

**1. Company/Organization Name, Address, Contact:**

Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC)  
Suite #1 1D-1E Braemar Avenue  
Kingston 10  
Jamaica  
West Indies  
Dr. John Waters



Caribbean  
Vulnerable  
Communities  
Coalition

**2. Title of Internship/Practicum:**

Public health practice, research, and advocacy for improved human rights in the Caribbean

**3. Number of Internship Positions Available:**

2 (1 in Jamaica, 1 in the Dominican Republic)

**4. Internship Slots Available:**  Spring,  Summer,  Fall semester

**5. Location:**

Kingston, Jamaica and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**6. Paid or Unpaid Internship:**  Unpaid  Paid

Unpaid with stipend through the UAB Sparkman Center for Global Health

**7. Desired Education Level/Degree Concentration:**

Upper level undergraduate or graduate

**8. Brief description of the organization/agency mission, goals, and activities:**

Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC) is a coalition of community leaders and non-governmental agencies that are advocates and service providers, working with and on behalf of Caribbean populations who are especially vulnerable to HIV infection or often forgotten in access to treatment and healthcare programmes.

These groups include men who have sex with men, persons of trans experience, sex workers, people who use drugs, orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV, migrant populations, persons in prison and ex-prisoners, and youth in especially difficult circumstances.

These groups are subjected to high levels of stigma and discrimination. They also lack the social and legal protection afforded other members of society and are socially excluded because their behaviour may be deemed delinquent, deviant or criminal.

Stigma, discrimination and social exclusion place affected persons at significant disadvantage in their struggle against HIV and AIDS and in realizing their right to health. Gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, youth, poverty and language differences exacerbate the vulnerabilities.

In some countries, HIV prevalence is as high as 27% among sex workers and 32% among men who have sex with men. Young people between 15 and 24 years old account for the highest number of new HIV infections. Data on HIV prevalence in persons of trans experience is limited in the Caribbean, but elevated where available, at 17% or more in the DR (based on data from three studies with limited samples of persons of trans experience) and perhaps as high as 52% in Jamaica.

CVC is working to remove barriers of stigma and discrimination and to reduce the prevalence of HIV among the key populations. We take action to ensure increased access to services, to promote a human rights framework for policy and programmes at national and regional levels and to build the capacity of the most vulnerable populations for effective self-advocacy.

#### **9. Scope of Work/Responsibilities of Intern:**

The principal goal for this Internship/Practicum is to expose interns to the realities of conducting public health practice and studies in resource-constrained settings with highly-stigmatized populations.

#### **10. Desired Qualifications:**

For the placement in the Dominican Republic, the student should have a working knowledge of Spanish. For both placements, it is imperative that students have a high level of maturity.

#### **11. MOU with UAB in place?**

Yes.

#### **12. Will approval from ethical board be required? If so, how will this be done and what is the anticipated time frame to obtain ethical board approval?**

No.

#### **13. Any anticipated challenges?**

None.