



From the Secretary of State

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D. K. Khan and Dr Rao

I am pleased to endorse the objectives of the Risks and Responsibilities International Consultation on Male Sexual Health and HIV in Asia and the Pacific.

I have long believed that to tackle AIDS, we have to recognise that while treatment is the key to keeping alive people living with AIDS today, prevention is the key to achieving an AIDS-free generation tomorrow.

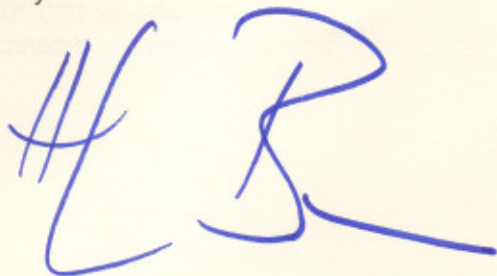
To do that we have to be honest about what the problem is and about telling the truth about what works. In many places some groups of people – like sex workers, drug users and men who have sex with men - are more at risk from HIV. Stigma and discrimination do make it more difficult to fight this disease. Male sexual health and rights, and upholding human rights, all matter in this fight. Condoms and clean needles protect people from HIV. And abstinence is fine for those who are able to abstain, but human beings like to have sex and they should not die because they do have sex.

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So I am delighted to learn of the Risks and Responsibilities meeting and call on the Governments of the region to respond positively to its conclusions.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials 'H B'.

HILARY BENN