



United States People Living with HIV Caucus

www.hivcaucus.com

The 1983 Denver Principles advise us that people living with HIV/AIDS must "[f]orm caucuses to choose their own representatives, to deal with the media, to choose their own agenda and to plan their own strategies."

We establish this Caucus to live out that vital directive.

Dear Ms. Ellis,

February 28th, 2015

We write to you on behalf of the U.S. People Living with HIV Caucus, a coalition of networks and individual advocates living with HIV. The Caucus includes all of the national networks of people living with HIV, and is led entirely by people living with HIV who are accountable to various constituencies. We have reviewed the GLAAD HIV media guide and want to share some important concerns.

While we appreciate and welcome GLAAD's renewed interest in combating HIV stigma, improving coverage of the epidemic, and highlighting appropriate terminology when discussing people living with HIV and those at risk of acquiring HIV, we object to some of the language utilized in the guide and the implications of some of the content in the guide. The guide is inconsistent with the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS GIPA/MIPA principles (nor does it even acknowledge that document) and has problematic language in a number of sections.

We ask that you immediately withdraw the guide, pending the opportunity for further work and consultation with the networks representing people with HIV that have been created by and are led by people with HIV. We are particularly concerned that with the upcoming National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and other events that may prompt mainstream media to reference this guide as an authoritative voice on reporting on the epidemic and people with HIV.

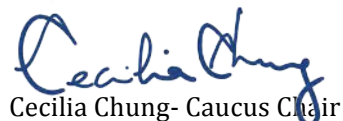
We are hopeful that you will respond expeditiously and cooperatively before the misleading language and concepts in this document inform mainstream media and the audience who rely upon them for accurate information.

While we realize it is now the weekend, we believe time is of the essence and request that guide be withdrawn and taken off the web immediately, pending further consultation.

The language in this media guide puts us in an untenable position, as we consider you and your organization important allies and hope this can be quickly resolved. We will gladly partner with you in revising this guide but a logical first step would be to remove the guide from your website. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

The US PLHIV Caucus


Cecilia Chung- Caucus Chair

Caucus Steering Committee

Campaign to End AIDS

Global Network of People with AIDS- North American

International Community of Women Living with HIV-North America

Positive Women's Network- USA

SERO Project

Barb Cardell

Dwayne Carl

Cecilia Chung

Deloris Dockery

Tami Haught

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