

The 12/06/2024

## AIDES' position following the dissolution of the National Assembly

By deciding to call an election for the French parliament, President Macron has opened up an unprecedented opportunity in France's political history for the far right to come to power.

For 40 years, AIDES has been involved in the fight against the HIV epidemic, which is based on defending the rights of people who are discriminated and stigmatised, first and foremost people living with HIV and all those belonging to the most at-risk groups: homosexual men, foreigners, drug users, prisoners, sex workers and trans people.

AIDES' battles have led to progresses that benefit French society as a whole, far beyond those affected by the HIV epidemic: free condoms, needle exchange, state medical aid, laws on patients' rights, therapeutic coordination flats, centres for drug users, marriage for all, among other victories.

The fight for the rights of the most fragile, the most excluded and the most discriminated is a fight that benefits society as a whole.

This is the exact opposite of what the far right is offering today. Its history and ideas put it outside democracy and the Republic. Its values and its political project are nothing but attacks on the rights and freedoms of people affected by HIV and hepatitis. The FN-RN has always branded HIV-positive people as enemies and has largely encouraged their rejection. It is a threat to the fight against AIDS and we have always refused to talk to them.

For the upcoming election campaign, AIDES is encouraging parties who share our values to take on board our demands to put an end to the HIV epidemic in France.

Respect for human rights is the basis for effective health policies and improved living conditions, as opposed to making the most vulnerable people the scapegoats for all the problems of our society.

The far right, wherever it is inpower, seeks to destroy civil society and solidarity. The fight against HIV and for public health cannot be part of this project.

For all these reasons, AIDES joins the calls for social movements to stand up for the sake of the Republic and its democratic functioning. AIDES calls on people to use their vote against the extreme right on 30 June and 7 July 2024.