



# Media Advisory Avis aux médias Asesoría para los medios

## “HUMAN RIGHTS AND HIV/AIDS: NOW MORE THAN EVER”

### GLOBAL VILLAGE HOSTS HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, HOT TOPICS

*First rally on HIV and human rights on Thursday, August 7*

From Monday, August 4 to Thursday, August 7, the **Human Rights Networking Zone in the AIDS 2008 Global Village** (Networking Zone #421) will host a series of events — discussion sessions, petitions, presentations, skills-building workshops, video training and screening — highlighting why attention to human rights is so critical in the response to HIV and AIDS. This is the first-ever networking zone focussed on human rights issues at an International AIDS Conference.

#### HOT TOPIC SESSIONS

During the four days of the conference, a series of **Hot Topic Sessions** will highlight important topical issues for human rights activists and policy-makers. Subjects to be addressed include:

- Criminalization of HIV transmission
- Travel restrictions for people living with HIV
- HIV testing policy and practice: the place of human rights
- Women's rights: violence, family law, hate crimes and sexual and reproductive healthcare
- HIV, HCV and TB in prisons and pre-trial detention centres
- Decriminalizing sex work to prevent HIV and promote human rights
- Drug control policy: public health and the human rights of people who use drugs
- Homophobia, HIV and human rights in Latin America
- HIV and young people's human rights

#### MEET THE EXPERTS

At an evening reception each day (18h30 – 20h15), visitors to the Human Rights Networking Zone will hear a short summary of human rights highlights from the day and have an opportunity to meet with leaders in the field of HIV and human rights:

- Abigail Noko, the HIV/AIDS specialist for the **Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** in Geneva, will be present on Monday, August 4 to speak and answer questions.
- On Tuesday, August 5, Anand Grover, the incoming **UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health**, will outline how HIV will figure in his mandate.
- A documentary about HIV and discrimination against deaf people will be introduced by Ricardo Hernández Forcada of **Mexico's National Human Rights Commission** on Thursday, August 7.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

On Wednesday, August 6, Human Rights Watch and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network will announce the winner of the **2008 International Award for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights** at a press conference in the Media Centre (13h00 – 13h45). That evening, the daily reception in the Human Rights Networking Zone (18h30 – 20h15) will also feature the Award winner and a short documentary

about their work. Additional information about the Award is available on-line at [www.aidslaw.ca/awards](http://www.aidslaw.ca/awards) or [www.hrw.org/campaigns/hivaids/Awards\\_for\\_Action](http://www.hrw.org/campaigns/hivaids/Awards_for_Action).

## RALLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The first-ever **International Rally for Human Rights and HIV/AIDS** will take place on Thursday, August 7 at the Global Village Main Stage (13h30 – 14h30).

During the rally, a copy of the declaration ***HIV/AIDS and Human Rights: Now More Than Ever***, endorsed by more than 500 organizations worldwide, will be presented to high-level officials and advocates, including:

- **Peter Piot**, UNAIDS Executive Director
- **Michel Kazatchkine**, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;
- **Mary Robinson**, President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, among others.

The Declaration is available on-line, in many languages, at [www.sorosny.org/endorsehumanrights](http://www.sorosny.org/endorsehumanrights).

## CLOSING PARTY

On the last evening of the conference, Thursday August 7 (18h30 – 20h15), join activists and their friends from around the world at a closing party to celebrate human rights advocacy with a live performance, videos filmed by activists over the course of the week, and food and drink!

### About the Human Rights Networking Zone

The AIDS 2008 Human Rights Networking Zone is a collaboration of leading HIV and human rights organizations around the world and is sponsored by the Open Society Institute Public Health Program, the Levi Strauss Foundation, the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.

For full details on all events at the Human Rights Networking Zone, please consult the accompanying program. Additional information is available on-line at:

- [www.aidslaw.ca/aids2008](http://www.aidslaw.ca/aids2008) or
- [www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/law/events/network\\_20080803](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/law/events/network_20080803).

Spokespeople from the Human Rights Networking Zone will be available for media interviews throughout the week.

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For more information, please contact:

*Disponible en español*  
*Disponible en français*

David Cozac, +55 2519-3094 (mobile), [dcozac@aidslaw.ca](mailto:dcozac@aidslaw.ca) (English, French, Spanish)  
Eleonora Jimenez, +55 2197-9768 (mobile), [humanrightsaids2008@gmail.com](mailto:humanrightsaids2008@gmail.com) (English, Spanish)  
Paul Silva, +1 917 478-8403 (mobile), [psilva@sorosny.org](mailto:psilva@sorosny.org) (English, Portuguese)