HIV2020: Community Reclaiming the Global Response

Community advocates can use these key talking points to spread the word about HIV2020 in conferences, meetings, discussions, and dialogues in the lead up to the 5-7th of July in Mexico. Making HIV2020 a success will reaffirm the central role of communities in the HIV response and will be a critical opportunity to broadcast our voices, issues, and priorities on a global stage.

In an extraordinary show of solidarity, an international group of people living with HIV, gay and bisexual men, people who use drugs, sex workers, transgender people, youth, and indigenous advocates are working together to design an alternative event specifically tailored to the needs of frontline community members. Entitled HIV2020: Community Reclaiming the Global Response, the event is scheduled to take place in Mexico City, July 5-7, 2020, and will run concurrently with the first half of the international AIDS conference.

Why HIV 2020?
Against the recommendations of global community-led networks, the International AIDS Society (IAS) chose the United States as the site for its next International AIDS Conference in 2020. Given the Trump administration’s discriminatory immigration laws, detention and family separation policies, and the country’s worsening human rights conditions, advocates believe that the US is an inhospitable environment for an international conference of this size and scope. Additionally, travel restrictions imposed by the U.S. on sex workers and people who use drugs make it very difficult for members of these communities to enter the country.

The IAS’ decision creates a dilemma for many in the global HIV movement and reveals a willingness by mainstream HIV actors to tolerate the discrimination of black and brown migrants, people who use drugs, sex workers, and transgender people in U.S. immigration and travel policies. The IAS’ decision also resurfaces questions about the community-relevance of large, multi-million dollar conferences in the context of shrinking investment in the global HIV response.

Conference Goal
The overarching goal of HIV2020 is to provide a safe alternative for individuals who are unable or unwilling to enter the U.S. in 2020, as well as those who cannot afford to attend the International AIDS Conference. It will also offer opportunities to reaffirm the leading role communities play in the global HIV response.

Themes for Conference
HIV2020 is key population-led, inter-disciplinary, and sex positive, and will focus on the following themes:

- Unfinished business of HIV, including unabated HIV incidence among key populations, and ongoing criminalisation, stigmatisation, and discrimination
- Access to quality HIV treatment and health services
- Community- and key population-led movements and programmes
- Funding/investing in community- and key population-led responses to HIV
- Intersectionality and diversity within key population communities
- Intersectional responses, that is linking HIV with broader health, social justice, and human rights movements.

“… people living with HIV, gay and bisexual men, people who use drugs, sex workers, transgender people, youth, and indigenous advocates are working together to design an alternative event...”
Goals of Conference

- *HIV2020* will use the international visibility of the conference to elevate the situation facing people living with HIV and key populations in Mexico, and in the region
- To build intersectional solidarity across communities and movements
- To raise awareness among International AIDS Conference delegates convening in San Francisco and Oakland about the political concerns of bringing the conference to the U.S.
- To positively influence IAS’ decision making on the location, structure, and content of future International AIDS Conferences, to ensure key population concerns are respected and heard
- To model innovative learning formats and equitable exchange on biomedical science and its real-world application with communities
- To have conversations and debates unlikely to take place at the International AIDS Conference, whilst showcasing research led by, and centering, the lived experiences of people living with, and disproportionately affected by, HIV.

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How to Get Involved

- **As an endorser.** We ask endorsers to issue a statement of solidarity and commit to disseminating information about HIV2020 as it becomes available.
- **As an organiser.** We ask organisers to join organising efforts, which will include participating in work groups.
- **As a donor.** Funding for HIV2020 will be key to its success. There are many ways to fund, including ensuring that interested community advocates with minimal financial means can attend.
- **As a participant and promoter.** We ask community mobilisers to widely share key information, messages, and dates, and mobilise communities to submit expressions of interest and join HIV2020.

In the countdown to the first key population and community-led alternative gathering to the International AIDS Conference, help us spread the word on reframing and co-creating the future HIV response.

For questions and more information visit: [www.hiv2020.org](http://www.hiv2020.org)