

Public health

This session will consider issues and questions arising from the CHOGM 2011 Communiqué (<http://bit.ly/ueOhqK>) and the Commonwealth Civil Society Statement, also presented to CHOGM (<http://bit.ly/tbodl3>).

Problems

Commonwealth member states have approximately 30% of the world's population and 60% of those living with HIV/AIDS (Commonwealth Civil Society Statement). This document also notes that 41 out of the 54 member states criminalise sex between men; concern also grows about the sexualisation of children.

When people have poor health they are far less likely to contribute to the economy effectively.

Commonwealth perspective and questions

MDG 6: Combat AIDS/Malaria and other diseases

- Are there barriers in place to solutions?

Decriminalising certain behaviours

- Do existing laws compromise a person's health?

CHOGM Communiqué and Commonwealth Civil Society Statement focus on Polio this year, as well as touching on Malaria and AIDS

- Are there other issues that are being ignored? For example, the CCSS also makes reference to mental health issues and their stigmatisation

Communiqué also commits nations to try and establish universal access to healthcare and safe and affordable medicines

- How could this be best implemented?

CSC Professional Networks

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