



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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](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 (AMShER), 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  
Carousel, 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  
Ciudadanasx: 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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