

Ambassador Eric Goosby, MD  
The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief  
Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
S/GAC SA-29, 2nd Floor  
Washington, DC 20037

February 1, 2011

Dear Ambassador Goosby,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) to issue the PEPFAR Field Guidance on Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) without delay.

Research from around the world shows that MSM face an elevated risk of HIV infection over the general population, yet they are all too often sidelined in the global response. With shifts in donor funding and global health policies moving increasingly toward country ownership, we are gravely concerned that MSM and other marginalized populations will not be prioritized in certain regions where they are not politically expedient. Releasing the MSM guidance will send a powerful message that the U.S. government prioritizes an evidence-based response that aligns with the global HIV epidemic, one that seeks to stem the tide of new infections among most-at-risk populations. The guidance will also give program implementers concrete tools to be able to carry out this vital work.

While a swift release of the guidance is most urgent, a guidance document alone will not guarantee good outcomes for MSM and other sexual minorities. To give program implementers concrete tools to be able to carry out this vital work, OGAC should make available a specific funding stream dedicated to funding HIV programming and research targeting MSM, and provide robust support to build capacity to scale-up this work. Subsequently, funding structural interventions must be an important component of a comprehensive HIV prevention package.

Further, OGAC's proactive leadership from the highest levels, coupled with careful coordination of State Department diplomatic efforts, is critical to ensuring country team leaders, mission offices and host governments utilize the guidance to intensify treatment, care and prevention targeting MSM. OGAC should actively encourage and support efforts to reprogram current funding to prioritize MSM and subsequently ensure MSM are included in future country operating plans, partnership frameworks agreements and global health strategies through the U.S. Global Health Initiative. We are encouraged to hear that three regional meetings will take place about the guidance, and urge OGAC to ensure engagement with a wide cross-section of stakeholders in these efforts: U.S. government officials (USAID, OGAC, CDC, State Department), a broad representation of civil society including groups working with young MSM, local governments, and multilateral funding partners.

The forthcoming guidance provides PEPFAR a unique opportunity to dramatically alter the course of the global AIDS epidemic, and shape a response characterized by accountability, appropriate targeting and sufficient scale. To maximize impact, OGAC must require reporting on related indicators in order to effectively measure programming and progress for MSM and other sexual minorities.

Lives are being lost and we cannot afford to wait any longer. The PEPFAR MSM guidance will be a critical tool that will help reduce the scourge of the epidemic, not just among MSM, but also in reducing HIV prevalence generally. In a time of fiscal austerity, this is a smart investment to improve the effectiveness of the U.S. global health efforts.

Thank you for your continued leadership. We look forward to working with you on the implementation of this guidance, and are eager to play a role in making this important initiative a success. Should you have any questions, please contact Jirair Ratevosian ([jirair.ratevosian@amfar.org](mailto:jirair.ratevosian@amfar.org)) and Krista Lauer ([klauer@msmgf.org](mailto:klauer@msmgf.org)), Co-Chairs of the MSM Policy Working Group.

## Signatory Organizations

### *Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, & Middle East*

Activate Wits, South Africa  
African Council of AIDS Service Organizations (AfriCASO), Senegal  
AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA), Namibia  
Alternatives-Cameroun, Cameroon  
Ambassadors of Change, Kenya  
Centre for Health Policy and Innovation, South Africa  
Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR), Malawi  
Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights Ghana (CEPEHRG), Ghana  
Centre for the Development of People, Malawi  
Equality Now Development Group, Kenya  
Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya – GALCK, Kenya  
Global Research and Advocacy Group (GRAG), Senegal  
International Centre for Advocacy on Right to Health (ICARH), Nigeria  
ISHTAR MSM, Kenya  
MARITIME LIFE PRECIOUS FOUNDATION, Ghana  
MEN AGAINST AIDS YOUTH GROUP, Kenya  
NIGERIAN LGBT RIGHTS COUNCIL, Nigeria  
PEMA Kenya, Kenya  
Peoples Alliance to Combat HIV/AIDS, Gambia  
Programme for the well-being of children, South Africa  
QyR Alcohol and Substance Use Prevention.org, Kenya  
Rainbow Health Foundation Mbarara, Uganda  
SAPT Kenya, Kenya  
The National Empowerment Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya (NEPHAK), Kenya  
Treatment Advocacy and Literacy Campaign (TALC), Zambia  
YOUTH AGAINST AIDS, Kenya  
Oui Pour La Vie, Lebanon  
Stop AIDS in Liberia (SAIL), Liberia

### *Asia Pacific*

ACON, Australia  
Adamzone Can Tho, Viet Nam  
Adhikaar, India  
Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health, India and Thailand  
Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Thailand  
Asia Pacific Transgender Network, Malaysia  
ASTITVA - An Organisation for Development & Support of Sexual Minorities, India  
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO), Australia  
Bandhu Social Welfare Society, Bangladesh  
Beijing Evening Primrose Care Center, China  
Blue Diamond Society, Nepal  
Body Positive Inc., New Zealand  
Diversity And Solidarity Trust, Sri Lanka  
Heroes Project, India  
Humsafar Trust, India  
India HIV/AIDS Alliance, India  
Koshish, India  
People Like US (PLUS) Kolkata, India  
People Living with HIV/AIDS Victoria Inc., Australia

PT Foundation, Malaysia  
Purple Sky Network, Thailand  
Queensland Association for Healthy Communities, Australia  
SAFE NEPAL, Nepal  
Sahayogi Samaj Rajbiraj, Nepal  
SGRainbow, Singapore  
The Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre, Thailand  
Voice of People, India

*Eastern Europe, Central Europe, and Central Asia*

AIDS Foundation East-West, Kazakhstan  
Czech AIDS Help Society, Czech Republic  
Equal Opportunities, Tajikistan  
Interregional Centre of LGBT-studies Donbas-Soc Project, Ukraine  
NGO Safe Pulse of Youth (SPY), Serbia  
Penitentiary Initiative, Ukraine  
Scientific and Productive Centre for Preventive Medicine, Kyrgyzstan  
Siberian Alternative Center, Russia

*Latin America & the Caribbean*

AMOTRANS (Articulação e Movimento para Travestis e Transexuais), Brazil  
Diverse Youth Movement (DIYOME), Guyana  
EPAH, Brazil  
Foundation He+HIV, Suriname  
GTP+ Grupo de Trabalhos em Prevenção Posithivo, Brazil  
Jamaica AIDS Support for Life, Jamaica  
REd Initiatives, Trinidad and Tobago  
Senderos Asociación Mutual, Columbia  
Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD), Guyana  
SOMOSGAY, Paraguay  
TOTAL RESPECT - TJENBÉ RÈD FÉDÉRATION (Fédération de lutte contre les racismes, les homophobies & le sida issue des communautés afro-caribéennes), Martinique  
United Belize Advocacy Movement, Belize  
Vallarta Enfrenta el SIDA AC, Mexico  
Vivir. Participacion Incidencia y Transparencia A.C., Mexico

*North America, Western Europe & Northern Europe*

Adelson Consulting Services Inc., United States of America  
Advocates for Youth, United States of America  
AID FOR AIDS International, United States of America  
AIDS Action Baltimore, United States of America  
AIDS Foundation East-West, Netherlands  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago, United States of America  
AIDS Project Los Angeles, United States of America  
AIDS United, United States of America  
Aktionsbündnis gegen Homophobie e.V., Germany  
American Jewish World Service (AJWS), United States of America  
amfAR The Foundation for AIDS Research, United States of America  
AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention, United States of America  
Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago, United States of America  
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), United States of America

Center for Public Health and Human Rights, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, United States of America  
Centre for Spanish-Speaking Peoples, Canada  
CLINIQUAL Inc / CLINIQUAL ASIA, United States of America  
COC Nederland, Netherlands  
Colega-Jaén, Spain  
Community Access National Network (CANN), United States of America  
Council for Global Equality, United States of America  
David Ostrow & Associates, United States of America  
EnCompass LLC, United States of America  
EngenderHealth, United States of America  
Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR), United States of America  
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), United States of America  
General Board of Church & Society, United States of America  
Global AIDS Alliance, United States of America  
GlobalGayz.com, United States of America  
Greater Community AIDS Project, United States of America  
h2o gais lesbianes bisexuales i transsexuales del Camp de Tarragona, Spain  
Harlem United Community AIDS Center, United States of America  
Harm Reduction Coalition, United States of America  
Health GAP (Global Access Project), United States of America  
HealthHIV, United States of America  
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, United States of America  
HIV Medicine Association, United States of America  
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance, United States of America  
HIVictorious Inc., United States of America  
Howard Brown Health Center, United States of America  
Human Rights Campaign, United States of America  
International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), United States of America  
International Lesbian & Gay Cultural Network, Sweden  
International Rectal Microbicide Advocates, United States of America  
IntraHealth International, United States of America  
Lower East Side Harm Reduction Center, United States of America  
Malta Gay Rights Movement, Malta  
Management Sciences for Health, United States of America  
Metropolitan Community Churches, United States of America  
National Association of People with AIDS – US, United States of America  
National Association of Social Workers, United States of America  
National Coalition for LGBT Health, United States of America  
Naz Foundation International, United Kingdom  
Open Society Foundations (OSI), United States of America  
Physicians for Human Rights, United States of America  
Population Council, United States of America  
Projecte dels NOMS-Hispanosida, Spain  
PSI (Population Services International), United States of America  
Schorer, Netherlands  
The AIDS Institute, United States of America  
The Fenway Institute, United States of America  
The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF), United States of America  
The Global Health Council, United States of America  
The International HIV/AIDS Alliance, United Kingdom  
TOTAL RESPECT - TJENBÉ RÈD FÉDÉRATION (Fédération de lutte contre les racismes, les homophobies & le sida issue des communautés afro-caribéennes), France  
Treatment Action Group, United States of America

UKCAB, United Kingdom  
Unitarian Universalist- United Nations Office, United States of America  
YouthCo HIV and HepC Community Outreach, Canada