

<Ref.11> Take the Leadership in Listing all Travel Restrictions for PLWHA (July 1, 2008)

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Project RING, Japan AIDS and Society Association
Africa Japan Forum

**Take the leadership in lifting all Travel Restrictions for People living with HIV/AIDS
= Voices of Civil Society to the G8 =**

In the 2001, Declaration of Commitments on HIV/AIDS saw governments agree to “enact strengthen or enforce appropriate legislation, regulations and other measure to eliminate all forms of discrimination against, and to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people living with HIV/AIDS”. Yet, seven years after this commitment, well over 70 countries still place some form of travel restriction on those living with HIV/AIDS.

These restrictions are discriminatory, contributing to the stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS and are contrary to the commitments made through the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration. Furthermore, they undermine HIV prevention and other efforts to stop the epidemic.

At the 2008 UN high level Meeting on AIDS in New York, 344 organizations signed a letter on HIV-related Travel Restrictions addressed to the UN Missions and Heads of State in Countries with Restrictions. In solidarity, we call on the leaders of the G8 to:

- Take the leadership to abolish all HIV-specific travel restrictions
- Ensure access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for mobile populations, both national and non-national
- Take up the issue of travel restriction with other governments where they are applied to your citizens seeking to travel
- State in the G8 common action framework on global health, a commitment to remove all travel restriction (denial of entry, stay and/or residence) of the people living with HIV/AIDS

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