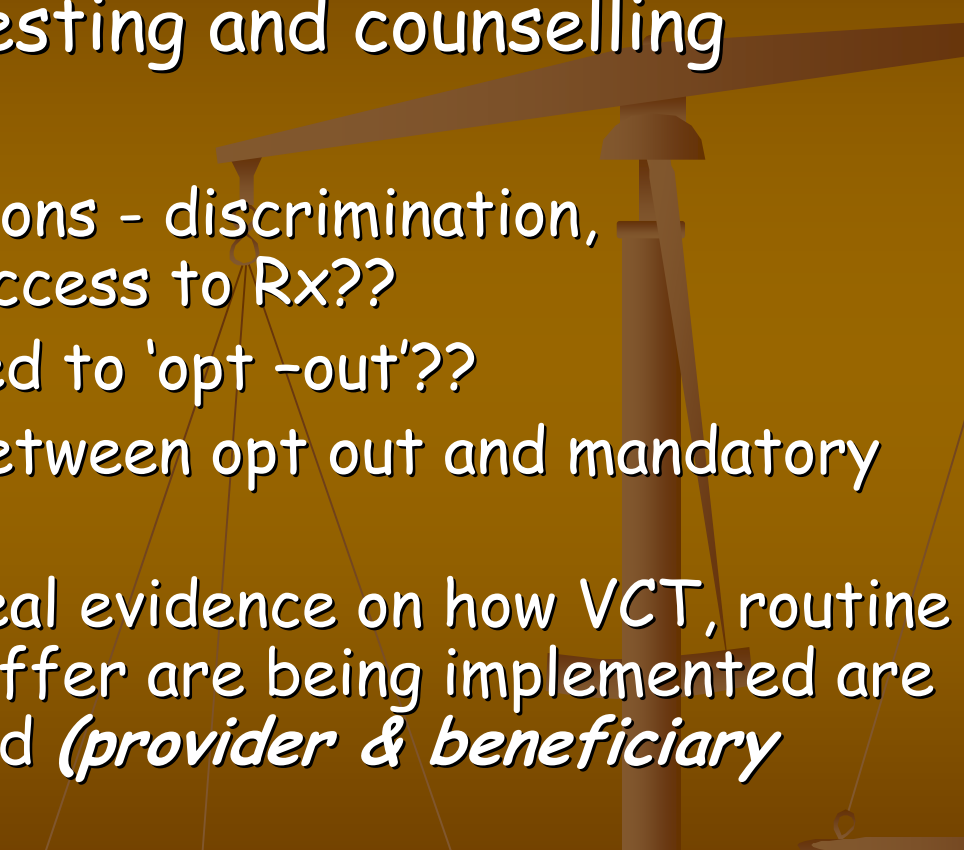
- Stigma, discrimination incl. fear of stigma and discrimination, violence
- Vulnerable populations - sex workers, drug users, men who have sex with men, women and children
- Gender inequality

Issues

- Availability and accessibility of services
- Need for an enabling legislative and policy framework
- Meaningful participation & leadership of people with HIV, sex workers, transgender, drug users, men who have sex with men, women and children

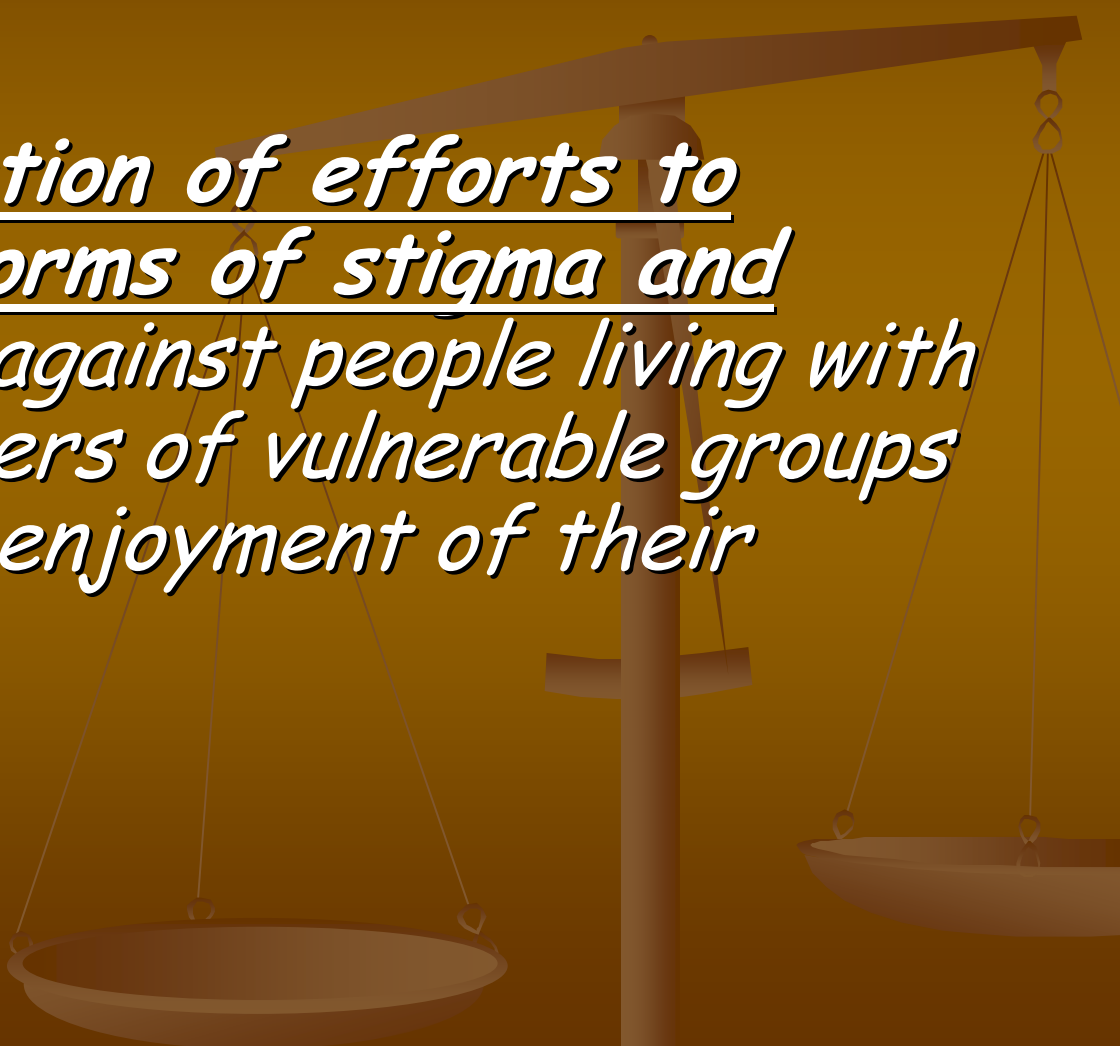


Issues

- Scaling up HIV testing and counselling
 - Ensuring protections - discrimination, confidentiality, access to Rx??
 - Equally empowered to 'opt -out'??
 - '*slippery slope*' between opt out and mandatory testing??
 - Need for more real evidence on how VCT, routine testing, routine offer are being implemented are being implemented (*provider & beneficiary perspectives*)
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Our Commitments

" An intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and members of vulnerable groups ~ ensuring full enjoyment of their human rights"



Our Commitments




"Ensuring access to services with full protection of confidentiality, informed consent and supportive social and legal environments for voluntary disclosure"

"Elimination of gender inequalities, gender related abuse and violence"

Delivering on our commitments...

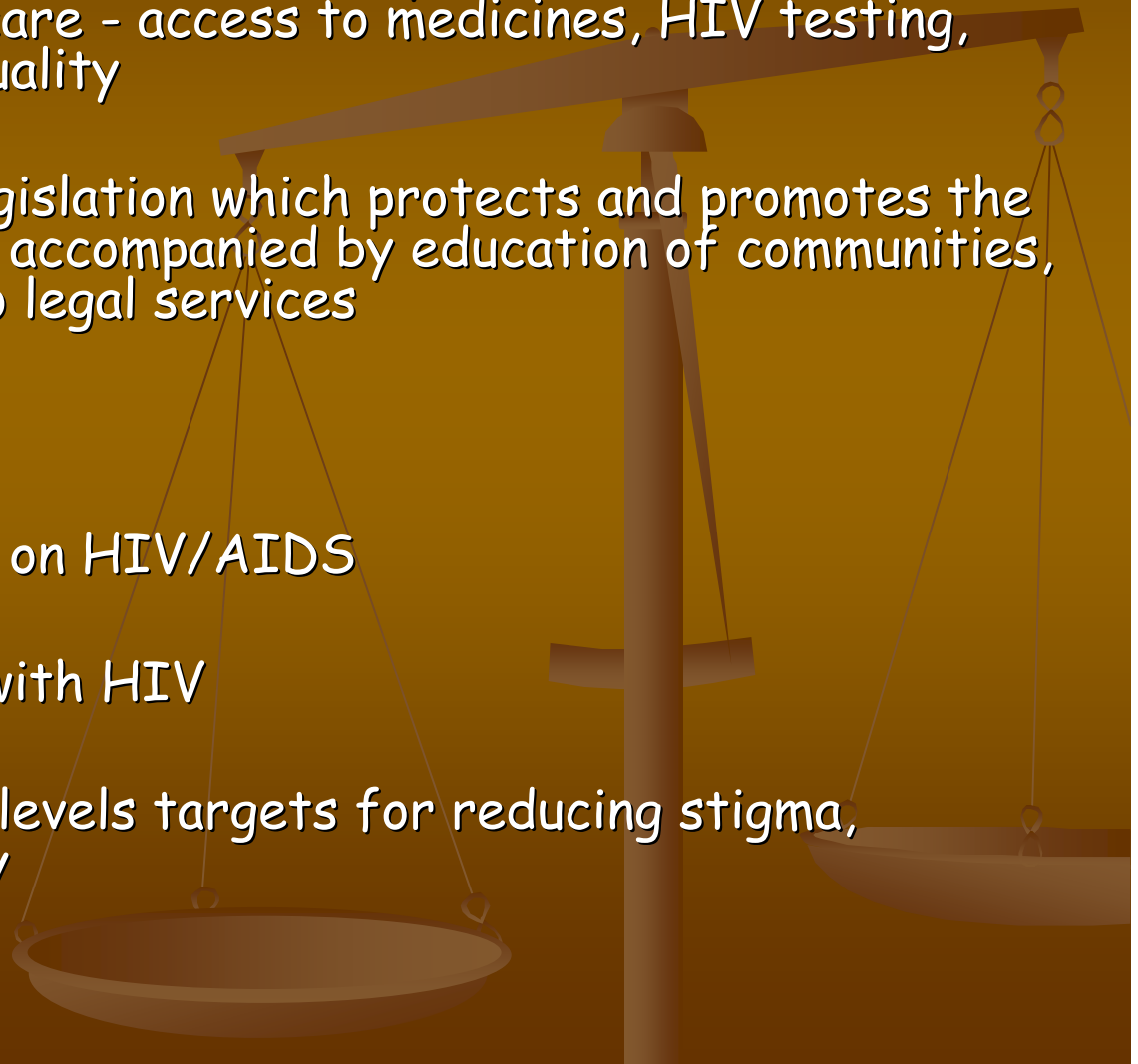
- Need to translate increased political and financial commitments at global level into sustained action at the country level
 - Scale up specific interventions to reduce stigma, discrimination and gender inequality ~ building and sustaining political and financial commitment at the country level
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Delivering on our commitments...

- Promote, protect and fulfil human rights of those most vulnerable
 - Access to medicines, diagnostics, condoms
 - Vigilance in addressing the changing faces of stigma and discrimination
 - Criminalisation
 - Evidence based interventions
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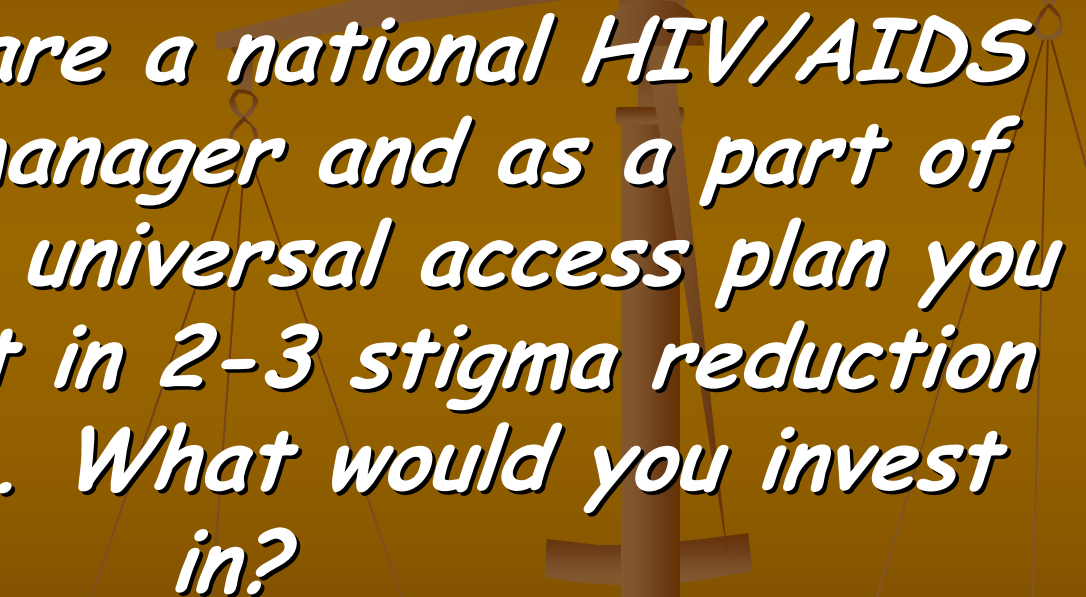
Concrete solutions...

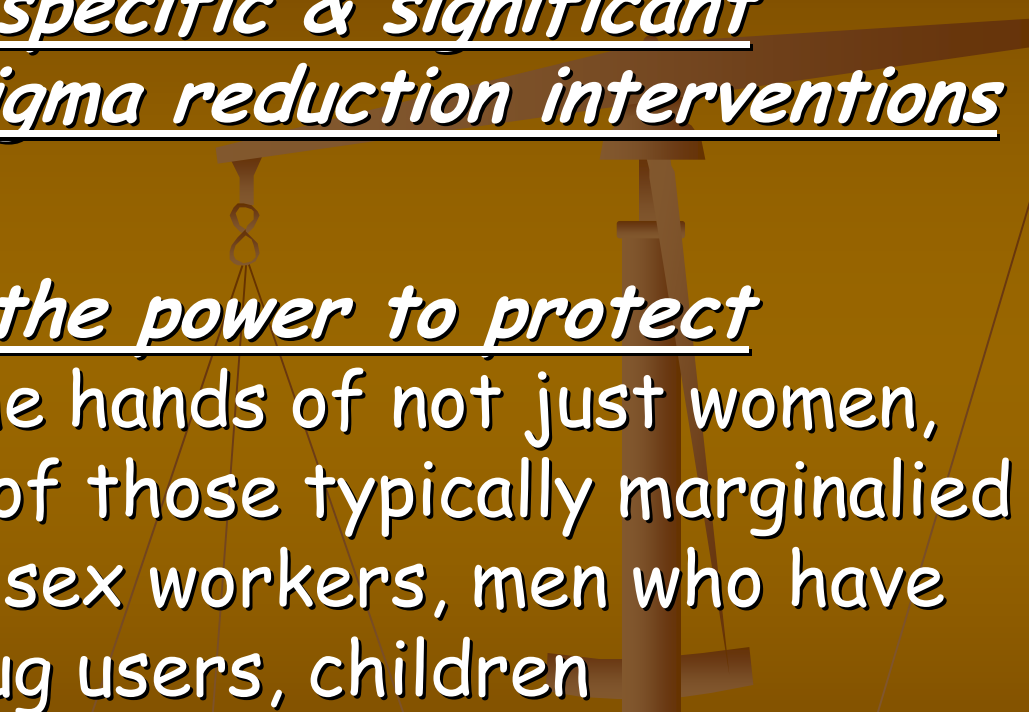
- Reform and repeal laws and policies which perpetuate stigma, discrimination and inequality ~ laws which impede access to HIV prevention, treatment and care - access to medicines, HIV testing, criminalisation, gender inequality
- Enact anti-discrimination legislation which protects and promotes the rights of people with HIV ~ accompanied by education of communities, and policy makers, access to legal services
- Provide free access to ART
- Invest in social mobilisation on HIV/AIDS
- Invest in mobilising people with HIV
- Monitor progress - country level targets for reducing stigma, discrimination and inequality



Concrete solutions...what would you do?

Imagine you are a national HIV/AIDS programme manager and as a part of your country's universal access plan you have to invest in 2-3 stigma reduction interventions. What would you invest in?



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- Call for national universal access plans (end of 2006) to include *specific & significant investment in stigma reduction interventions*
 - Call for putting *"the power to protect themselves"* in the hands of not just women, but in the hands of those typically marginalised in our societies - sex workers, men who have sex with men, drug users, children