

**The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF)
AIDS 2012 Pre-Conference and
Other Activities**

FINAL REPORT

SUMMARY

The MSMGF organized its fifth Pre-Conference Event at the 2012 International AIDS Conference (IAC) in Washington, DC. focused on men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender people, and HIV. To our knowledge, this was the largest global gathering of activists, researchers, implementers, and donors focused on HIV and the health and human rights of MSM and transgender people to date. Titled *From Stigma to Strength: Strategies for MSM, Transgender People, and their Allies for a Shifting AIDS Landscape*, the Pre-Conference was offered free of charge to more than 650 attendees, representing 500 organizations, from over 100 countries, 50% of whom were from the Global South. The MSMGF offered scholarship support to 65 participants who would not have otherwise been able to attend AIDS 2012. Plenary sessions offered simultaneous interpretation into French and Spanish. These sessions were also live streamed and watched by nearly 100 advocates and stakeholders around the world who were unable to attend the event.

The MSM Pre-Conference provided a skills-building and networking platform focused on the most recent research, best practices, and advocacy strategies that advance the overall goal of universal access to HIV-related services. [The MSMGF Pre-Conference Program](http://www.denislageron.com/Events/Corporate-Meetings/2012-07-21-DC-MSMGF-AIDS/24315920_9LP96h#!j=1980563415&k=Rvpk5NT) included 3 plenary presentations and 21 skills-building workshops or seminar sessions focused on the changing research, programmatic, and policy landscapes in the AIDS sector. This had particular urgency given the 2011 United Nations Political Declaration on AIDS, recent and promising developments in research concerning ARV-based prevention strategies (including pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP), an evolving investment framework for the global AIDS response, and the report by the High-Level Commission on HIV and the Law. Pre-Conference attendees used the event to coordinate and refine a global MSM and HIV advocacy agenda. See photo gallery at: http://www.denislageron.com/Events/Corporate-Meetings/2012-07-21-DC-MSMGF-AIDS/24315920_9LP96h#!j=1980563415&k=Rvpk5NT

The 1-day affiliated Pre-Conference Event took place on July 21, 2012 at FHI 360 in Washington, DC. The overall goal of the Pre-Conference Event as well as activities immediately preceding and following the week of AIDS 2012 was **to ensure a focused and sustained global conversation about the persistent and disproportionate HIV disease burden being shouldered by MSM and transgender people and their specific HIV-related service needs.**

The goal and objectives of the Pre-Conference Event were guided by the MSMGF Core Operating Objectives, which serve as the overall advocacy framework of the organization: (1) expanded coverage of quality HIV-related services; (2) realized promotion and protection of human rights; (3) increased investment for effective health and rights-focused programs; (4) improved knowledge, research, and information exchange; and (5) meaningful engagement of frontline advocates.

The MSMGF gathered input in English, French, Spanish, and Russian from nearly 300 advocates worldwide, including its own Youth and Transgender Reference Groups, to inform the pre-conference program and strategic participation at AIDS 2012. This feedback gave the MSMGF staff and steering committee a good starting point for focusing our efforts and for building pre-conference and global village programs that were responsive to the concerns of our constituents.

This input solicitation and program planning was led by an MSMGF AIDS 2012 [Pre-Conference Planning Committee](#) (PCPC) that consisted of MSMGF Steering Committee Members, Youth and Transgender Reference Group Members, strategic partners, global MSM advocates, and local/Washington, DC–based MSM advocates who met monthly for a year leading up to the event. The PCPC was central to developing a conference agenda and series of breakout sessions that were as inclusive as possible. The MSMGF also partnered with FHI 360 and the US National Black Gay Men’s Advocacy Coalition to coordinate the pre-conference event and maximize participation from key populations.

The MSMGF conducted the following main activities in the lead-up to and immediately following our pre-conference:

- 1) Offered skills-building sessions on program development and delivery, research, fundraising, the health needs and rights of transgender people, advocacy strategies designed to influence legislation within difficult legal environments, HIV prevention, gay men’s sexual health and happiness, understanding new ARV-based interventions, and working with web-based technologies—a total of 21 sessions were offered;
- 2) Organized 3 main plenary sessions focused on global epidemiology and human rights (HIV and the law) with simultaneous interpretation from English to French and Spanish;
- 3) Provided a networking platform for 650 activists, researchers, public health officials, multi-lateral organizations, and global donors to exchange most recent research, best practices, and advocacy strategies that would advance the goal of universal access;
- 4) Designed and produced the MSMGF *Pink Pages*—a road map to all sessions and activities focused on MSM and transgender people during AIDS 2012;
- 5) Planned and executed a media strategy during the week of IAC designed to elevate MSM and HIV issues and raise awareness on how HIV disproportionately affects MSM and transgender people worldwide;
- 6) Extended partial scholarships to 65 participants to attend the Pre-Conference Event and full week of IAC activities;
- 7) Prepared video recordings of the main plenary sessions with subtitles offered in French and Spanish for upload onto the MSMGF website (scheduled for November 2012);
- 8) Convened the MSMGF Youth and Transgender Reference Groups for full-day meetings immediately following the Pre-Conference;
- 9) Hosted a networking zone at the IAC Global Village during the conference week designed to encourage information exchange and inter-organizational linking;
- 10) Prepared and distributed The Robert Carr Doctrine, a statement of advocacy priorities and principles collaboratively crafted by the MSMGF, the Global Network of Sex Projects, the International Network of People Who Use Drugs, the Center of Excellence on Transgender Health and Global Action for Trans Equality;
- 11) Produced this conference technical report summarizing main outcomes of the MSMGF Pre-Conference Event.

The MSMGF Pre-Conference was officially registered as an “Affiliated Event” of the International AIDS Conference. To ensure a link between the MSMGF Pre-Conference event and the main IAC program, MSMGF staff members built working relationships with the IAS Secretariat staff and collaborated with them in the development of non-abstract driven sessions and a press conference focused exclusively on

MSM. In addition, members of both the PCPC and MSMGF steering committee at large, together with MSMGF staff, undertook behind-the-scenes lobbying with members of IAS's Conference Coordinating Committee to ensure a stronger IAC program than in previous years, with better coverage of MSM and transgender issues. Several MSMGF Steering Committee members also brought leadership to this process in their roles as co-chairs on various program committees and as presenters during the conference. MSMGF Steering Committee Member Paul Semugoma gave a keynote address on the fourth day of the conference.

There were 5 main intended outcomes resulting from the MSMGF's Pre-Conference Event and activities at AIDS 2012. They included the following:

- 1) Re-energized, better informed, and interconnected activist base of MSM working to end HIV and for the health and human rights of their respective communities;
- 2) Elevated awareness at the global level about the disproportionate impact HIV and AIDS is having on MSM worldwide;
- 3) Expanded cadre of MSM advocates from Africa and other parts of the Global South that is better prepared to assert their rights through influencing legislation in their home countries.
- 4) Established new and/or strengthened existing MSMGF partnerships with other networks (eg, the Living 2012 coalition, the global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP), the International Network of People who use Drugs (INPUD), and the Center of Excellence for Transgender Health at the University of California, San Francisco; and
- 5) Strategically engaged with organizations working in the Global South to advance the health and rights of gay men and other MSM worldwide.

In the following pages, we summarize select activities to illustrate achievement toward the above stated outcomes. We begin by presenting feedback submitted by pre-conference attendees. We then describe the MSMGF's advocacy activities as well as program activities at the MSM Networking Zone in the Global Village. The report below proceeds with a description of the reception at the World Bank the MSMGF co-hosted with Living 2012, followed by a report on the MSMGF's communications and media engagement, youth and transgender reference group meetings, and posters and talks presented at AIDS 2012. We end with a brief discussion on the MSMGF's existing partnerships strengthened and new partnerships established as a result of our AIDS 2012-related efforts. The final budget for these activities is also presented at the end.

FEEDBACK FROM PRE-CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

The MSMGF issued a 1-page evaluation form to all attendees of the Pre-Conference. The evaluation form was distributed at the end of the day as attendees were exiting the final plenary. We collected 99 evaluation forms, and findings are summarized below. Seventy-three percent of respondent were male, 20% were female, 4% were trans women, and 2% were trans men. Thirty-three percent of the respondents indicated that they were from the Global South. The average age of attendees returning evaluation forms was 42. The majority of evaluation respondents identified themselves as advocates (42%), service providers (21%), or researchers (19%). Nine percent were funders or donors.



The MSMGF asked attendees to rate on a scale of 1 to 5 the various program components of the pre-conference. Averages were then tabulated and are summarized below:

- Check-In/Registration: 4.21
- Overview, Intros & Acknowledgements: 3.88
- Welcome/Salutatory Remarks: 4
- Opening Plenary: 4.16
- Closing Remarks: 3.94
- Closing Plenary: 3.96

Average scores for each of the breakout sessions were also calculated and are presented in the table below:

Morning Sessions	Score
New Strategies in Prevention: Research and Emerging Science	4.14
Bridging the Divide: HIV Criminalization and Perceptions of Responsibility for HIV Prevention	4.25
LIVING 2012 Continued PART I: Implications for MSM and Transgender Advocates	3.00
Mounting an Advocacy Response Against Human Rights Violations and Abuses Faced by Transgender Communities Worldwide	4.13
Targeting YMSM: An International Look at Programs and Funding for Young MSM	2.40
Keeping the Pressure Up: A Dialogue With Donors on Increasing HIV Investments Targeted at Programs for MSM and Transgender People	4.22
Sexual Health and Happiness Part I: Research Process, Methods, and Design	4.18
Common Bonds/Different Journeys Part I: Strengthening the Response to HIV Among Ethnic Minority MSM & Transgender People in the Global North	5.00
Interacting Effectively with Health Systems and Providers to Improve Care Among Gay and Transgender Communities	4.00
Speaking Out Loud: Effective Strategies for Managing the Challenges Associated With MSM-Led Advocacy in Central America, North Africa, and Southeast Asia	3.00
Leveraging Networked and Digital Technologies for HIV Prevention, Education, and Care for Gay Men, Other MSM, and Transgender Communities	3.44

Afternoon Sessions	Score
From Science to Practice: What Does Combination Prevention Mean for Community?	3.29
Global Learning, Local Solutions: MSM, HIV, and the Law in Sub-Saharan Africa	4.00
Global Call to Action: Eliminating Barriers Related to Increased HIV Prevalence Among Trans Women and Trans Sex Workers Around the World	3.86
Stigma to Strength: An Inter-Generational Reflection on HIV Prevention and MSM Leadership	3.50
Challenges and Opportunities for Global Fund–Led HIV Programs Among MSM and Transgender People in Low- and Middle-Income Countries	3.85
Sexual Health and Happiness Part 2: Findings and Lessons Learned	4.30
Common Bonds/Different Journeys Part 2: Navigating HIV and Health as Ethnic Minority MSM and Transgender People in the Global North	4.00
A Workshop on the WHO Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of HIV and STIs Among MSM and Transgender People	4.00
Treatment 2.0 The Path to Scale-up	4.00
Voices From the Field: New and Innovative Research from Africa, Asia, and North America	4.33
Movie screening of <i>Taboo...Yardies</i>	3.00

The MSMGF also asked attendees to indicate what they liked the most as well as to offer suggestions for making the Pre-Conference better the next time. The main points made from feedback offered are listed below in bullet form (a number of points were repeated by several attendees).

Please let us know what you liked most:

- Michael Kirby, Kevin Fenton, Sexual Health, Networking
- New perspective in HIV prevention objective
- Maurice Tomlinson & Networking Lunch & Act Up Video
- Breakout Sessions, Overall Agenda
- Michael Kirby was excellent & morning session on service provision for MSM/TG was great
- Opening Plenary is very encouraging
- Enjoyed the concrete examples of work on the ground and the focus on MSM and biological and social vulnerability that contributes to the disproportionate impact of HIV
- The energy, organization, and people, well-organized conference with great sessions and topics
- Some very good speakers and presentations in the morning session, very friendly support from staff/volunteers
- Stirring, informative talk regarding human rights and the law
- From Science to Practice and closing remarks/plenary
- Had a great conversation in the afternoon session. Also it was great to reconnect with friends from past conferences
- Networking and knowledge sharing with other activists

- Discussion on continuation prevention
- The venue was great; Global Forum staff/volunteers were wonderful
- Setting the stage for IAC was very good; program booklet very useful
- I liked the speech by Congresswoman Barbara Lee
- Good variation on breakout sessions
- Great reception, good program
- Inspirational workshops
- Catered very well, good food!
- Intergenerational reflection
- Seeing people I've known for many years (ie, family reunion)
- The lunch!
- The handouts (eg, bag, buttons, programs, etc.)
- Bearing witness to the hundreds of activists, leadership. From all over the world, translation services, how well the conference was organized—Bravo!!
- Quality of presentations. Relevance of interventions from the floor (expect debates).
- Engaging TG community
- Diversity of perspectives, the power of bringing the globe into one building
- The setting was beautiful, the size of the meeting rooms, food and opportunities for networking, the summary of major points was excellent
- Opportunities to meet fellow people/activists, sense of being part of a large global movement, highly motivational, ideas that I always get when listening to presentations; it's an environment that challenges my creative thinking
- Newest research findings on PreP/iPrex
- Great tribute to Dr. Robert Carr
- Even with the huge numbers of participants, everything was well thought out, making it very easy for participants. The sessions were thorough; I really enjoyed the pre-conference.
- Inclusion of TG
- The interaction between different attendees; the variety of topics, the organization (thumbs up)
- Having space and time to network with international attendees; concurrent sessions, which allowed for small group discussion; opening plenaries
- Speakers who were informative, inspiring, and focused—a rare trifecta
- Fantastic speakers in plenary; meeting and networking
- Presentations shared—evidence based and speaking to the realities faced at country level
- The pre-conference was well structured and conducted with much thoughtfulness
- JoAnne Keatley's charisma
- Staff organizers were very friendly & helpful; food & coffee break was great; speakers were great but more "high-level" people should have been invited to seek more commitments from them

Please let us know what we could do to make this event better next time:

- Would love to hear more about advocacy strategies. In a lot of sessions there is a tension between single-issue MSM or TG advocacy and the need to build effective broad coalitions that can move a human rights agenda forward

- Workshop rooms were too small; communication beforehand was confusing: late participants were refused online but accepted at the door
- Volunteers should have name tags and programs to pass out
- Too US-focused, acknowledging the US context is fine, but it should have been more international; conference space too small
- Time was not sufficient for us to engage
- The lunch was nonexistent for me since I'm vegan, so I would really appreciate getting some vegan food next time
- Technical scientific information should be presented in a comprehensive relevant way (Fenton)
- Surprisingly, no real discussion about substance use & HIV transmission. How do you spell denial? Please add Organization/Affiliation & Country on name tags
- Share all PowerPoint presentations of the sessions via website after the conference
- Is it possible to have 45-min sessions? That way we could attend more sessions.
- Please make CDs containing all presentations, as one can only attend one at a time but they are all interesting
- It would be nice to have breakfast food; larger concurrent session rooms
- MSM with disabilities; I think is a forgotten topic
- Morning session too long caused by not keeping timeline, missing different main speakers in the morning, missing more topics about structural and social prevention strategies
- More time for Q&A at the concurrent sessions
- More TG participation
- More informal networking opportunities
- More experience from countries
- Moderator at noon workshop was very "in-crowd" not introducing speakers; not very open to non-participants.
- Maybe have 2-day pre-conference so that there is adequate time/move time for sessions (breakouts)
- Maybe bring some art performance
- Make sure that the content of the workshop is aligned with the description in the program
- Limit time in concurrent sessions to no more than 50% review of data to allow for discussion
- Less welcome opening remarks, multiple people introducing other people; more time for an extra breakout session so that we can engage with each other and our work/activism
- We need a larger venue with larger rooms; the space is lovely but too small
- Keep the schedule, it's important to get coffee breaks, time for networking
- It was too COLD! You're gonna kill us with this polar blow!
- It was really hard to have lunch without chairs & tables. The venue is nice but the lobby is very small and networking and coffee breaks; there were too many sessions and too many speakers. I think that fewer concurrent sessions would have been great.
- A workshop on how religious shaming impacts MSM and transgender women and men and what are the ways to address the problem
- Better access to wi-fi. The cell phones that were not silenced or on vibrate. Also, Mr. Tomlinson's speech was too long—especially at the end of the conference.

- Please start the conference at 9:00 am
- While to morning opening plenary had many inspiring parts, it was a bit long
- Great improvement from last conference in organization; keep it up!!
- For Melbourne, create a tiered registration fee, offer scholarships to all who need it, but request everyone else to pay US\$50. This would help you afford a larger space or provide more scholarships.
- Explicitly invite/support participations for representatives of commercial entities relevant for our work: dating websites, tourist agencies, pimps, etc. It would help for them to understand our work and support it more.
- Check-in & registration was disorganized & crowded overall, great but networking eating areas were crowded & loud
- Better preparation of breakout sessions
- AV was a bit hit and miss
- Need more low-income country people...not just US, Australia

ADVOCACY AT AIDS 2012

The MSMGF views the International AIDS Conference as a platform for raising awareness and for educating researchers, donors, and policy makers about the concerns and needs of gay men/MSM and transgender people, especially in light of the heavy toll HIV is taking on our communities, which are criminalized and made targets of discrimination and violence in many countries around the world.

Influencing Policy

MSMGF policy staff met with the newly appointed Most-At-Risk Populations (MARPs) Advisor at the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) and (1) urged the establishment of a dedicated key populations funding pool within PEPFAR, and (2) made recommendations for regional civil society representation at the PEPFAR MSM Guidance training taking place in Thailand at the end of August. MSMGF policy staff also met with US Global AIDS Ambassador Dr. Eric Goosby and Principal Deputy Global AIDS Coordinator Deborah Von Zinkernagel and again advocated for a Key Populations fund, as well as the inclusion of strong human rights language in Secretary Clinton's global HIV address. Ultimately, Secretary Clinton announced a new Key Populations Challenge fund within PEPFAR during her opening plenary at AIDS 2012, as well as funding for implementation science research, and the Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund. [MSMGF Press release: "MSMGF Applauds New U.S. Global AIDS Funding for Key Affected Populations" <http://tinyurl.com/c3usfaf>]

At the White House, MSMGF Senior Policy staff met with senior executives—including the Director for Human Rights and Gender on the National Security Staff, and a USAID Deputy Administrator—to discuss the advancement of international LGBT rights issues alongside advocates from around the world, some of whom were recommended by the MSMGF via the Council for Global Equality. Senior policy staff also worked to create dialogue between Steering Committee Member Dr. Paul Semugoma (Uganda), who delivered the AIDS 2012 plenary address on MSM, and key policy players, setting up a

meeting with legislative staff from US Congressional offices and a brown bag discussion with NGO policy advocates from the MSM Policy Working group.

New and Ongoing Partnerships

On Friday, July 20, the MSMGF cohosted a joint welcome reception with the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+) and the World Bank (see description below). Keynote addresses by UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe and World Bank Vice President for Human Development Tamar Atinc elevated the critical importance of human rights in the global HIV response among gay men and other MSM. Over months of planning, the MSMGF deepened its strong working relationship with World Bank GLOBE, the LGBT employees' network, and looks forward to future collaborations.

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MSMGF Senior Policy Staff had an introductory meeting with the Senior Advisor to the Director Office of Global Affairs at the US Department of Health and Human Services, to discuss a possible resolution at the WHO to affirm health-related issues on sexual orientation and gender identity. Moreover, the complete MSMGF Policy Team attended a breakfast reception hosted by the Hon. Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA), at her DC office. The team thanked the Congresswoman for her keynote address at the MSMGF Pre-Conference on July 21, and further cemented relationships with the office's Legislative Director and Communications Director.

Public Policy Advocacy Statements

MSMGF Senior Policy Staff coordinated with the global HIV networks dedicated to key populations—the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP); the International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD); the Center of Excellence for Transgender Health (CoE); Global Action for Trans* Equality (GATE); and the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+) to jointly issue the *Robert Carr Doctrine*. This document articulates principles for a meaningful HIV response among key affected populations, and espouses the ethos promoted by the late Dr. Robert Carr. [The Robert Carr Doctrine](#) was officially launched via joint press release among the endorsing networks, and also formed the basis of the remarks offered by MSMGF Co-Chair Othman Mellouk at the Robert Carr “Getting to Zero Bullshit” Memorial Lecture.

MSMGF Communications and Senior Policy Staff also worked to help shape remarks made by the Executive Director of L'Association de Lutte Contre le SIDA (ALCS) Marrakech as the sole civil society speaker commenting on a Symposia Session entitled “The Global Fund: The Next Five Years” alongside Global Fund General Manager Gabriel Jaramillo and US Global AIDS Ambassador Eric Goosby. The remarks emphasized the critical importance of maintaining the unique demand-driven model of the fund; of maintaining civil society engagement mechanisms as the Fund goes through its transition; and of communicating changes clearly and effectively with civil society, CCMs, and recipient nations alike.

Speaking Out Updates and other Advocacy Trainings:

The MSMGF conducted a total of 3 panel updates on *Speaking Out*, the MSMGF's advocacy initiative on HIV, MSM, and human rights. These updates featured lead partners from all 3 regional adaptations (Vietnam, Honduras, Middle East/North Africa). The sessions took place at the MSMGF Pre-Conference, at the MSMGF Networking Zone in the Global Village, and in the Global Village Session Room,



respectively. As well, MSMGF staff hosted a networking dinner before the conference began to put all lead partners in touch with one another.

MSMGF policy staff likewise participated in other advocacy training curricula opportunities—the Levi-Strauss “Advocacy 2.0” training, advocacy training called *Know It, Prove It, Change It*, the Hivos meeting on Emerging Regional MSM/TG Networks, and the ITPC workshop on Grassroots Activism and HIV Treatment Access. Finally, Senior Policy Staff sat on a panel, giving an oral presentation on legal barriers to accessing generic ARVs, and was a panelist on a discussion around emerging LGBT civil rights issues.

MSM NETWORKING ZONE AT THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

The MSMGF partnered with several regional networks of MSM, including AMShEeR, APCOM, ASICAL, COC, PSN, China MSM Forum, NBGMAC, and the South Asian DIVA Project, and other stakeholders and allies to produce the MSM networking zone devoted to the health and human rights of gay men and other MSM worldwide. The Networking Zone’s primary objective was to offer a safe and creative space for gay/MSM advocates to network, share experiences, exchange ideas, and coordinate advocacy strategies towards stronger, more inclusive HIV responses across our respective regions.

Titled *Connect, Communicate, Collaborate*, the MSM Networking Zone (MSM NWZ) had an average of 300 visitors per day from Monday, July 23, to Thursday, July 26, for an estimated 1200 visitors during the week. Visitors and attendees included MSM and transgender advocates from different regions, researchers, health educators, UNAIDS staff, people living with HIV, women, sexologists, doctors, students, and community members from the DC area.

The MSM NWZ had 1 main activities: (1) a photo booth where visitors took photos at the NWZ, received them through their email accounts instantly, and received a printed copy; (2) material display and distribution, including condoms and lubricants, policy documents on MSM and HIV, HIV prevention material, and human rights documents; and (3) sessions, presentations and workshops where participants engaged in conversations and exchanged experiences and ideas. The MSM NWZ had a total of 18 sessions during the week. On average, each session had between 15 and 30 attendees.

Advocates and allies used the MSM NWZ to meet and hold meetings at the available space. It also became a meeting point for many people.

Sessions provided a wide range of topics for a wide range of communities, from MSM advocates to transgender advocates to research and policy. The following table reflects the sessions hosted at the Networking Zone during the conference week:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Respect, Protect, and Fulfill: Guidance on Community Engagement for MSM/HIV-Related Research in Rights Constrained Settings. Presented by amfAR and partners.	African LGBT Activists and the Impact of HIV/AIDS in Their Community. Presented by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.	Global Lube Access Mobilization (GLAM). Presented by amfAR.	AIDS Accountability International.
Speaking Out: MSM-Led Advocacy in Central America, North Africa, and Southeast Asia. Presented by the MSMGF.	On The Map: Ensuring Africa's Place in Rectal Microbicide Research and Advocacy. Organized by IRMA.	Presentation/discussion: Is it "Celebration Time"? What Needs to Happen for MSM to Make the Most of ARV-Based Prevention (PrEP, Rectal Microbicides and Treatment as Prevention) Around the World? Presented by AVAC-IRMA.	MSM and the MENA Region. Conducted in French by MSM activists from the MENA region.
COC Netherlands hosted activities with its LGBT regional and local partners from around the world. By COC.	The Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM) and its coalition members hosted a wide range of activities, including: Panel/round-table discussion on GFATM and DIVA implementation: Challenges and Responses; video: "Ordinary Lives: Extraordinary People."	Mainstreaming African MSM/LGBT Issues into the Broader Human Rights Agenda. Presented by African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHer).	US National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition
Transgender, MSM, and Overlooked: HIV Vulnerability Among Transgender Men who Have Sex With Men	Panel discussion: Criminalize Hate, not HIV. Presented by the International Planned Parenthood Federation.	2011 Report on MSM Human Rights and Universal Access to Care in Latin America. Presented in English and Spanish by Asociación para la Salud Integral y Ciudadanía de América Latina y el Caribe (ASICAL).	MSMGF Trans Ref. Group met to discuss trans presence, participation and visibility at AIDS 2012. Partnership Study Presentation: Drug Use Amongst MSM: Implications for Harm Reduction. By Harm Reduction International.

MEDIA

The MSMGF and the MSMGF Pre-Conference, including our advocacy initiatives like Missing Voices and The Robert Carr Doctrine, were cited in 93 articles during the AIDS 2012 media cycle. This is a significant increase over the coverage we received for AIDS 2010 in Vienna (53 articles), which in itself was a significant increase over coverage received for AIDS 2008 in Mexico City (32 articles). These articles appeared in top-tier general interest outlets like *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *KQED*, *The Huffington Post*, *USA Today*, *Prensa Latina*, and *Radio Habana Cuba*, as well as popular special-interest outlets like *Metro Weekly*, *NAM aidsmap*, *The Bilerico Project*, [TheBody.com](#), [POZ.com](#), *Washington Blade*, *News from Africa*, [AIDSMEDS.com](#), *Windy City Times*, and *The Advocate*. They are listed below:

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[The global view of MSM & HIV](#)

Windy City Times
August 22, 2012

[Road to an AIDS-Free World](#)

Gay News Network
August 20, 2012

[The Global View of Men Who Have Sex with Men & HIV](#)

Pride Source
August 16, 2012

[LGBT In Lebanon: A Chance For Change](#)

FrontiersLA
August 16, 2012

[KIRB Him !](#)

The Pink Report
August 11, 2012

[What kind of prevention do gay men need?](#)

NAM aidsmap
August 6, 2012

[Guest Blog: Facing the Issues of MSM and HIV](#)

Stay Healthy! Louisiana
August 6, 2012

[AIDS 2012: From stigmatization to strength in a battle against hatred](#)

Key Correspondents
August 1, 2012

[Meet the Men of the IAC](#)



Washington Blade
July 31, 2012

[XIX CONFERENCIA INTERNACIONAL DE SIDA Transgéneros logran visibilidad](#)

Mujer Transgenero
July 31, 2012

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[Keeping Up with AIDS 2012](#)

Edge Boston
July 30, 2012

[Men who have sex with men: the Caribbean reality](#)

Trinidad Express
July 29, 2012

[Stigma An Apparent Barrier in Achieving AIDS-free Generation](#)

KQED: State of Health
July 27, 2012

[HIV in Asia - Transforming the agenda for 2012 and beyond](#)

AFAO Talks
July 27, 2012

[IAC: A Supposedly Inclusive Event That Falls Short](#)

A View from the Cave
July 27, 2012

[AIDS 2012 Pre-Conference on Gay Men and Transgender People](#)

Baltimore OUTloud
July 27, 2012

[July 26, 2012: AIDS 2012 Daily Summary](#)

Human Rights and HIV/AIDS
July 27, 2012

[Rush Hour Reads: Homophobia in the News](#)

The Bay Citizen
July 27, 2012

[Conferencia de sida demanda atención a poblaciones vulnerables](#)

Prensa Latina
July 26, 2012

[Presentan resultados del programa cubano de VIH en Estados Unidos](#)



Radio Habana Cuba
July 26, 2012

[Research on Gay Men and Transgender People You WON'T See at AIDS 2012](#)

The Body Pro
July 26, 2012

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[Men Who Have Sex With Men Most Affected by HIV](#)

UCSF AIDS 2012 Blog
July 26, 2012

[Paul Semugoma: I am Afraid...but I am a Human Being and We Live with Hope](#)

IAS AIDS Conference
July 26, 2012

[Gay men and HIV: unheard research published](#)

[PinkPaper.com](#)
July 26, 2012

[Audio: Christian Fung and Noah Metheny on Advocacy Efforts for MSM](#)

Center for Strategic & International Studies
July 26, 2012

[Homophobia A Factor In Spread of HIV](#)

KQED
July 26, 2012

[Global Forum on MSM & HIV releases report of rejected AIDS 2012 abstracts](#)

Metro Weekly
July 26, 2012

[Crime And Punishment: An International Disclosure Dilemma](#)

Positive Lite
July 26, 2012

[International AIDS Conference: Wednesday - Washington Post LiveBlog](#)

Washington Post
July 25, 2012

[The Sobering Truth of HIV among MSM](#)

Inside Story
July 25, 2012

[Nyheter: Aidskonferens Washington 2](#)



Poz & Proud
July 25, 2012

[HIV/AIDS Focus: MSM and Transgender](#)

South Florida Gay News
July 25, 2012

[Rising Infection Rates, Stigma and Discrimination](#)

In The Life Media
July 25, 2012

[MSMGF Pre-Conferencia en AIDS 2012: Videos, Fotografías y otra Documentación ya está Disponible!](#)

Concepto VIH/SIDA
July 24, 2012

[Facing the Issues of MSM and HIV](#)

AIDS United Blog
July 24, 2012

[From Prevalence to Homophobia - MSM and HIV](#)

Metro Weekly
July 24, 2012

[New US Global AIDS Funding For Key Affected Populations, Including MSM, Sex Workers Announced](#)

Identity Kenya
July 24, 2012

[A glimpse into the realities of Caribbean MSM](#)

UNAIDS Caribbean
July 23, 2012

[Rising Infection Rates, Stigma and Discrimination Addressed at AIDS 2012 Pre-Conference on Men Having Sex With Men and Transgender People](#)

[TheBody.com](#)
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MSMGF RECEPTION AT THE WORLD BANK

On Friday, July 20, the MSMGF cohosted a joint welcome reception with the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+) and the World Bank, with nearly 600 attendants. Keynote addresses were given by UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe and World Bank Vice President for Human Development, Tamar Atinc, elevating the critical importance of human rights in the global HIV response among gay men and other men who have sex with men. Other leaders from the MSMGF and GNP+ also spoke, including George Ayala (Executive Director, MSMGF), Othman Mellouck (Co-Chair, MSMGF Steering Committee), Don Baxter (Co-Chair, MSMGF Steering Committee), Kevin Moody (CEO, GNP+), and Anna Zakowicz (Co-Chair, GNP+).

Over months of planning, the MSMGF deepened its strong working relationship with World Bank GLOBE, the LGBT employees' network, and looks forward to future collaborations. Indeed, Fabrice Houdart, President of GLOBE, was also a guest speaker at the welcome reception.

MSMGF YOUTH AND TRANSGENDER REFERENCE GROUPS

The MSMGF convened its youth and transgender reference groups during the week of the International AIDS Conference in Washington DC. Youth Reference Group (YRG) members gave presentations on health and human rights issues facing young MSM (YMSM) in each member's respective regions. Regional overviews were presented on Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, the Caribbean, and West Africa. Country overviews were presented on the United States, Peru, Paraguay, Lebanon, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Singapore, Korea, Brunei, Burma, the Philippines, Guyana, Ireland, Armenia, and Nigeria. Youth reference group members in attendance were

- Daniel Townsend, Jamaica
- Miguel Angel Ceccarelli Calle, Peru
- Daniel Driffin, United States
- Sergio Lopez, Paraguay
- Khemraj Persaud, Guyana
- Anthony Adero, Kenya
- Oliver Anene, Nigeria
- Johnny Tohme, Lebanon
- Thu Yain Pye Aung, Singapore
- Donte Smith, United States
- Evans Odiambo Opany, Kenya
- Ifeanyi Orazulike, Nigeria
- Joseph Sewedo Akoro, Nigeria
- Stephen Chukwumah, Nigeria
- Ashot Gevorgyan, Armenia

- Cathal Kavanagh, Ireland
- Mohamed Alborgi, Egypt
- Adeshola Fabunmi, Nigeria

Common key issues identified across all locations were

- 1) YMSM leadership of health and human rights initiatives
 - a) Need meaningful involvement of YMSM in decision making
 - b) Need capacity building for YMSM, for advocacy and programming
- 2) Gaps in data concerning YMSM
 - a) Need for anonymous surveys
 - b) Need data on sexual knowledge and behavior
 - c) Need data on internalized homophobia
 - d) Data will help secure funding for YMSM initiatives
- 3) Services for YMSM
 - a) Need for guidelines on comprehensive services for YMSM
- 4) Stigma and discrimination
 - a) Need to raise awareness of YMSM
 - b) Need to address issues around coming out
- 5) Additional issues
 - a) Sexual violence
 - b) Migration
 - c) Human rights approach
 - d) Greater involvement of YMSM living with HIV
 - e) Care and support for YMSM living with HIV
 - f) Legal barriers preventing YMSM from accessing services and information

The group decided to form 3 working groups moving forward:

- 1) Research
 - a) Point out specific issues to investigate
 - b) Set timeline
- 2) Advocacy
 - a) Identify target issues
 - b) Develop advocacy strategies
- 3) Programs and Services
 - a) Include strengthening community systems, leadership, and sustainability
 - b) Include issues concerning sexual education
 - c) Include health services and education of healthcare workers
 - d) Identify initiatives to help inform the way services are provided

The groups will have regular meetings and online communication to develop a working strategy for each theme, including a timeline and discreet programs to help achieve the group's goals on under each theme. The full YRG agreed that each working group will have 8 weeks to develop a draft strategy, which they will then share with the full YRG for their review, comments, and edits.

The MSMGF's Transgender Reference Group (TRG) met face-to-face for the very first time in Washington DC. Their meeting took place over a 2-day period (Monday, July 23 and Friday, July 27) and was facilitated by Hutson Innis (National Coalition for LGBT Health) and Jamison Green (Center of Excellence for Transgender Health). Participation of TRG members at the face-to-face meeting and at AIDS 2012 was made possible through support from individual organizations affiliated with TRG members and by a grant from Open Society Foundation to the MSMGF.

The TRG meeting in Washington DC was aimed (1) at clarifying the vision, mission, and overall purpose of the TRG and (2) at establishing mechanisms for strengthening communication, coordination, and work flow across the TRG members and between the TRG and the MSMGF Secretariat. Concrete outcomes of the TRG meeting are noted below:

- 1) Established process for outcomes-oriented and purposeful revising of the current TRG Terms of Reference with a focus on individual membership criteria;
- 2) Decided to expand current membership of the TRG to include the most vulnerable transgender communities and individuals living in regions currently not represented on the TRG;
- 3) Identified need for priority setting to better articulate the health, HIV, and human rights concerns of transgender people at the global level; and
- 4) Reinforced the need for continued and strengthened partnership with the MSMGF to elevate transgender voices at the global level and to mobilize resources to expand work on behalf of transgender communities worldwide.

Participants included

- Mauro Cabral (TRG Co-Chair), Argentina
- Jana Villayzan Aguilar, Peru
- Justus Einfeld, United States
- Aram Hosie, Australia
- JoAnne Keatley (TRG Co-Chair), United States
- Amitava Sarkar, India
- Khartini Slamah, Malaysia
- Maria Sundin, Sweden

Justus Einfeld and Khartini Slamah participated via satellite, given their presence at the Kolkata Sex Work Freedom Festival.

The TRG is deeply grateful to Luis Gutierrez-Mock for taking meeting minutes and to Danielle Castro for offering Spanish language interpretation support.

PRESENTATIONS GIVEN BY MSMGF STAFF AT AIDS 2012

MSMGF staff members and consultants took an active role during the conference as presenters. Specifically, the MSMGF participated in 5 separate presentations, which are listed below:

Global Village:

- Regional Advocacy Dialogue: HIV & MSM
- Putting the Pieces Together: Responding to the Needs of Young Men Who Have Sex with Men and the HIV Epidemic

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Oral:

- Homophobia and Access to HIV Services Among Young Men Who Have Sex with Men (YMSM)

Posters:

- PrEP, HIV Testing, and Treatment Access Among Gay and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men: Social and structural barriers and facilitators in the Global South and Global North
- Predictors of Knowledge and Interest for PEP and PrEP Use to Prevent HIV: Results from a global, multilingual survey of men who have sex with men (MSM)

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Description	Amount
Co-Sponsorships	(\$456 345)
Total Personnel	\$12 964
Total Staff Travel & Registration	\$70 051
Total Consultant Travel & Registration	\$13 192
Venue – Meeting Space, Catering, A/V & Interpretation	
Venue – Meeting Space	\$6265
Venue – Catering	\$16 838
Venue – A/V, Streaming & Other Equipment	\$8825
Interpretation – Interpreters & Equipment	<u>\$9290</u>
Subtotal Venue, F&B, A/V & Interpretation	\$41 218
Consultancy	\$30 000
Volunteer Support	\$213
Concurrent Session – <i>Taboo Yardies</i> Screening	\$3500
Photographer	\$1700
Reception	\$21 231
Plenary Session Video & Subtitling	\$10 700
Press	\$4201
Materials	<u>\$11 548</u>
Total Pre-Conference	\$124 310
Total Global Village	\$5253
Total Travel & AIDS 2012 Registration – Scholarships	\$213 103
Total Planning Meetings	<u>\$17 417</u>
Total Expenses	\$456 290
Net	(\$ 55)