



ADVANCING EXCELLENCE IN TRANSGENDER HEALTH

IRGT: The Global Trans community responding to HIV

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Chair, IRGT

Director Emeritus

UCSF Center of Excellence for Transgender Health

September 21st, 2018

Muxhe Arvani
Metis Nyahs Kothis
Mujeres Diferentes Kathoey
Fa'afafine Transgender
Waria Men Sisters girls
Women Hijra Trans
Mukhannis Mahuwahine
Mak Travestis Transvestites
Transsexuals Fa'afafine



IRGT

- **Vision**

A world of vibrant, healthy, and empowered trans women

- **Mission**

To advocate for trans issues in the international HIV response while promoting trans women's health and human rights



IRGT Board Members

- Amrita Sarkar, India
- Abhina Aher, India
- Leigh Ann Van Der Mewe, South Africa
- Jana Villayzan, South America
- Manisha Dhakal, Nepal
- Alexandra Rodriguez, Mexico
- Michelle Ross, United Kingdom
- JoAnne Keatley, USA
- Devanand Milton (Millie), Guyana
- Blessing Bryson, Tanzania
- Musonda Mulopa, Zambia



IRGT

- Launched in 2010 as a reference group with support from MPACT (formerly the MSMGF)
- A Global Network of Trans Women focused on HIV
- Board Members on every Continent and continue to seek coverage from unrepresented regions.
- Recognized by the World Health Organization, the Global Fund, International AIDS Society, PEPFAR, USAID, and UN bodies as thought leader on trans people and HIV



Program Support Directly Received

- Open Society Foundation
- American Jewish World Services
- UNFPA
- Robert Carr Network Fund
- Linkages (USAID)
- ViiV Healthcare
- W.H.O.

Strategic Planning:

- Bangkok 2015 and New Delhi 2017
- New Board Member recruitment and selection 2018
- Focus on Trans Women and HIV (Epidemiology)
- 7 Strategic Objectives
- A US Based non-profit public benefit corporation

First Trans Specific Networking Zone at IAC

Trans People: Step Forward!

TIME	WEDNESDAY July 23	THURSDAY July 24	FRIDAY July 25	SATURDAY July 26
8:30am - 10:00am	IRGT	IRGT	IRGT	IRGT
10:00am - 1:00pm	Voices from the Global South: Personal Stories of Trans+ Women Living with HIV Moderator: Leigh Ann van der Meer	Organizing against transphobia in Latin America and the Caribbean Moderator: Mauro Castel	Asian Pacific Transgender Network Moderators: Nathi Kwitani and Joe Wong	Trans Men and HIV Moderator: Justin Liffield
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch (free)	Lunch (free)	IRGT Lunch (free) Presenter: John Miller	Lunch (free)
1:00pm - 3:00pm	Intersectional Violence and HIV: Stories of Resilience Moderator: Ashlee Ahe	Trans+ access to healthcare in South America Moderator: Mauro Castel	Discussion of issues in Australia and New Zealand Facilitators: Sally Eckiner and Renee Appleton	Policy discussion Moderators: Joanne Keeley and Justin Liffield
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Break	Break	Break	Break
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Culture: Control of Migration (Introduce IRGT to trans+ advocates) Moderator: Cecilia Chung	IRGT Happy Hour (Introduce IRGT to trans+ advocates)	Discussion of issues in Australia and New Zealand Facilitators: Sally Eckiner and Renee Appleton (Cont'd)	TBN



The International Reference Group for Trans People and HIV (IRGT)

Global Village



#AIDS2014 and #IRGTAIDS2014

July 21-25th, 2014



ADVANCING EXCELLENCE IN TRANSGENDER HEALTH

International AIDS Conference 2014





2016 IAC Activities



- No More Lip Service! July 17, 2016
- Durban, South Africa
- Almost 400 people in attendance
- First ever Trans specific pre-conference
- Trans Networking Zone July 18-22, 2016

2016 UAC activities



2018 IAC Activities



Trans Action: Building Bridges to Safety

Amsterdam, Netherlands

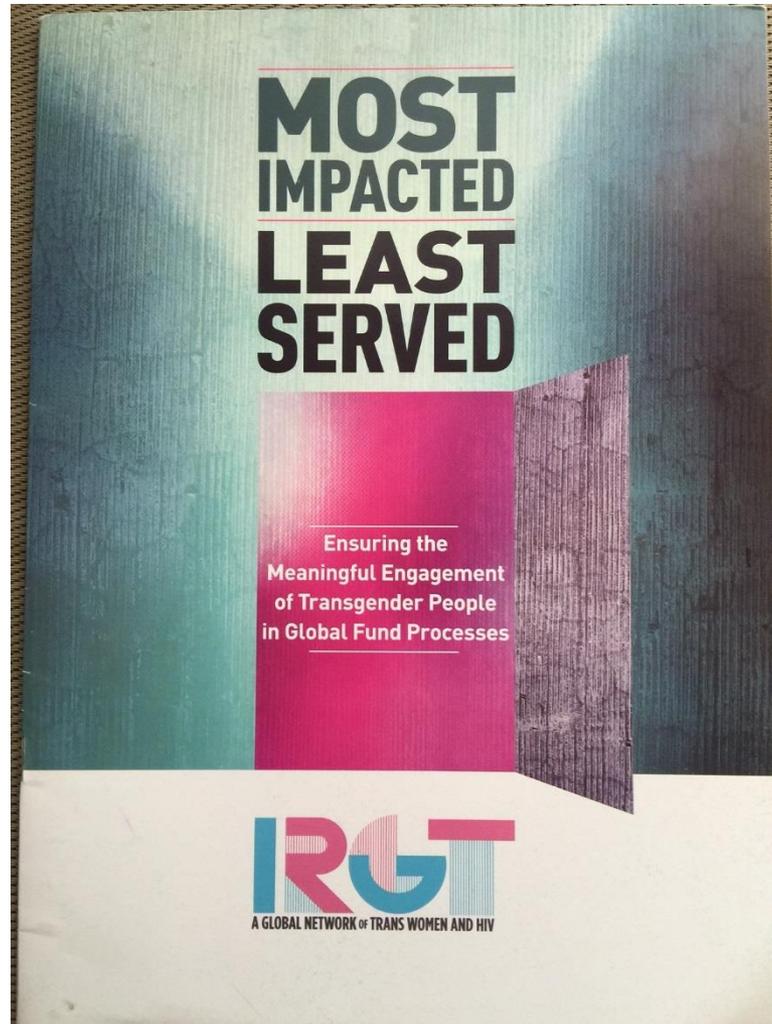
Trans Networking Zone July 23-27, 2018



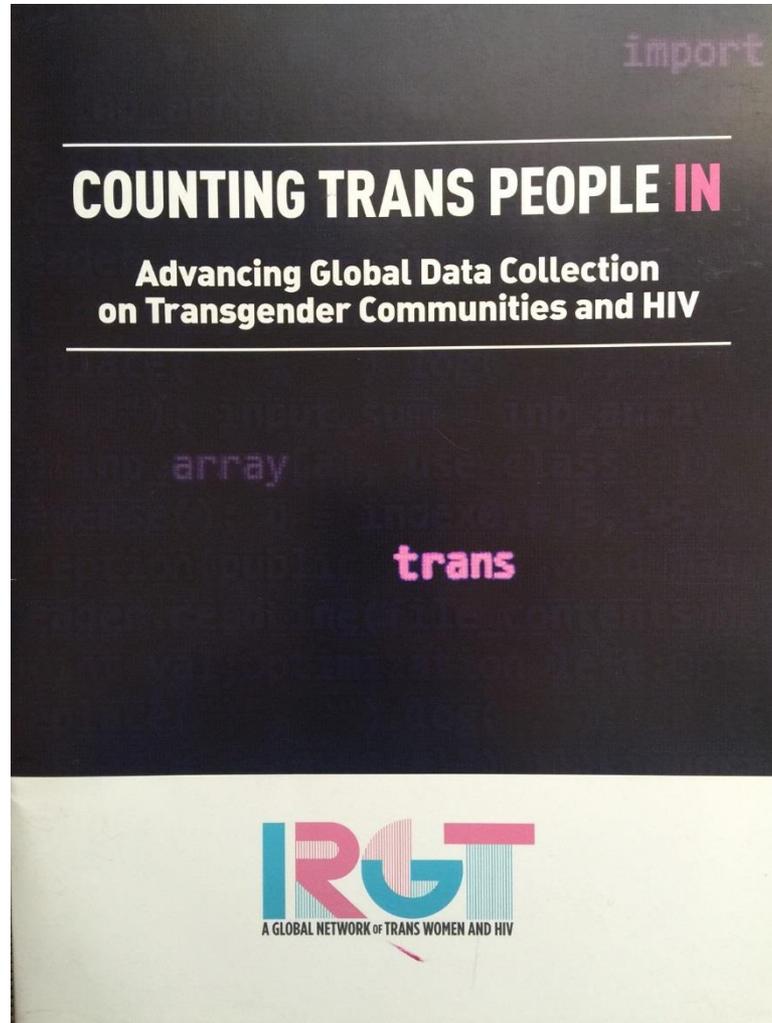
Bridging the TRANS Divide IAC 2018



IRGT Policy Briefs



IRGT Policy Briefs



Transgender Data Concerns

- Conflation with MSM Data leads to population erasure
- Clinically underserved/underfunded population
- Not counted=You don't count?
- Patient level data concerns:
 - Under reporting of health conditions (HIV among them)
 - Electronic Health Record Limitations
 - Denial of adequate healthcare
 - Embarrassing and or dangerous situations at intake (last Pap, Prostate exam, Menses)
 - Avoidance of health systems

JIAS Special Issue

The image shows the cover of a special issue supplement for the Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS). At the top, there are logos for USAID, PEPFAR, LINKAGES, IRUT, Johns Hopkins University, and JIAS. The main title is "HIV epidemics among transgender populations: The importance of a trans-inclusive response". Below the title, it says "A supplement of the Journal of the International AIDS Society". The cover features a central text block and a smaller inset image of the supplement cover. The inset image shows a word cloud with terms like "HUMAN RIGHTS", "TRANSGENDER", "DIGNITY", and "AIDS".

HIV epidemics among transgender populations: The importance of a trans-inclusive response

A supplement of the *Journal of the International AIDS Society*

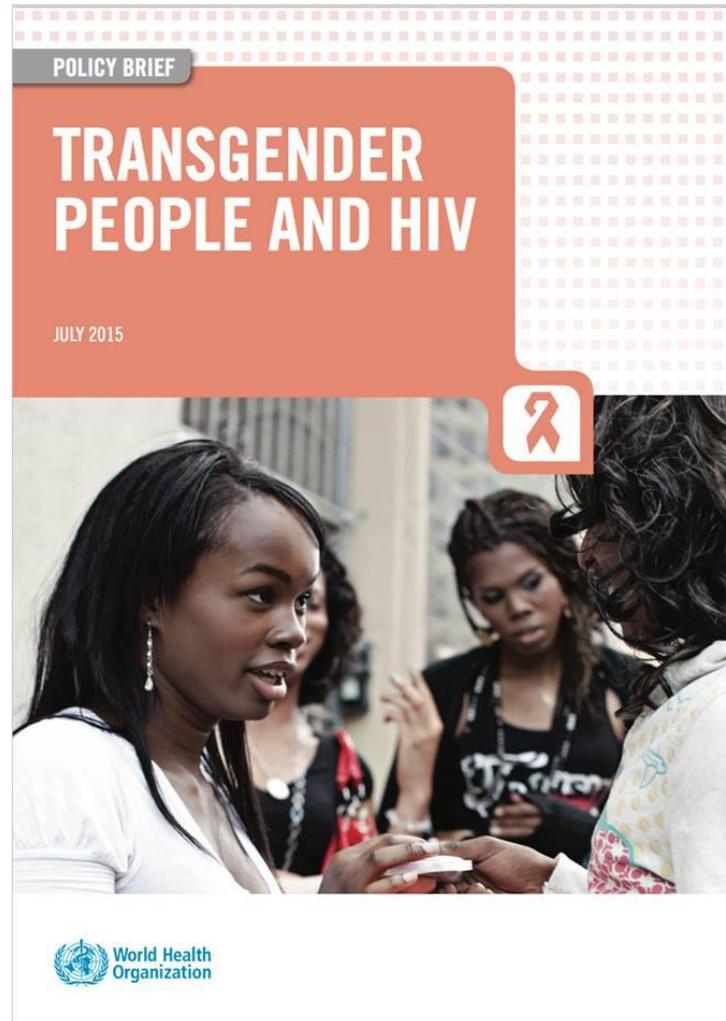
Transgender people have been severely underserved in the global response to HIV. A special supplement of the *Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS)* aims to help redress this by presenting research, case studies, and commentaries from around the world on transgender communities and HIV!

The 11 papers in this supplement, selected from among 80 abstracts submitted, expand the evidence base on the HIV epidemic in transgender communities, and offer practical recommendations for reducing the burden of HIV among transgender people and promoting their broader health and human rights.

KEY MESSAGES

- Transgender people are at much greater risk of HIV than non-transgender people. But many countries do not have programs providing services especially for them.
- New tools are available to help countries implement programs for transgender people, but more research into transgender communities and HIV is needed. This supplement of the *Journal of the International AIDS Society* presents new research into transgender communities and HIV around the world.
- Violence, stigma, and discrimination against transgender people are linked to unsafe sex, engaging in sex work, and difficulties in accessing health services.
- Successful trans-specific programs to reduce HIV risk address transgender people's human rights and employment needs, help them strengthen their social networks, and promote community empowerment.
- Successful programs are designed, implemented, and monitored with the participation of transgender communities themselves.

IRGT affiliated brief





Implementing Comprehensive
HIV and STI Programmes
with Transgender People

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR COLLABORATIVE INTERVENTIONS

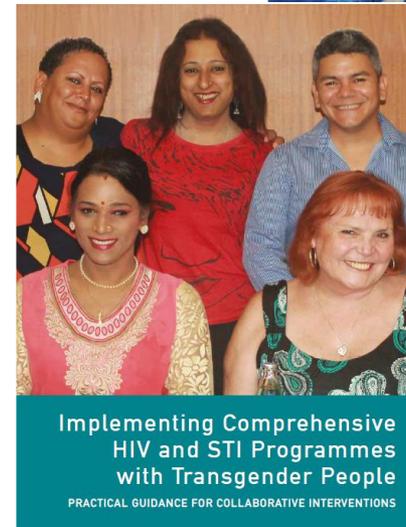


Welcome to the “TRANSIT” Transgender Implementation Tool)



Background

- Developed to translate the WHO 2014 Key Populations Consolidated Guidelines into practical, how-to guidance to support high-quality trans-specific programming
- One of a series of tools:
 - SWIT (sex workers) – published 2013
 - MSMIT (men who have sex with men) – published 2015
 - TRANSIT (transgender people) – published 2016
 - IDUIT (people who inject drugs)
 - *to be published late 2016*



Implementing Comprehensive HIV/STI Programmes with Sex Workers



Implementing Comprehensive HIV and STI Programmes with Men Who Have Sex with Men



About TRANSIT

- Build on the extensive work done for the 2011 WHO recommendations (“red book”) and 2014 Consolidated Guidelines
- Also the positive example of the SWIT and MSMIT
- Provide guidance on the “how to implement” in order to support the “what to implement”
- Intended for public-health officials, managers of HIV and STI programmes, NGOs, community and civil-society organizations, health workers.
- Capture the lessons of successful approaches for trans people globally
- Create a document on current practice – not meant to be the final word

Process of developing TRANSIT

Coordinating group met to develop outline (Nov 2014)



50 volunteer experts (including community) drafted chapters



Coordinating group met to review chapters (April 2015)



Consultation meeting with community and other experts (Bangkok, July 2015)



Expert peer review, editing and UN clearance process



Publication, dissemination and use!



TRANSIT Consultation 2015



TRANSIT Nairobi October 2017



TRANSIT Nicaragua 2017



TRANSIT New Delhi India 2017



TEACH

TRANS EDUCATION + **ACTION**
= CAPACITY FOR **HEALTH**

A Model IRGT Program

TEACH Background

- Two Year Funding award from ViiV Healthcare Positive Action for MSM & Transgender People
- Aims:
 - **to equip trans individuals and trans-led organizations with the necessary knowledge to be self-sustainable and build comprehensive programs that meet the HIV care and prevention needs specific to trans people.**
 - **identify, train, and nurture a cohort of trans individuals who can then work with trans-led organizations within their respective regions to address capacity issues.**
 - **Conduct a landscape analysis of available tools and models for grassroots peer-to-peer capacity building**
 - **Develop 15 module curriculum**
 - **Global Call for Applications to recruit TEACH Technical Advisors in Spring 2017**

Trans people responding to Human Rights Issues or HIV

- In 2016, Global Action for Trans* Equality (GATE) surveyed 455 groups from across the globe working on trans issues.
- Trans people were seldom given opportunities to develop organizational skills that allow for building autonomous response to Human Rights or HIV.
- In 2016, more than half (55.8%) of trans groups responding to this survey had annual budgets of less than \$10,000.
- Nearly three quarters (74.8%) had annual budgets of less than \$50,000



Capacity Building Needs

- In 2013, nearly two-thirds (64%) of trans groups reported wanting skills training in fundraising and grant writing, compared to almost eight in ten (79%) in 2016.
- In 2013, about two in five (39%) of trans groups wanted skills training in budgeting and financial management, compared to more than seven in ten (70%) that wanted this type of training in 2016.
- The increase in the need for skills related to organizational development may be in response to the growing awareness of funding opportunities for trans groups and the eligibility requirements for particular types of funding.

Selected GATE* recommendations

- Lower barriers to trans groups' access to funding; simplify applications and be flexible in application and reporting processes
- Support autonomous groups and those with more trans leaders and decision-makers, especially those with leadership that reflects their constituents
- Support capacity building and training opportunities for trans groups, particularly those related to organizational development and healing, anti-trauma work and/or burnout prevention
- Invest in activities that trans groups prioritize but cannot do because of lack of funding, particularly those related to securing a sustainable livelihood and advancing struggles for economic justice

Capacity Building

- “The process through which individuals, organizations, and societies obtain, strengthen, and maintain the capabilities to set and achieve their development objectives over time” (UNDP, 2009).

We believe that capacity building is an essential element to building sustainable organizations and movements, and effecting change for the transgender community.

The framework for capacity building for the TEACH curriculum includes techniques and strategies to address:

- Facilitators or barriers to organizational capacity, including trans leadership and levels of development.
- Analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of transgender organizations.
- Group identification of problems, objectives, and solutions at different levels, including social and structural issues.
- The conceptual framework, logic model, objectives, results, and activities of any given HIV intervention.
- The steps towards development of an budget and its justification, human resources, and organizational work schedule
- Monitoring and evaluation approaches

Unit 1: Organizational Strategic Planning

- Module 1: Community Needs Assessment
- Module 2: Setting Priorities
- Module 3: SWOT Analysis
- Module 4: Organization's Vision and Mission
- Module 5: Strategic Goals and Strategies
- Module 6: Activities and Operational Plan
- Module 7: Organizational Capacity Assessment

Unit 2: Designing Comprehensive Interventions for Transgender People

- Module 1: Comprehensive Interventions for Transgender People
- Module 2: Monitoring and Evaluation
- Module 3: Constructing Indicators

Unit 3: Organizational Management

- Module 1: Financial Management and Budget
- Module 2: Hiring, Training, and Developing Organization Staff
- Module 3: Getting Support Funds and Writing Proposals
- Module 4: Communication with Funders and Resource Mobilization
- Module 5: Community Collaboration and Building Coalitions

TEACH TOT in Bangkok



TEACH Learning Lab – Vietnam 2018



TEACH Learning Lab – Panama 2018



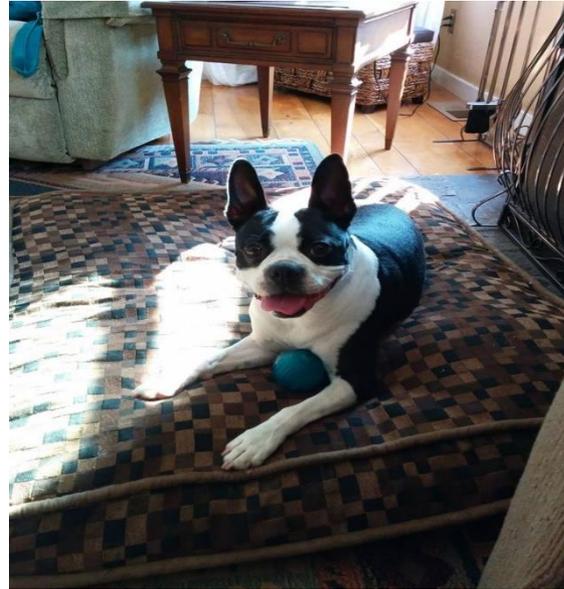
TEACH Learning Lab – South Africa 2018



Select quotes after a TEACH Learning Lab

- “[I liked] the comprehensive package that is TEACH. The facilitation, African activists training other African activists to enhance capacities within their institutions gave a sense of ownership of the work we were embarking on.” (Johannesburg Participant)
- “For all of the participants, it was their first opportunity in a setting specifically providing training for trans organizations. Having that focus solely on their issues as trans persons really inspired them to know there is a space that can be created. It inspired them to be a little more bold in their advocacy and seek opportunities.” (Technical Advisor)

**It's about
time you
came home
Mom!**



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