



31 January 2011

**On the occasion of David Kato's death, authorities worldwide should condemn the on-going stigma and discrimination against the LGBT community**

The UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) NGO Delegation is saddened by the news of the murder of David Kato, a key activist in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender person (LGBT) community in Uganda. David was well known to the Delegation, our partners and constituencies and his tireless work was inspiring to us all.

In light of this, the NGO Delegation supports the call of UNAIDS and other organizations for the Ugandan Parliament to drop the pending Anti-Homosexuality Bill and to decriminalize same-sex behaviour. We ask the government to react quickly against this killing and demand an immediate and thorough investigation, including into the links between the murder, David's gay rights activism, the anti-gay sentiments espoused by local media and the anticipated legislation.

The Delegation denounces the on-going climate of discrimination against the LGBT community in Uganda, including the public campaigns against this community and the continuing criminalization of homosexuality. We hope that the Ugandan government takes to heart the recent ruling of the High Court of Uganda that inciting violence against people based on their sexual orientation threatens their right to human dignity.

We reiterate the decision made at the 26th UNAIDS PCB meeting that there must be sustained efforts by all member states to alleviate stigma and discrimination, including the removal of "punitive laws, policies and practices that block access to services, effective responses to HIV and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, in order to create an enabling environment". What happened in Uganda is one in a growing number of disturbing reports of violence, harassment and murder waged against LGBT people globally. This constitutes a persistent and unacceptable pattern, one that seriously undermines all efforts in the fight for rights and against HIV.

The NGO Delegation believes that Ugandans and people everywhere should have the right to dignity, privacy and access to services regardless of their sexual orientation. All governments, donors and communities must now take a proactive and vocal stance to address and challenge the laws, policies and practices that limit these rights and HIV efforts worldwide.

Yours sincerely,

**The UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board NGO Delegation**

Dr. George Ayala, The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF), United States

Dr. Mabel Bianco, Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM), Argentina

Mr. Abdullah Denovan, Jaringan Orang Terinfeksi HIV Indonesia (JOTHI) / Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (APN+), Indonesia

Dr. Amira Herdoiza, Corporación Kimirina, Ecuador

Ms. Ebony Johnson, International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW-Global), United States

Ms. Felicita Hikuam, Aids and Rights Alliance of Southern Africa (ARASA), Namibia

Ms. Nadia Rafif, Association de Lutte Contre le Sida (ALCS), Morocco

Ms. Rathi Ramanathan, Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW), Thailand

Mr. Rhon Reynolds, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, The Netherlands

Mr. Matthew Southwell, International Network of People who Use Drugs, UK

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The Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) is the governing body of UNAIDS. It is made up of 22 voting Member States, 10 UN Cosponsors and an NGO Delegation consisting of 10 representatives. The NGO Delegation brings to the PCB the perspectives and expertise of people living with, most affected by, and most at risk of or vulnerable to HIV, as well as civil society and nongovernmental entities actively involved in HIV and AIDS. The Delegation works to ensure that human rights and equitable, gender-sensitive access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support are reinforced by the policies, programmes, strategies and actions of the PCB and UNAIDS. Please visit our website at [unaidspcbngo.org](http://unaidspcbngo.org) or contact Sara Simon, Communications Facility Focal Point at [pcbfcf.ssimon@gmail.com](mailto:pcbfcf.ssimon@gmail.com).