XIX International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2012) Secretariat announces two off-site conference hubs for sex workers and people who use drugs

Record number of abstracts submitted

Full Conference programme to be launched online Friday 8 June

Thursday 10 May, 2012 (Geneva, Switzerland, and Washington, D.C., USA)--The AIDS 2012 secretariat will partner with the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) and the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) to organize two conference hubs off-site in India and Ukraine to ensure the participation of those delegates who cannot attend the XIX International AIDS Conference event in Washington, D.C., taking place 22-27 July.

From 21 to 27 July, NSWP will host the “Sex Workers Freedom Festival” in Calcutta, India, while EHRN will convene “AIDS 2012: Ensuring that our voice is heard,” a pre-conference consultation in Kiev, Ukraine, 9–10 July 2012, for people living with HIV, people who use drugs, and representatives of other key affected populations.

Additionally, EHRN will host a post-conference hub in Kiev, 10 September 2012, highlighting the critical issues related to harm reduction be presented at AIDS 2012.

“In order to effectively respond to the HIV epidemic we need science, leadership and community to act together,” said Elly Katabira, AIDS 2012 International Chair and President of the International AIDS Society (IAS). “To reach this goal, the inclusion of key affected populations is essential. We can announce that the conference programme includes over 50% of all non-abstract driven sessions focused on topics related to key affected populations, including men who have sex with men, transgender individuals and people who use drugs.”

In total, 11,715 abstracts were received for AIDS 2012, a 15% increase over the previous International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010) in Vienna, Austria. After an intensive review process, 3,600 abstracts (31%) were accepted to ensure the delivery of highest-quality presentations. Abstracts from key affected populations mirror this trend.

“We are excited to offer a strong programme and we are certain that AIDS 2012 will represent a defining moment in the history of HIV,” said AIDS 2012 U.S. Co-Chair Diane Havlir, of the University of California, San Francisco.

The AIDS 2012 Secretariat also announced two new additional plenary speakers:
• Linda Scruggs, AIDS Alliance for Children (United States), *Making Women Count: a Comprehensive Agenda* (Wednesday 25 July)
• Debbie McMillian, Transgender Health Empowerment (United States), *People Who Use Drugs* *(provisional title)*.

The full AIDS 2012 conference programme with confirmed speakers will be available online ([www.aids2012.org](http://www.aids2012.org)) on Friday 8 June. Registration numbers at this stage are up some 35% on 2010 numbers during the same period and submission numbers for Global Village activities, Youth Programme events, and the workshops programme have exceeded the organizers’ expectations.

**About AIDS 2012**
The International AIDS Conference is the largest gathering of professionals working in the field of HIV, including people living with HIV and other leaders in the HIV response. It plays a fundamental role in shaping the global response to HIV and in keeping HIV and AIDS on the international political agenda.

**Save the Date - Register Now**
The AIDS 2012 Conference Secretariat strongly recommends that all non US media planning to attend visit the website of the U.S. embassy/consulate in their country as soon as possible to learn about the specific U.S. immigration processes and waiting times that will apply to them: [http://www.usembassy.gov](http://www.usembassy.gov)

**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.

**Conference Organization**
AIDS 2012 is convened by the International AIDS Society and the conference’s international 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 United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC); and Sidaction.

The U.S.-based Black AIDS Institute; the District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH); the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA); the National Institutes of Health (NIH); the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP); and the U.S. Positive Women’s Network (USPWN) serve as local partners.
AIDS 2012: Join the conversation

Get the latest conference updates and share your thoughts and ideas through the Conference Facebook and Twitter. We are tweeting – @aids2012 – and hope many of you will tweet along with us, using #AIDS2012 to keep the conversation going. Become a fan of AIDS 2012 on Facebook and stay in touch with the latest conference updates and developments. Please visit www.facebook.com/aids2012 to become a fan. If your group or organization is participating in AIDS 2012, we welcome posts of photos and videos of your work on this page. Tell us why you are coming to Washington and what you hope to gain from AIDS 2012.

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 196 countries working at all levels of the global response to AIDS. Our 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 the custodian of the biennial International AIDS Conference and lead organizer of the IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 30 June– 3 July 2013.

www.iasociety.org | www.ias2013.org

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