



June 18, 2013

AIDS 2014 Conference Coordinating Committee
c/o International AIDS Society HQ
Avenue de France 23
CH-1202 Geneva
Switzerland

Dear Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Sharon Lewin:

A new report released on June 4th by a coalition of global advocacy organizations shows that the International AIDS Conference (IAC) program continues to lack meaningful coverage of HIV-related issues concerning men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender people, people who inject drugs (PWID), and sex workers. Featuring a systematic quantitative audit and qualitative analysis of the full AIDS 2012 abstract-driven program, the report's findings include:

- Only 17% of all abstracts at AIDS 2012 were exclusively focused on one of the four key populations, reflecting little improvement over key population coverage at AIDS 2010, which was 16.8%.
- More abstracts on key populations focused on individual risk factors (40%) than any other topic, exceeding structural factors (26%); primary prevention (19%); testing, care, and treatment (15%); and surveillance (10%).
- Only 29% of abstracts on key populations focused on describing interventions, while 71% described vulnerabilities without offering detailed solutions.
- Nearly two-thirds of all abstracts on key populations were focused in 10 countries alone.

These populations are at greater risk for HIV than the general population in nearly every country around the world, and mounting evidence argues that addressing HIV among key populations is central to ending the global AIDS crisis. This kind of coverage of key populations at the world's premier AIDS conference is unacceptable.

The IAC represents a unique and powerful opportunity to impact the global AIDS epidemic, offering unparalleled potential to shape the industry's discourse, funding priorities, and locus of scientific inquiry. By updating the IAC's processes to increasing meaningful engagement with and coverage of key populations, the IAC will not only support the development of more effective strategies to address the needs of key populations, it will bring the global AIDS response closer to developing the comprehensive strategies we need to end this epidemic.

We, the undersigned organizations, call on the Conference Coordinating Committee to take the following measures to: A) increase the number and quality of abstracts on key populations that are submitted to the conference; and B) ensure that quality abstracts submitted on key populations are not rejected from the conference. In so doing, the IAS can enhance the relevance of the IAC to key populations, leveraging its unique position as a convener and platform for knowledge exchange to strengthen the global response to the epidemic among MSM, transgender people, PWID, and sex workers.

1. Community Consultations

Conduct community consultations with each key population to determine program topics that would be most valuable to community members, advocates, and service providers working with key populations in the lead-up to AIDS 2014.

2. Targeted Call for Abstracts

Use the results from the community consultations to inform the conference's call for abstracts, explicitly stating that topics identified through community consultations will be prioritized for acceptance.

3. Match Abstracts with Reviewers Based on Expertise

Develop a system for matching abstracts on key populations with reviewers who have expertise on the population and related issues in question; ensure reviewers have a strong understanding of the nature and value of community-based research and programming.

4. Advocate for Better Funding and Support for Research on Key Populations

As a leader in the field, the IAC and the International AIDS Society (IAS) that organizes it are well positioned to advocate with large funders and research institutions for more appropriate funding and support for research on key populations that responds to community needs.

5. Increase Conference Accessibility for Key Populations

- a. Choose a location that is accessible to MSM, transgender people, PWID, sex workers, and people living with HIV to encourage more balanced program content and conference deliberations.
- b. Create a scholarship fund to support more robust attendance of key population leaders, helping to ensure they gain the full range of benefits of participation and that the voices of key populations are represented at influential dialogues on site.



The full report, entitled "Coverage of Key Populations at the 2012 International AIDS Conference," is available online at http://www.msmsgf.org/files/msmsgf//Advocacy/AIDS2012_KeyPopulations.pdf. The report was jointly produced by the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF), Global Action for Trans* Equality (GATE), the Center of Excellence for Transgender Health (CoE), the Harm Reduction Coalition, the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD), Different Avenues, and the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP).

The coalition of organizations responsible for this report stands ready to engage with the organizers of the IAC to support the implementation of these recommendations.

The full list of signatories and country affiliations is listed below.

ABC-123, Kosovo
ACON Health, Australia
ACT (AIDS Committee of Toronto), Canada
Action pour la Lutte Contre l'Ignorance du Sida (ALCIS), Democratic Republic of the Congo
Advocates for Youth, United States of America
AFAO-Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Australia
African American Office of Gay Concerns, United States of America
African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMShR), South Africa
African Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA), South Africa
AFRIQUE ARC-EN-CIEL, Togo
AHUSADEC RD Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo
AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA), United States of America
Aids Fonds, Netherlands
AIDS Foundation of Chicago, United States of America
AIDS Project Los Angeles, United States of America
AIDS Project of the East Bay, United States of America
Aids Resource Center, Ethiopia
Alafia (Peace), United States of America
ALEGA Cantabria, Spain
All-Ukrainian Public Organization "Gay-Alliance Ukraine", Ukraine
AMA National Network Of sex Workers, Myanmar
Amigos Contra el Sida - Friends Against AIDS, Mexico
Anna Forbes, United States of America
APCOM (Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health), Thailand
APNSW - Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers, Thailand
APOYO POSITIVO, Spain
APROASE A.C., Mexico
APTN - Asia Pacific Network of Transgenders, India
Asociacion Civil Impacta, Peru
Asociacion Civil CAMBIO Y ACCION, Peru
Asociacion LGBTI Algarabia, Spain
Asocijacija DUGA, Serbia
Association La Brique, Togo



Associaton "Stav +" Subotica-Association to Help and Support PLHIV, Serbia
 Astitva - An Organisation for the Support and Development of Sexual Minorities, India
 Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society, Australia
 Bandhu Social Welfare Society, Bangladesh
 Bar Hostess Emowerment and Support Program, Kenya
 Batula Youth Movement, Nigeria
 Best Practices Policy Project, United States of America
 Blue Diamond Society , Nepal
 Canadian Treatment Action Council, Canada
 Carusel, Romania
 CENSIDA (NAP Mexico), Mexico
 Center for Prevention and Social Education PARASOL, Poland
 Center of Excellence for Transgender Health, United States of America
 Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights, Ghana, Ghana
 CHAINE D'UNION, Cameroon
 Champions for Change Guyana , Guyana
 Citizen News Service - CNS, India
 City University of New York-KCC, United States of America
 Ciudadaniasx: Cultural Activism and Human Rights, Peru
 COLECTIVO DE HOMBRES EN ACCION COMUNITARIA A.C , Mexico
 Colectivo Feminista Panteras Rosas, Nicaragua
 Comision Anti-Sida de La Rioja, Spain
 Communication for Social Change, Ghana
 Community Network for Empowerment (CoNE), India
 Community-Based Research Centre for Gay Men's Health, Canada
 CTAC, Canada
 Cycle for Freedom Inc. , United States of America
 Czech AIDS Help Society, Czech Republic
 David Ostrow & Associates , United States of America
 Desiree Alliance, United States of America
 Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, South Africa
 Dette Resources Foundation, Zambia
 Dialogai, Switzerland
 Different Avenues, United States of America
 DIVERLEX DIVERSIDAD E IGUALDAD A TRAVES DE LA LEY (ACTING TRANS SECRETARY OF ILGA), Venezuela
 Diversity and Solidarity Trust, Sri Lanka
 Dublin AIDS Alliance, Ireland
 EHPV, Estonia
 Epicentro, Peru
 Equal Opportunities , Tajikistan
 Espolea, Mexico
 Estonian Network PLWHIV, Estonia
 European AIDS Treatment group, Belgium
 EVOLVE, Cameroon



Federation of Sexual and Gender Minorities Nepal (FSGMN), Nepal
 Foundation Esther Boucicault Stanislas, Haiti
 Foundation for Human Rights and Community Development, Tanzania
 Friends of Rainka, Zambia
 Friends of RAINKA - MEDICAL CONSULTANCY, Zambia
 FUNDACION SIN ANIMO DE LUCRO VIHDA, Colombia
 Gais Positius, Spain
 Gala Initiative Uganda, Uganda
 GALZ, Zimbabwe
 GAT, Portugal
 Gay Health Network, Ireland
 Gay Men's Health, United Kingdom
 Gay Men's Health Crisis, United States of America
 Gay/Bi/Queer Trans Men's Working Group Ontario Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance, Canada
 GENDERDOC-M, Moldova
 German Aids-Service Organisation, Germany
 Global Action for Trans* Equality (GATE), Argentina
 Global Inklusi untuk Perlindungan AIDS (GIPA) -Advocacy Human Rights & Justice for AIDS, Indonesia
 Global Justice Institute, United States of America
 Global Justice Institute - MCC, United States of America
 Graham Neilsen, Australia
 Grupo de Trabajo sobre Tratamientos del VIH (gTt-VIH), Spain
 Grupo EsteAmor, Dominican Republic
 GYCA, United States of America
 Harm Reduction Coalition, United States of America
 Health Consumers Alliance of South Australia, Australia
 Helem, Lebanon
 Heroes Project (India), India
 HIV Prevention Justice Alliance (HIV PJA), United States of America
 HIV Young Leaders Fund, Netherlands
 HOPS-Healthy Options Project Skopje, Macedonia
 Humanity First Cameroon, Cameroon
 Hydra, Germany
 India HIV/AIDS Alliance , India
 Indian Harm Reduction Network (IHRN), India
 Initiative for Improved Male Health, Nigeria
 Initiative for Improved Male Health IMH-Initiative, Nigeria
 International AIDS Empowerment, United States of America
 International Centre for Advocacy on Rights to Health (ICARH), Nigeria
 International HIV Research Group, Australia
 International HIV/AIDS Alliance, United Kingdom
 International Rectal Microbicide Advocates, United States of America
 IRMA Nigeria, Nigeria



irma-alc, Peru
 Iskorak, Croatia
 ITPC MENA, Morocco
 Kaana Foundation for Outreach Programs, Uganda
 Kaana Foundation for Outreach Programs (KAFOP), Uganda
 Keeping Alive Societies Hope, Kenya
 KOVIPA GROUP KENYA , Kenya
 KYdesa, Kenya
 Kydesa -Kenya Youth Education & Development Support Association, Kenya
 Kyrgyz Indigo, Kyrgyzstan
 Lifeline Healthcare Foundation , Nigeria
 Making Sex Work Safer - Tanzania, Tanzania
 Medical University of South Carolina/Lowcountry AIDS Services Consumer Advisory Board, United States of America
 MEN AGAINST AIDS YOUTH GROUP (MAAYGO), Kenya
 menZDRAV Consortium, Ukraine
 menZDRAV Foundation , Russia
 Metahdone Alliance of Manipur, India
 Metropolitan COmmunity Churches, United States of America
 MSMGF, United States of America
 MyFabulousDisease.com, United States of America
 National Minority AIDS Council, United States of America
 National Youth Pride Services, United States of America
 Naz Male Health Alliance, Pakistan
 New Zealand AIDS Foundation, New Zealand
 NGO AIDS Information and Support Center (AIDSi Tugikeskus), Estonia
 NGO HEPTA, Macedonia
 NSWP, United Kingdom
 Nyanza Rift Valley and western Kenya LGBTI Coalition (NYARWEK) , Kenya
 Observatorio Centroamericano VIH, Costa Rica
 ONG arc-en-ciel, Togo
 Ontario HIV Treatment Network, Canada
 Oogachaga, Singapore
 OSE, Lebanon
 Oui pou la vie, Lebanon
 Outrage Magazine, Philippines
 Pacific Sexual Diversity Network, Tonga
 Pathfinder, Kyrgyzstan
 PEMA Kenya, Kenya
 Persist Health Project, United States of America
 Pertubuhan Advokasi Masyarakat Terpinggir Kuala Lumpur & Selangor (PAMT), Malaysia
 PILOT MATHAMBO CENTRE FOR MENS HEALTH, Botswana
 PION , Norway
 Plus Onlus, Italy
 Population Services International in Romania, Romania



Positively Alive, South Africa
 Preventive Care International , Uganda
 PRIDE In Action, Jamaica
 Project SAFE, United States of America
 Projecte dels NOMS_Hispanosida, Spain
 PRUDENCE, Senegal
 Public Policy Team Metropolitan Community Churches, United States of America
 Qssociation La Brique, Togo
 Quan Consulting, Australia
 Rainbow Ethiopia HIV and Social Support Services, United States of America
 Rainbow Women Network, Fiji
 Red Umbrella Fund, Netherlands
 Rock of Hope Swaziland, Swaziland
 Rose Alliance, Sweden
 RP Lafreniere Aids Foundation-Uganda, Canada
 Sahayogi Samaj, Nepal
 SANGRAM, India
 Sensoa, Belgium
 Sero Project, United States of America
 Sex Worker Open University, United Kingdom
 Sex Workers Action New York (SWANK), United States of America
 Sex Workers Outreach Project - Chicago, United States of America
 Sex Workers Outreach Project - NYC, United States of America
 SHIP Foundation, Philippines
 SIBALT Center for Health and Social Support, Russia
 Sigma Research London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
 SKUC, Slovenia
 South Jersey AIDS Alliance, United States of America
 Spectrum Uganda Initiatives, Inc, Uganda
 Srikandi Sejati Foundation, Indonesia
 STAR-STAR, Macedonia
 Stop Sida, Spain
 Street Works, United States of America
 SWOP NSW, Australia
 SWOP-PHILLY, United States of America
 Syndicat du Travail Sexuel (STRASS), France
 Syrian Society for HIV-AIDS and Related Diseases Struggle, Syria
 TAMPEP-Germany, Germany
 Tanzania Sisi Kwa Sisi Foundation, Tanzania
 The Global Network of People Living with HIV North America (GNP+NA), United States of America
 The Initiative for Equal Rights, Nigeria
 THP Capacity Advisors, United States of America
 Tonga Leitis' Association, Tonga
 Transgender Law Center, United States of America



Transgender Limburg, Netherlands
Transgender Victoria, Australia
Uasin Gishu Students Association, Kenya
University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights, United States of America
VAMP, India
Walter Leitner International Human Rights Clinic, United States of America
WEZESHA, Tanzania
Women With A Vision Inc., United States of America
Woodhall Sexual Freedom Alliance, United States of America
Working Men Project, United Kingdom
World Health Organization, Switzerland
Youth Watch, Uganda

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