

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Human Rights in the Fourth Decade of the HIV/AIDS Response: An Inspiring Legacy and Urgent Imperative

Health and Human Rights Journal | Published: 19 December 2017.

Jamie Enoch, Peter Piot

More than 35 years since the HIV/AIDS pandemic began, HIV continues to cause almost two million new infections each year, and the “end of AIDS” by 2030 remains elusive. Violations of human rights continue to fuel high rates of new infections among key populations and a generalized epidemic in much of sub-Saharan Africa. Meanwhile, as political shifts worldwide threaten not only HIV funding but also progress toward the globalization of human rights, civil society mobilization and advocacy founded firmly on human rights principles have a more vital role to play than ever. Encouragingly, there are numerous examples of successful integration of human rights-based approaches into HIV prevention and treatment initiatives, and evidence increasingly demonstrates that norms enshrining the respect, protection, and fulfillment of human rights can translate into improved public health.

The NHS at 70 and Alma-Ata at 40

The Lancet | Published: 6 January 2018.

2018 welcomes two important anniversaries for health. In the UK, the National Health Service (NHS) will be 70 years old in July, and the global health community will mark the 40th anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration at a conference on Oct 25–26 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Common to both anniversaries will be recognition of universal health coverage (UHC) as a goal, and the place of primary health care in achieving that goal.

Social health insurance contributes to universal coverage in South Africa, but generates inequities: survey among members of a government employee insurance scheme

International Journal for Equity in Health | Published: 4 January 2018.

Jane Goudge, Olufunke A Alaba, Veloshnee Govender, Bronwyn Harris, Nonhlanhla Nxumalo and Matthew F Chersich

Many low- and middle-income countries are reforming their health financing mechanisms as part of broader strategies to achieve universal health coverage (UHC). Voluntary social health insurance, despite evidence of resulting inequities, is attractive to policy makers as it generates additional funds for health, and provides access to a greater range of benefits for the formally employed. The South African government introduced a voluntary health insurance scheme (GEMS) for government employees in 2005 with the aim of improving access to care and extending health coverage. In this paper we ask whether the new scheme has assisted in efforts to move towards UHC.

Combined evaluation of sexually transmitted infections in HIV-infected pregnant women and infant HIV transmission

PlosOne | Published: 5 January 2018.

Kristina Adachi, Jiahong Xu, Nava Yeganeh, Margaret Camarca, Mariza G Morgado, D Heather Watts, Lynne M Mofenson, Valdilea G Veloso, et al

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT), *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (NG), *Treponema pallidum* (TP), and cytomegalovirus (CMV) may lead to adverse pregnancy and infant outcomes. The role of combined maternal STIs in HIV mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) was evaluated in mother-infant pairs from NICHD HPTN 040.

Maternal and obstetric complications among HIV-infected women treated with highly active antiretroviral treatment at a Regional Hospital in Durban, South Africa

Nigerian Journal of Clinical Practice | Published: 5 January 2018.

HM Sebitloane, J Moodley

HIV is the leading cause of maternal deaths in resource-poor countries. The use of highly active antiretroviral treatment (HAART) has been shown to almost eliminate vertical transmission and improve maternal health outcomes. Its effect on direct obstetric conditions has not been well documented.

Modern contraceptive use, unmet need, and demand satisfied among women of reproductive age who are married or in a union in the focus countries of the Family Planning 2020 initiative: a systematic analysis using the Family Planning Estimation Tool

The Lancet | Published: 4 December 2017.

Niamh Cahill, Emily Sonneveldt, John Stover, Michelle Weinberger, Jessica Williamson, Chuchu Wei, Win Brown, Leontine Alkema

The London Summit on Family Planning in 2012 inspired the Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) initiative and the 120x20 goal of having an additional 120 million women and adolescent girls become users of modern contraceptives in 69 of the world's poorest countries by the year 2020. Working towards achieving 120 x 20 is crucial for ultimately achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of universal access and satisfying demand for reproductive health. Thus, a performance assessment is required to determine countries' progress.

Can cash break the cycle of educational risks for young children in high HIV-affected communities? A cross-sectional study in South Africa and Malawi

Journal of Global Health | Published: 7 December 2017.

Lorraine Sherr, Mark Tomlinson, Ana Macedo, Sarah Skeen, Imca Sifra Hensels, Lucie Dale Cluver

Household cash grants are associated with beneficial outcomes; enhanced if provided in combination with care. Objectives This study describes the impact of cash grants and parenting quality on 854 children aged 5–15 (South African and Malawi) on educational outcomes including enrolment, regular attendance, correct class for age and school progress (controlling for cognitive performance). Consecutive attenders at randomly selected Community based organisations were recruited. The effects of cash plus good parenting, HIV status and gender were examined.

Neglected Population, Neglected Right: Children Living with HIV and the Right to Science

Health and Human Rights Journal | Published: 19 December 2017.

Michael L Scanlon, Gillian MacNaughton, Courtenay Sprague

The laws, language, and tools of human rights have been instrumental in expanding access to lifesaving treatment for people living with HIV. Children, however, remain a neglected population, as evidenced by inadequate child-specific and child-friendly HIV treatment options. In this article, we explore the right to science, a potentially powerful but underdeveloped right in international law, and its application to

research and development for pediatric HIV treatment. Drawing on reports of human rights bodies and scholars and applying the human rights typology of state obligations to respect, protect, and fulfill, we argue that states have five core obligations related to research and development for child-specific and child-friendly treatment.

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RECENT NEWS

What's coming for health science and policy in 2018? Global experts look ahead in their field

PlosMedicine | 2 January 2018.

As the calendar turns to 2018, the PLOS Medicine Editors ask global health experts to look at the year ahead.

Don't believe the hype: The rise and fall of a perfectly good contraceptive?

Bhekisisa | 9 January 2018.

This implant offers all the protection from unwanted pregnancies with almost none of the clinic visits. So why did many say, 'thanks, but no thanks'?

Swallowing A 'Mini-Pillbox' Could Change The Way HIV Drugs Are Delivered

National Public Radio (US) | 9 January 2018.

Researchers are working on a new way to deliver anti-HIV drugs. A six-pointed device (artist's rendering, above) folds up to fit inside a capsule. One swallowed, the capsule dissolves and the device opens up and slowly dispenses the medication.

'Modest' lower risk of HIV treatment failure with fixed dose regimes

Medical Brief | 20 December 2017.

Research from the US and Europe has found that patients taking a single-tablet, fixed-dose combination (FDC) regime for HIV had a 'modestly' lower risk of virological failure compared to those taking a multiple-tablet regime containing two or three different drugs.

EC men open dialogue against domestic abuse

Health-e News | 10 January 2018.

Men of the Eastern Cape are hungry, angry and unless poverty and unemployment are addressed properly, the province will continue to have the highest rape and murder rates in the country along with the lowest employment.

Coping with bipolar in a rural community

Health-e News | 8 January 2018.

People living with mental health disorders generally struggle to find the correct help and treatment – particularly those living in rural areas.

Why scientists need to do more about research fraud

The Guardian | 4 January 2018.

Scientific misconduct is more than just an academic problem – it has repercussions for real people

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

PlosCast Podcast

The PLOScast blog features podcast interviews with innovators and thought leaders on scholarly publishing developments, the future of academia and the changing experiences of scientists. The show explores all things Open (science, access and peer review), including research tools, ideas for improving science communication and the realities of the academic job market.

Strengthening health systems to respond to women subjected to intimate partner violence or sexual violence: A manual for health managers

World Health Organisation | December 2017.

This manual is intended for health managers at all levels of the health systems. The manual is based on the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline Responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women: WHO clinical and policy guidelines, 2013. Those guidelines inform this manual and its companion clinical handbook for healthcare providers, Health care for women subjected to intimate partner violence or sexual violence, 2014. The manual draws on the WHO health systems building blocks as outlined in Everybody's business: strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action (WHO, 2007).

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

South African Health Review 2018 Call for Abstracts

Health Systems Trust | December 2017.

The editorial team of the 2018 SAHR is currently seeking abstracts that give consideration to advances made in the health system over the past 21 years, and reflect on areas of improvement for the future. In particular, abstracts that address the following range of topics are requested:

- Human resources for health (e.g. community health workers, production and distribution of health care workers; planning and forecasting, task shifting etc.)
- Responses to the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases
- Progress and challenges towards implementing universal health coverage

Ten years in public health 2007-2017

World Health Organisation | December 2017.

"Ten years in public health 2007-2017" chronicles the evolution of global public health during the tenure of Dr Chan, WHO Director-General. This series of chapters evaluates successes, setbacks, and enduring challenges during her administration. They show what needs to be done when progress stalls or new threats emerge. The chapters (links are below) show how WHO technical leadership can get multiple partners working together in tandem under coherent strategies. The importance of country leadership and community engagement is stressed repeatedly throughout the chapters.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

ACSHR 2018 – African Conference on Sexual Health

12-15 February 2018

Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

World Psychiatric Association's Thematic Congress, Innovation in Psychiatry: Effective Interventions for Health and Society

25-28 February 2018

Melbourne, Australia

SAAHIP 2018 Conference

8-10 March 2018

Champagne Sports Resort, Drakensburg, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Data Capturer

Closing Date: 12 January 2018

Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation: Laboratory Manager

Closing Date: 19 January 2018

South African Breastmilk Reserve: Auxillary Nurse

Closing Date: 20 January 2018

National Department of Health: Director – Comprehensive HIV & AIDS Care Management and Treatment

Closing Date: 19 February 2018

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