



EACS Statement ahead of IDAHOBIT* 2026 Anti-homosexuality laws in Senegal and other countries

The European AIDS Clinical Society expresses deep concern about the new legislation approved by Senegal's parliament in April 2026 that increases prison sentences for consensual same-sex relations and criminalises the "promotion" of homosexuality.

In light of these developments, EACS reiterates its previous statements on anti-homosexuality laws and their harmful impact on public health. Criminalising LGBTQ+ people creates structural barriers to healthcare access, further marginalises already vulnerable populations, and undermines evidence and rights-based approaches for effective HIV prevention, testing, and treatment.

Senegal has long been recognised for its strong HIV response, with some of the lowest national HIV prevalence rates in West Africa. Further criminalising LGBTQ+ people risks undermining years of progress in Senegal's HIV response and threatens the country's ability to meet the UNAIDS goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

EACS urges *all countries* that criminalise LGBTQ+ people to review and repeal such laws, in line with global public health scientific evidence and human rights standards.

Criminalisation creates barriers to effective HIV prevention and care and obstructs progress toward global UNAIDS targets. A successful HIV response requires inclusion, safety, and equitable access to preventive sexual healthcare and HIV services for every member of society.

****International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, marked annually on 17 May.***

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