



Arianna's Center Manifesto: Deep South Positive Coalition

At Arianna's Center, our initiative, "**Deep South Positive Coalition**", builds upon the revolutionary **Denver Principles**, reaffirming the dignity and self-determination of people living with HIV (PLHIV). This manifesto is a call to action for creating **structural and systemic change** for **Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC)** communities, with a particular focus on **Black and Brown individuals living with HIV** in the Southern United States. Our mission is to ensure that **trans-led organizations** have the leadership role they deserve in eradicating the HIV epidemic, with a focus on self-empowerment, healthcare reform, public support, and addressing systemic inequities.

1. Self-Empowerment

We believe that those most impacted by HIV must have an active role in their care, decision-making, and advocacy.

- **Investment in TGNC-Led Organizations:** Foundations, institutions, and the public sector must prioritize funding **grassroots, TGNC-led organizations**, particularly those that understand and serve local communities in the South. This includes providing resources to support trans individuals who often work night shifts or face challenging work environments. Empowering trans-led groups to design their own solutions is crucial to addressing the **disproportionate impact of HIV** on marginalized communities.
- **Improved Trust through Representation:** Representation in **pharmaceutical companies** and healthcare institutions is essential. When TGNC individuals see themselves in these roles, trust in healthcare services improves. Companies must invest not only in TGNC inclusion but in providing meaningful leadership roles that showcase the resilience and strength of trans people.

- **Collaboration with Ryan White Councils:** We call for **closer collaboration between local Ryan White councils** and trans-led activist groups to develop healthcare solutions that address the unique needs of the TGNC community. This includes offering late-night appointments and prioritizing education on **U=U** (Undetectable = Untransmittable), along with increasing **PrEP access** for trans individuals in the South.
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2. Healthcare Professional Guidelines

Healthcare providers must treat PLHIV as **whole persons**, addressing their psychosocial and sexual health needs.

- **Mandatory Cultural Competency Training:** Healthcare professionals should undergo **mandatory training** to better understand the needs of TGNC individuals. Many transgender people, particularly in the South, face **misdiagnosis and discrimination** due to the lack of cultural sensitivity and awareness.
 - **Incorporate Trans Men in MSM Discussions:** Trans men, especially those engaging in sexual relationships with men, are frequently excluded from important conversations about **MSM (Men Who Have Sex with Men)** and HIV prevention. **PrEP** access must be extended to trans men, and their unique health needs must be fully addressed.
 - **Improve Access to Hormones:** Disparities in healthcare access are stark; for example, it is easier to obtain **Viagra** than hormone therapy for transgender individuals in the South. This must change. Access to hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is essential to the well-being of trans people, and we call for more equitable healthcare practices in this regard.
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3. General Public Support

We call upon the public to actively combat **stigma, discrimination, and misinformation** about HIV and the TGNC community.

- **Invest in TGNC-Led Programs:** Trans-led programs have consistently proven effective in uplifting the TGNC community. Investment in **entrepreneurship and small businesses** owned by trans individuals will ensure both economic and healthcare empowerment.
- **Decriminalizing HIV and Sex Work:** **HIV criminalization laws** and the criminalization of sex work disproportionately harm trans individuals, especially trans women and men. We advocate for **decriminalization** to protect these communities from legal systems that further stigmatize and marginalize them.
- **Equitable Funding Distribution:** While the South receives significant HIV-related funding, **trans-led organizations** receive only a fraction of what is needed. The

Coalition calls for **equitable funding** for grassroots organizations that make a profound impact with minimal resources.

4. PLHIV Rights

Transgender individuals living with HIV deserve **quality healthcare, informed decision-making, privacy, and dignity**.

- **Trans-Led U=U Campaigns:** National **U=U (Undetectable = Untransmittable)** campaigns must be led by TGNC individuals to ensure inclusion and visibility. Trans people are often overlooked, and this must change for effective public health efforts.
 - **Programs for Trans Elders and Youth:** Intergenerational solidarity between **trans elders and youth** is essential. Programs must be developed to foster this connection, offering mentorship and leadership opportunities for younger generations while honoring the wisdom of trans elders.
 - **Mentorship and Academic Support:** The Coalition calls for **mentorship programs** and academic support to help TGNC-led organizations thrive. Many groups face disadvantages in securing funding and institutional recognition, and professional mentorship can play a pivotal role in their success.
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5. Harm Reduction, Immigration, and Mental Health

HIV prevention and treatment are deeply intertwined with **substance abuse, immigration challenges, and mental health disparities**.

- **Expand Harm Reduction Programs:** The South needs more robust **harm reduction initiatives** that address **mental health** and substance use in the TGNC community. Many existing programs fall short of meeting the unique challenges trans individuals face, particularly in rural areas and smaller communities.
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Call to Action

The **Deep South Positive Coalition** calls for:

- Increased **funding and collaboration** with TGNC-led organizations in the South to combat the HIV epidemic.
- Recognition of the **unique healthcare needs** of trans individuals, especially in accessing healthcare and HIV prevention services.

- Stronger **partnerships between healthcare professionals, universities, and trans-led groups** to create sustainable and inclusive solutions.
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Together, we can ensure that the voices of the transgender community are **heard and empowered** to lead the charge in eradicating the HIV epidemic. This manifesto draws upon the real challenges faced by TGNC communities in the South and offers a **roadmap to change** through collaboration, empowerment, and action. It serves as a call to action for healthcare professionals, policymakers, philanthropists, and communities to **invest in the leadership and resilience** of TGNC individuals as we fight for a world free from HIV.