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(Voice off screen) When it comes to leading on health inequalities what do you think NHS leaders should consider when they're adopting a human rights-based approach in their decision-making?

I think when you're starting out with a rights-based approach in your work I think probably a useful starting point is to think about which rights you're actually talking about for you because it's not going to be the same in any situation. But in a health inequalities context probably the most obvious starting point would be the right to health - it's the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for everybody - which is something that's not being realised if health inequalities persist. So that's, I think, a useful touchstone for the work of health inequalities. And what that right says is it's not just about health services but it's about the underlying determinants of health, housing, employment, education, etc and it sort of tries to break down what the right would actually mean in practice.

So, what it says is that all of those things need to be - four aspects, they need to be available, accessible, acceptable and of good quality. And that framework which is called AAAQ can be a really useful guide for checking the work that you're doing to make sure it's hitting on all of those aspects of the right to health.

And I think another useful thing to remember in the context of right to health is that it's not constructed as something that needs to be realised overnight - it's not expected that by tomorrow you're going to have resolved every issue of the right direct health for everybody. but it's actually one that needs to be achieved progressively over time so the idea is that you're always moving forwards and you're not regressing in your work.

Transcript

And I think that can be really supportive for people to use that concept because it does give a focus to what you're doing it means you have to keep your foot on the gas, you do have to be going forwards, you can't just stall and not focus on these things. And that is actually people's right for it to be progressing like that, but it also has the understanding that there's a realistic time frame and it is a work in progress. So, I think it can be quite supportive and that core concept of the right to health.