



Activist Urges China to Lift Its HIV Travel Ban

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Beijing-based antidiscrimination activist Lu Jun has issued a letter to China's Ministry of Health requesting that officials honor their promise to revise laws preventing HIV-positive foreigners from entering the country, [China Daily](#) reports.

"Some foreigners with AIDS, hepatitis B and other diseases are worried that they will be denied a Chinese visa," Lu said. "Our immigration laws are out-of-date, and they need to be updated on time."

The Ministry of Health pledged in 2007 that it would lift its HIV entry ban. However, China remains among about a dozen countries that have such restrictions in place. According to China's Implementation Rules of the Law on Control of the Entry & Exit of Aliens, enacted in 2004, foreigners with mental diseases, leprosy, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis or other communicable diseases are not allowed to enter China.

According to the article, foreigners who want to live in China for more than a year are required to take a physical, which includes an HIV test. People staying in the country for less than a year are only required to fill out paperwork and self-report any preexisting conditions.

While the United States had an HIV travel ban in place for more than two decades, President Barack Obama [announced](#) October 30 that it would be lifted in 2010.
