



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AIDS 2014 Melbourne Declaration calls for the eradication of discrimination against people living with or at risk of HIV, to ensure equal access for all people to HIV prevention, treatment and care

The programme of the 20th International AIDS Conference is now online

Friday, 16 May 2014 (Geneva, Switzerland) – A declaration affirming that non-discrimination is fundamental to an evidence-based response to HIV and effective public health programmes was announced today by the organizers of the 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014), to be held in Melbourne, Australia, from 20-25 July 2014.

“The enforcement of discriminatory and criminalising laws and policies against Key Affected Populations is deeply alarming.” said Professor Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, AIDS 2014 International Chair, President of the International AIDS Society (IAS) and Director of the Regulation of Retroviral Infections Unit at the Institut Pasteur in Paris. “Such practices clearly violate basic human rights and heavily undermine HIV programmes by posing barriers to access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care. With the declaration we want to reiterate that every individual has the same rights and dignity as everyone else as we are born equal and part of the human family. ”

All individuals and organizations involved in the global response to HIV and AIDS are encouraged to visit and sign the declaration at www.aids2014.org/declaration.aspx and to share it with their networks.

“If we really want to change the course of HIV we must make sure that nobody is left behind. AIDS 2014 will be a truly global, inclusive conference and will reflect the principles of the declaration” commented Professor Sharon Lewin, Local Co-Chair of AIDS 2014, Head of the Department of Infectious Diseases, Alfred Hospital and Monash University and Co-Head of the Centre for Biomedical Research at the Burnet Institute in Melbourne. “We are excited to offer a strong conference programme exploring in great depth all the hot issues in the three programme areas: Science, Community, and Leadership and Accountability. As part of the programme, the Global Village and Youth Programme will offer a dynamic a vibrant platform for youth, activists and community representatives”.

The AIDS 2014 programme is already available:

http://www.aids2014.org/WebContent/File/AIDS2014_Sessions_by_Date_and_Time.pdf

The current list includes: plenaries, special sessions; regional sessions, symposia sessions oral abstract sessions, poster discussion sessions and workshops. The interactive AIDS 2014 programme with all abstracts listed will be available at the end of May through the Programme-At-A-Glance at www.aids2014.org.

“AIDS 2014 will investigate the current and future scenarios of HIV with a focus on co-infections and co-morbidities, HIV cure and vaccine findings, paediatric and adolescent HIV, and HIV financing and investments. A substantial part of the programme will be also dedicated to the challenges faced by key affected populations to access to HIV prevention, treatment and care”, added Professor Lewin.

The Hon. Tony Abbot, Australia Prime Minister, is featured in an AIDS 2014 welcome video which includes The Hon. David Davis, Victorian Minister for Health and Aging; Robert Doyle, Lord Mayor of Melbourne; Sam Venning, President of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Victoria; and the two Conference Co-Chairs, Professor Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Professor Sharon Lewin.

The video is available here: <http://youtu.be/ZvK9jxPMWgs>

ENDS

Notes to Editors

All media are encouraged to register as early as possible. Registering will automatically place media representatives on a database enabling them to receive important press announcements in the lead up to the International AIDS Conference.

For more information on media registration process and requirements please visit:

<http://www.aids2014.org/Default.aspx?pageld=668>

All visitors to Australia must have a valid visa before boarding their plain regardless the length of stay. For more information about visit requirements please visit:

<http://www.aids2014.org/Default.aspx?pageld=611>

AIDS 2014 on Social Media

Facebook: www.facebook.com/InternationalAIDSConference

Twitter: [#AIDS2014](https://twitter.com/AIDS_conference)

LinkedIn: InternationalAIDSConference

YouTube: www.youtube.com/iasaidsconference

About AIDS 2014

The 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014) is the premier gathering for those working in the field of HIV, including scientists, medical practitioners, activists, policymakers, people living with HIV and others committed to ending the epidemic. It will be a tremendous opportunity for researchers from around the world to share the latest scientific advances in the field, learn from one another's expertise, and develop strategies for advancing all facets of our collective efforts to treat and prevent HIV. AIDS 2014 is expected to convene over 14,000 participants from nearly 200 countries, including between 800-1,000 journalists. The conference will be held from 20–25 July 2014 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

AIDS 2014 Conference Organization

AIDS 2014 is convened by the IAS and permanent partners the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+); the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO); the International Community of Women with HIV/AIDS (ICW), and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Non-permanent partners are the Positive Women's Network and Sidaction.

The Australian based partners are: the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM); and the National Association of people with HIV Australia (NAPWHA).

The Asia Pacific Partners are: The Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW); the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific (ASAP); and the National AIDS Research of India (NARI).

About the IAS

The International AIDS Society (IAS) is the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals, with over 16,000 members from more than 177 countries working at all levels of the global response to AIDS. The IAS members include researchers from all disciplines, clinicians, public health and community practitioners on the frontlines of the epidemic, as well as policy and programme planners.

The IAS is custodian of the biennial International AIDS Conference, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, 20-25 July 2014 and lead organizer of the IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, which will be held in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, 19-22 July 2015.

www.iasociety.org | www.aids2014.org | www.ias2015.org

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