

# ACTIVISTS ASSEMBLE!!!

MONDAY, JULY 23

17:00-18:30 WELCOME RECEPTION

Join us for casual conversations and refreshments as we officially launch the **Human Rights and HIV/AIDS Networking Zone!!!**



## TUESDAY, JULY 24

### 9:00-10:30 MORNING MOVIES

Start your day with compelling short films about human rights and unjust HIV criminalisation.

### 11:00-12:30 AGEISM AND HIV

*The Gray Zone: Ageism as a human rights issue in the global response to HIV*

The new face of HIV is an aging one. Today people over age 50 remain sexually active and vulnerable to HIV. People living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral treatment are living long lives; however, many older adults living with HIV (OAWH) are also coping with the lasting impact of untreated HIV, aging-related comorbidity, and loss. Many feel isolated and uncertain about the future as the focus turns to “the end of AIDS,” a sign that we are past due in having OAWH at the planning table. This panel is co-hosted by *Realize* and the International Federation on Ageing.

**Mona Balani** (India HIV/AIDS Alliance)  
**Jason Shepherd** (Caribbean Regional Network+)  
**Agabe Tu'inukuafe** (Tonga Leitis)  
**Axel Vanderperre** (UTOPIA\_BXL)

*Moderator: John McCullagh* (CATIE, Ontario AIDS Network, ACT)

### 13:00-14:30 HIV ADVOCACY AND STORYTELLING

*Making advocacy pop: using cultural interventions to create narrative change*

Creating a social, political and legal environment that protects and promotes human rights, and enables an effective response to HIV, must include changing dominant social narratives and perceptions. Activists and organisations of all sizes worldwide are using pop culture and various cultural interventions to educate and make change within their specific contexts. Panelists will share their success stories and practical tips to stimulate creativity in this exciting realm.

*Speakers to be announced*

### 14:30-16:00 HUMAN RIGHTS LITERACY

*Accountability in the time of disruption: The power of treatment and rights literacy of community defenders*

Advocacy4Change happens when capacities are strengthened. At a regional and national level, results have included strengthening monitoring and accountability of governments, advocacy and influence, and facilitating consensus building on key human rights challenges facing women, young people, sexual and gender minorities, and other marginalised groups in the HIV response. Join us to hear about how change was sparked by capacity-strengthening interventions — including legal and treatment literacy in advancing community mobilisation efforts.

**Daughtie Amarula** (African Sex Workers Alliance, Sex Worker Academy Africa)

**Pashang Waiba** (Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs)  
**Marcela Romero** (RedLacTrans)  
*Moderator: He-Jin Kim* (ARASA)

### 16:30-17:30 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

*Launch of the ARASA Catalytic small grants publication*

ARASA is delighted to launch its second small grants publication showcasing 14 case studies of 16 community-led organisations in Southern and East Africa. Funded by ARASA, the small grants implement innovative projects addressing human rights barriers related to HIV and TB.

**Michaela Clayton** (ARASA)  
**Victor Mhango** (CHREAA)  
**Carol Navina** (CITAM)  
**Amantle Unami Mashumba** (BONELA)

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

### 9:00-10:30 MORNING MOVIES

Start your day with compelling short films about human rights and unjust HIV criminalisation.

### 11:00-12:30 HIV FUNDING

*What's rushing in as HIV donors rush out? The future of health as a human right*

HIV advocates have been sounding the alarm about the impact of donor withdrawal on the human rights of people who use drugs, sex workers and the LGBT community. We have spent less time considering how to advocate for our rights in the face of new funding partnerships. This session will attempt to demystify some of the new financing models that are rolling in to “replace aid,” and provoke a discussion about the evolving role of advocates in this new financing world.

**Jonas Bagas** (APCASO)  
**Mariëlle Bemelmans** (Wemos)  
**Rico Gustav** (International Civil Society Support)  
*Moderator: Julia Greenberg* (Open Society Foundations)

### 14:30-16:00 RELIGION AND HIV

*Religious fundamentalism: Regression in laws and policies*

The growing influence of religious fundamentalism continues to shape regressions in law and policies. These have had adverse effects on the HIV responses and access to sexual and reproductive health services, as well as on the full realisation of human rights for women, young people, sexual and gender minorities, and other marginalised groups. This session will reflect on innovative strategies that have resulted from strong alliances between progressive religious leaders, faith institutions and civil societies aimed at reversing this tide.

**Phumzile Mabizela** (INERELA+)  
**Jide Macaulay** (House of Rainbow)  
*Additional speakers to be announced*  
*Moderator: Bruce Tushabe* (ARASA)

### 16:30-18:00 HIV CRIMINALISATION

*Uniting forces to end HIV criminalisation*

With at least 278 prosecutions globally in the past two years, HIV criminalisation remains a topical example of persisting discriminations against people living with HIV. But activists and their allies are fighting back. Come listen to and get inspired by HIV Justice Worldwide — a growing international movement against HIV criminalisation and learn about how medical experts are mobilising to bring science to justice.

**Edwin Bernard** (HIV Justice Network)  
**Prof. Paula Munderi** (International Association of Providers of AIDS Care)  
**Sasha Volgina** (GNP+)  
*Moderator: Naina Khana* (Positive Women's Network - USA)

## THURSDAY, JULY 26

### 9:00-10:30 MORNING MOVIES

Start your day with compelling short films about human rights and unjust HIV criminalisation.

### 11:00-12:30 REGIONS IN CRISIS

*Human rights “hot spots” in the HIV response*

Extrajudicial executions of people who use drugs. Crackdowns on LGBT rights activists and community members. Surveillance and restrictions on civil society organisations. The collapse of health services and the rule of law. This session will explore what human rights advocates are doing in countries where these things are happening, and what global solidarity, from civil societies to international organisations to governments, could look like.

**Binod Gurung** (Asian Network of People who Use Drugs)  
**John Kashiha** (Community Health Education Services & Advocacy)

**Allan Maleche** (Kenya Legal & Ethical Issues Network on HIV and AIDS)

**Mary Ann Torres** (ICASO)  
*Moderator: Richard Elliott* (Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network)

### 14:30-16:00 HIV LEGAL STRATEGIES

*What's law got to do with it? Legal strategies to uphold human rights*

The impact of law on HIV has long been recognized. Strong legal protections can protect the rights of marginalised communities. Discriminatory laws undermine HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Activists use legal strategies such as strategic litigation, law reform advocacy, and international and regional human rights advocacy to uphold the rights of those affected by HIV. These strategies have helped to hold states accountable for the right to health and paved the way for progressive policy environments and rights-affirming health responses.

**Sandra Ka Hon Chu** (Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network)  
**Jody Lee Fredericks** (lawyer, South Africa)  
**Max Malyshev** (Andrey Rytkov Foundation)  
**Annabel Raw** (Southern Africa Litigation Centre)  
*Moderator: Lynette Mabote* (ARASA)

### 16:30-18:00 NO REGION LEFT BEHIND

*Disparities in the HIV response*

Immense progress has been made in the fight against HIV but this progress isn't universal. In 2016, the MENA region and Eastern Europe saw a rise in AIDS-related deaths. Four in five children living with HIV still can't get treatment in Western and Central Africa. Lack of funding, criminalisation of key populations, religious fundamentalism, and armed conflict deprive people living with HIV of their right to health. This session will highlight such geographical disparities and tireless efforts of activists to secure care for all.

**Prof. Michel Kazatchkine** (Special adviser of UNAIDS on Eastern Europe)  
**Dr. Mit Philips** (Medecins sans frontières)  
**Yahia Zaidi** (International Treatment Preparedness Coalition)  
*Moderator: Cécile Kazatchkine* (Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network)



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