

IN MEMORIAM: Jonathan Mann 1947–1998

On September 2, 1998 Jonathan Mann was tragically killed in the crash of Swissair Flight 111. Jonathan and his wife, Mary Lou Clements–Mann, were on their way to Geneva, to the World Health Organization and to UNAIDS, to pursue work that had taken them all over the world. Mary Lou and Jonathan were bringing to Geneva their unique personal and professional partnership to support the global response to the AIDS pandemic. Mary Lou was bringing her scientific expertise, and Jonathan his vision of a world where HIV/AIDS would be recognized and responded to through an expanded health, social and economic development strategy firmly grounded in human rights.

Jonathan was born in 1947, the year the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was being drafted. It is bitterly ironic that he contributed one of his last writings to this issue of the *Journal* which commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document he treasured and dedicated his professional life to promoting. We dedicate this issue of the *Journal* to his memory and to the ideas that he nurtured and shared with the world during his too short life.

Jonathan's life spans and reflects the last 50 years — an era when international responsibility for health and for human rights has been increasingly acknowledged. These worlds had evolved along parallel but distinctly separate tracks, until Jonathan's creativity and passion inspired and brought so many human rights and public health people together. He had the vision to recognize that ultimately public health and human rights share a common challenge — each is primarily concerned with ensuring the conditions in which people can be healthy — and that to meet this challenge was going to require first that we speak to and learn from one another, and then that we actually work together.

Jonathan had the charisma and the ability to reach

through layers of bureaucracy and cynicism and to touch the hearts of people. He inspired people by challenging them. He challenged people in public health to recognize their dual responsibility as agents of the state to promote and protect not only health, but also human rights. He challenged people in human rights to move beyond just criticizing health policy and government actions after they had occurred — but to get involved from the beginning in helping to shape them. Out of this he catalyzed today's health and human rights movement.

Jonathan frequently reminded us that our work is possible because we stand on the shoulders of the giants — the giants in health and in human rights — who preceded us. He believed deeply in the possibility of changing the world, of making it a better place. His life ended before he was fully able to play out his own role in doing so. We share his belief that the health and human rights movement has a collective responsibility to move this work forward as, to use Jonathan's words, "equal partners in the belief that the world can change." We will stand on his shoulders, even as we will deeply miss him.

François-Xavier Bagnoud Center
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