

May 28, 2021

The Right Honourable Prime Minister Trudeau  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Right Honourable Prime Minister Trudeau,

The UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on HIV (UNGA HLM on HIV) from June 8-10, 2021 will be a critical moment for global leaders to come together and reaffirm their commitment to ending HIV as a public health threat by 2030. In 2016 Canada set itself apart as a leader in HIV and global health when you hosted the 5th replenishment for the Global Fund to Fight HIV, TB and Malaria.

Now is a crucial moment in our collective history of HIV as funding levels continue to fall, civil society and community voices increasingly restricted with shrinking space, and political will and attention diverted by the most recent pandemic, Covid 19. The HLM on HIV is an opportune moment for Canada to highlight global leadership in the HIV response. **We urge you to capitalize on this moment by leading the Canadian delegation.** Having Canada's Prime Minister as head of the Canadian delegation to the HLM on HIV will demonstrate to the world what we know to be true: addressing the ongoing HIV pandemic requires an urgent reinvestment of political commitment and resources on a global scale. We have nine years remaining to meet our Global 2030 Goals.

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has undoubtedly challenged progress towards ending HIV. Resources have been redistributed, global attention redirected, health and community systems pushed beyond their limits, supply chains interrupted, and health inequities magnified and amplified. All of the complex and interrelated development challenges that exacerbate and are exacerbated by HIV have been accelerated.

We know that people living with HIV across the globe have faced disruptions to anti-retroviral treatment, domestic violence and gender based violence has increased, prevention and outreach programs have been interrupted, and vulnerable populations have been further marginalized. The gains made in HIV in recent years have been rolled back by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time, there is an opportunity in the growing appreciation of global interconnectedness, of strong and resilient systems for health, including community-led systems, and the call for global leadership. We must act now to ensure that the global HIV response rises to this opportunity and that HIV not be sidelined as the world navigates the COVID-19 pandemic and our shared recovery.

HIV has not paused for COVID-19, and it will not pause for us to rebuild. **We urge you, Prime Minister, to once again lead by example and demonstrate Canada's global leadership in the HIV response by serving as the head of the Canadian delegation to the UN HLM on HIV.**

Sincerely,

Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights  
AIDS Committee Newfoundland & Labrador  
Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS)  
BrAIDS for AIDS  
ByWard Family Health Team, Ottawa ON  
Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network  
Canadian Association of Nurses in HIV/AIDS Care (CANAC)  
Canadian Society for International Health  
Coalition des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte contre le sida (COCQ-SIDA)  
Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge  
Grandmothers Advocacy Network (GRAN)  
ICASO  
Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD)  
International Association of Providers of AIDS Care  
International Indigenous HIV & AIDS Community  
Ontario AIDS Network  
Ontario Positive Asians Network  
RavenBrae  
Results Canada  
San Patten and Associates, Inc.  
Stronger Circles Consulting  
The AIDS Committee of Durham Region  
Women's Health in Women's Hands CHC

CC:

The Honourable Karina Gould, Minister of International Development  
The Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health  
Maninder Sidhu, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development  
Robert Oliphant, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Jennifer O'Connell, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health  
Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister  
Leslie MacLean, Deputy Minister of International Development  
Marta Morgan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Dr. Stephen Lucas, Deputy Minister of Health Canada