

**PRESS RELEASE****UNAIDS gala honours former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and raises over US\$ 1 million for UNAIDS**

*Evening featured reading by Keanu Reeves and Alexandra Grant and live music by Duran Duran*

**BASEL/GENEVA, 15 June 2016**—Supporters of UNAIDS attended its annual fundraising gala on 13 June. Held at Design Miami Basel on the eve of the Art Basel art festival, the gala raised more than US\$ 1 million to support the work of UNAIDS to increase access to HIV prevention and treatment services worldwide, particularly for women and children.

The evening was held in honour of former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who was presented with the UNAIDS Award for Leadership in recognition of his outstanding and remarkable contributions made to the global response to HIV.

“On behalf of UNAIDS, I would like to thank the former United Nations Secretary-General for all he has done and continues to do to restore the dignity and improve the lives of people everywhere,” said Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS. “We shall endeavour to continue to make history and achieve an AIDS-free generation by ensuring that no one is left behind or excluded from life-saving HIV services.”

The gala was hosted by Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie of York, Caroline Rupert and two of Nelson Mandela’s grandsons, Kweku and Ndaba, who welcomed more than 600 international guests from the worlds of art, design, architecture, fashion, film and music.

Red carpet arrivals of celebrities, fashion icons and renowned art and cultural influencers included Alexandra Grant, Peter Brant, Duran Duran, Vera Brezhneva, Keanu Reeves, Dustin Yellin, Thabo Sefolosa, Goga Ashkenazi and many more. The gala was sponsored by Cartier and the Hotel InterContinental Geneva, with the support of Design Miami, and was produced by Josh Wood Productions.

The evening began with an exclusive vernissage of Design Miami Basel, showcasing work from some of the world’s most important collectible designers of the 20th and 21st centuries.

After the reception and preview, Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie of York and Caroline Rupert welcomed guests and introduced the theme of the evening. The dinner included a reading of “Shadows” by Keanu Reeves and Alexandra Grant. Auctioneer Simon de Pury opened a live auction, with lots from designers that included Alaïa, Cartier, Daniel Libeskind and Humberto and Fernando Campana.

The gala concluded with a special live musical performance by Duran Duran, who entertained guests with their signature sounds and famous hits. DJ Bas Ibellini took to the stage for the after-party to close the evening.

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## **UNAIDS**

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations—UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank—and works closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. Learn more at [unaids.org](http://unaids.org) and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

## **Hotel InterContinental Geneva**

The hotel opened its doors in 1964 and was recently renovated by world famous designer Toni Chi. With unrivalled views the Hotel InterContinental Geneva is classified among the 5-Star and luxury hotels of the world. The hotel lies at the heart of Geneva's diplomatic district with a three-minute walk from the United Nations and within a five-minute drive from the lake and luxury shopping. In 2013, Hotel InterContinental and UNAIDS entered into a public-private partnership inviting guests to "make history" and pledge for an AIDS-free generation. [www.geneva-intercontinental.com](http://www.geneva-intercontinental.com)

## **Design Miami/**

Design Miami/ is the global forum for design. Each fair brings together the most influential collectors, gallerists, designers, curators and critics from around the world in celebration of design culture and commerce. Occurring alongside the Art Basel fairs in Miami, United States of America, each December and Basel, Switzerland, each June, Design Miami/ has become the premier venue for collecting, exhibiting, discussing and creating collectible design. For more information, please visit [www.designmiami.com](http://www.designmiami.com)

## **Cartier**

The Cartier Charitable Foundation was established in 2012 to catalyse the Maison Cartier's philanthropic commitment to improve the livelihoods of the most vulnerable. The foundation focuses on the most excluded and marginalized, in particular women and children living in the world's least developed regions. Its efforts seek to remove the barriers that prevent people from acting and thriving, enabling them to live a meaningful and fulfilling life in an inclusive, equitable and safe environment. The foundation currently supports 20 partners in 30 developing countries. For additional information, please visit <http://www.cartiercharitablefoundation.org/en>

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