



Peace
Corps

July 15, 2008

Ms. Rebecca C. Shore
Staff Attorney
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
& AIDS Project
125 Broad Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004-2400

Dear Ms. Shore:

The Director has asked me to respond to your correspondence of June 26, 2008, in which you inquire as to what the Peace Corps is "suggesting" by our comment that: "our doctors expect that in the vast majority of cases a Volunteer who becomes HIV positive will continue to be brought back to the U.S. in order to receive the best initial testing, evaluation, and treatment." You also inquire as to how the agency will disseminate its HIV policy.

In fact, we are not "suggesting" any predetermined outcome in cases where a Peace Corps Volunteer tests positive for HIV during service. The Peace Corps will make all decisions based on individual assessments in each case. These assessments will be conducted in accordance with all relevant considerations under the Rehabilitation Act, and decisions will depend on the specific facts of each case. Even the question of whether a particular Peace Corps Volunteer is returned to the U.S. for testing, evaluation, and/or treatment from medical specialists and counselors will depend on an individual assessment and the totality of relevant considerations and facts. However, at this point, we simply expect that, as with Volunteers who develop other serious medical conditions while in service, it will be in the best interest of most of our HIV-positive Volunteers to bring them back to the U.S. for testing, evaluation, and treatment.

Regarding Peace Corps' HIV policy and dissemination to relevant staff and Volunteers, please be assured that the Peace Corps will communicate its policy in a prudent and appropriate manner.

I hope this information addresses your concerns regarding the agency's HIV policy.

Sincerely,

Tyler S. Posey
General Counsel

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