



STRENGTHEN. ENGAGE. REFORM. OVERCOME.

We Need The History And Harm Behind These Dehumanizing Laws To Stop Disenfranchising People Living With HIV.

[Sign On In Support To End Such Laws.](#)

Dear Champion, Advocate, Survivor, Friend, Ally, Accomplice, Change-Maker,

Whatever affirmative way you choose to define and self-identify, you are here and you are supported.

February 28, 2022 is the inaugural day of recognition for HIV Is Not A Crime Awareness Day (HINACDay): an entire day to **amplify voices** of those that have been subject to outdated, antiquated, unjust and harmful legislation based on their HIV status. It is time for a **unified call to action** that shows the support within, behind and for the movement to reform and repeal laws in almost 30 states singling out people living with HIV, sex workers, indigenous people, migrant and immigrant communities and LGBTQIA2S+ people. Mobilizing PLHIV and those most impacted by criminalization of HIV has been Sero Project's North Star since 2010. We started out knowing that these laws were discriminatory at the least and communities of PLHIV were experiencing sentencings and stigma that did not and do not lend to improving HIV transmission rates. We knew then that these laws were outdated beyond their intended purpose and too many lives were short changed because of the systemic oppression HIV criminalization supports. With that knowledge and

the growing collaboration of our widespread community, **ten states have modernized laws or health codes, one state repealed their law and many have fought tirelessly to keep laws off the books in their state.** We believe that eight more states can pull through the same success of moving the needle forward in their state in the next five years. We believe that with you, the only way this is possible is to maintain consistency and keep the momentum by joining in one voice to say HIV Is Not A Crime!

The theme for the HIV Is Not A Crime Awareness day, ***Strengthen. Engage. Reform. Overcome***, asks that communities come together in creating opportunities to further engage with national and local organizations and stakeholders in the medical, policy, public health, law enforcement, social justice, and public sectors. Events and activities centered around this awareness day should prioritize educating on how criminalization impacts communities and PLHIV beyond the courtroom, the history of the laws and policies being enforced, and the power of meaningful involvement of the people living with HIV at the frontlines of changing or repealing these stigmatizing laws. Events are encouraged to be informed by [HIV Is Not A Crime Training Academy Guiding Principles](#).

As NASTAD declares, in their [statement on criminalization](#): “HIV criminalization undercuts our most basic HIV prevention and sexual health messages, and breeds ignorance, fear and discrimination against people living with HIV.”

We will announce on our inaugural webinar on February 28, 2022 how many organizations we have signed on! Please be one of them! With your support and sign on, you are committing to:

- Educating about HIV criminalization in communities impacted beyond the courtroom and even after reform measures are made
- Amplifying the voices of PLHIV advocates that are being equipped in learning how their state laws are impacting them through the [Health Not Prisons](#) Advocate funding project, Sero Project Justice Institute, and HIV Is Not A Crime Training Academy
- Supporting the survivors of criminalization by sharing stories of survivors through [Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation](#) True (Not) Crime series

- Uplifting the federal policy agenda [Demanding Better: An HIV Federal Policy Agenda by People Living with HIV](#)
- Asking your state legislator to co-sponsor the [REPEAL Act](#)
- Sharing [this letter](#) to your networks and saying HIV Is Not A Crime!
- Use our social media hashtags #HIVIsNotACrime and #HINACDay