UNAIDS Advisory Group Biographies

UNAIDS Advisory Group Co-Chairs

Quarraisha Abdool Karim
PhD, DSc(hc), is a South African infectious diseases epidemiologist, who is Associate Scientific Director of CAPRISA, Professor in Clinical Epidemiology, Columbia University, USA and Pro Vice-Chancellor (African Health), University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), South Africa. She is the UNAIDS Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV and co-chairs the UNAIDS Advisory Group to the Executive Director. She is a member of the US National Academy of Medicine and Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa, the Academy of Science of South Africa, the African Academy of Sciences, and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). She has made pioneering contributions over the past 30 years to understanding the evolving HIV epidemic, HIV prevention in adolescent girls and young women including the landmark CAPRISA 004 trial that demonstrated for the first time that antiretrovirals can prevent acquisition of HIV through sex, the timing of ARV initiation in HIV-TB co-infected patients; and in research training and capacity building.

Matthew M. Kavanagh
PhD, works at the intersection of global health, politics, and law at Georgetown University. A political scientist by training, with a long history of work in global health policy and politics, he works on the political economy of health policy, access the HIV- and TB-treatment, and constitutional health rights in both research and in policy. He holds faculty positions in Georgetown’s Department of International Health and School of Law. He has done research and policy work in South Africa, Malawi, Haiti, Lesotho, India, and Thailand and was a visiting researcher at the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights, and International Law in Johannesburg. Dr. Kavanagh is as a member of the UNAIDS Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee and the council of the American Political Science Association Health Politics and Policy Section. Prior to his academic positions, he led transnational policy efforts at NGOs in the U.S. and Southern Africa focused on HIV and tuberculosis treatment, international trade, and water rights. He has presented his research and analysis before the U.N. Special Rapporteur for the Right to Health, members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, and the U.S. Trade Representative.
UNAIDS Advisory Group Members

Stefan Baral
MD, MPH, FRCP, CCFP, is a physician epidemiologist and an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and provides clinical care through the Inner-City Health Associates. Through his role as the Director of the Key Populations Program in the Center for Public Health and Human Rights, Stefan has focused on trying to understand why people continue to be at risk for acquiring and transmitting HIV with a focus on the interactions of structural and network level determinants with individual-level proximal risks for HIV infection. Together with colleagues, Stefan focuses on using all scientific tools available to characterize the distribution of HIV risks including in countries with broadly generalized HIV epidemics. Consequently, this work has included studying the burden of HIV and HIV-related vulnerabilities among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, transgender women, people who use drugs, and sex workers in a range of HIV epidemic settings.

Christoph Benn
Director for Global Health Diplomacy at the Joep Lange Institute, Amsterdam. Dr Benn was educated as Medical Doctor and Master of Public Health. Prior to joining The Joep Lange Institute in 2018, he was Senior Advisor and Director of External Relations for the Global Fund. Under his leadership the Global Fund has mobilized pledges and contributions of more than USD 50 billion. Prior to joining the Global Fund, Christoph worked as a clinician and public health specialist in the United Kingdom, Germany and as Doctor-in-Charge of a rural hospital in Tanzania. He has more than 25 years of experience in global health with a special focus on AIDS and infectious diseases, having worked as an advisor to many public health programs in Africa and Asia. He also has extensive experience in advocacy, having worked with NGOs and their networks around the world.

Jonathan Cohen
Director of the Open Society Public Health Program where he oversees grant making and advocacy to improve social inclusion in public health policy and practice. A Canadian lawyer, Cohen joined the Open Society Foundations in 2006 as director of the Law and Health Initiative where he oversaw legal aid and litigation in over 15 countries. He then served as deputy director of the Public Health Program from 2012 to 2016. He is a former member and co-chair of UNAIDS Reference Group on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights. From 2002 to 2006, Cohen was a researcher with the HIV/AIDS and Human Rights Program at Human Rights Watch, conducting investigations of police misconduct against criminalized populations, restrictions on sexuality education and access to condoms, violence and discrimination against orphans of HIV, and trafficking of children into forced labor. He has served on the scientific committee of two International AIDS Conferences and is co-editor of Health and Human Rights: A Resource Guide. Jonathan Cohen has degrees from Yale College, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. He has served as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada and as co-editor-in-chief of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law Review.
Francois Dabis
Medical doctor, Professor of Epidemiology at the School of Public Health (ISPED) of the University of Bordeaux, France. He has been leading from 2001 to 2016 the Inserm-affiliated “HIV, cancer and global health” research team within ISPED. He is Director of the French National AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Research Agency (ANRS) since March 2017 and Chair of the South West (Nouvelle Aquitaine) Regional Coordination to fight HIV/AIDS and STIs (COREVIH) since June 2017.

Dr. Dabis has more than 30 years of experience in research on HIV epidemiology and global health. He has published more than 750 papers and two leading textbooks in Field Epidemiology.

He is the PI of the NIH-funded IeDEA West Africa Collaboration and member of the Scientific Program Committee of the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI).

Mandeep Dhaliwal
Director of UNDP’s HIV, Health and Development Group, Bureau of Policy and Programme Support. Ms. Dhaliwal brings to the organization over 20 years of experience working on HIV, health, human rights and evidence-based policy and programming in low and middle-income countries. Ms. Dhaliwal joined UNDP in 2008 and was the architect of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law. Prior to joining UNDP, she was a senior adviser to the Dutch Royal Tropical Institute’s Special Programme on HIV/AIDS. From 2000 to 2006, Ms. Dhaliwal worked for the International HIV/AIDS Alliance’s Policy, Research and Good Practice Team in the United Kingdom where she focused on issues of HIV care and treatment in developing countries. She was instrumental in expanding the International HIV/AIDS Alliance's technical support and policy work on issues of HIV care, treatment and support in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. While at the Alliance, she led the development of an operations research initiative in Zambia on community engagement for anti-retroviral treatment. From 1993 to 2000, she worked on HIV and human rights issues in India, including as the founding Coordinator of the Lawyers Collective HIV/AIDS Unit, a leading human rights organization, establishing the Unit's legal aid, public interest litigation, legal literacy, and policy/advocacy work.

Vivek Divan
Lawyer whose work has focused on the intersections of law, health and sexuality for over two decades. He presently heads the newly set up Centre for Health Equity, Law & Policy at the India Law Society, Pune, India. From 2012-14 he worked as Policy Specialist at UNDP New York providing advisory and technical support on law, access to justice and human rights related to sexuality and HIV. He helped set up and served on the Secretariat of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law (www.hivlawcommission.org) and was a member of its Technical Advisory Group from 2009-12. As Senior HIV Advisor at the Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam from 2008-09 he was faculty in the Master’s in Public Health programme. From 2000-07 he was Coordinator of the Lawyers Collective HIV/AIDS Unit in Mumbai. In that capacity he was part of the core team that filed the Naz Foundation petition in 2001, challenging the constitutional validity of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, and was centrally involved legal research and strategy and extensive community mobilization around the case. While at LCHAU he also oversaw and was involved in its legal aid, advocacy, research, capacity-building and legal literacy work, including steering the process of and drafting the HIV Bill (now an Act) and leading
Jamie Drummond

Jamie Drummond is ONE’s Co-Founder. In 1995, Jamie was working on a documentary series in Ethiopia – a country spending more on servicing unjust “cold war-era” debts than on health or education. This gave him an idea – the “Drop the Debt” campaign – drop the debts of highly indebted poor countries that commit to invest the freed up funds in their people and fight corruption. Jamie persuaded Bono to spearhead the campaign and, with others, successfully secured the cancellation of Ethiopia’s national debt, as well as a further US$110 billion dollars of debt for some of the world’s poorest countries.

Over the next two decades, first at DATA.org then at ONE.org, Jamie worked with partners to combine evidence-based policies and public campaigning to launch many successful anti-poverty campaigns. Such as: securing historic levels of investment in health and the fight against preventable diseases – helping reduce the number of people dying from AIDS and malaria by more than a third and preventing the deaths of 4 million children under the age of 5 every year; The “Make Poverty History” campaign which led to a near doubling of aid in a new partnership with Africa and, securing big investments for women and girls’ health, education and economic empowerment through ONE’s Poverty is Sexist campaign.

In 2015, Jamie, ONE and partners helped persuade world leaders to agree Global Goals for Sustainable Development – which we can and must achieve together by 2030.

Ricardo Fuentes Nieva

Ricardo is the Executive Director of Oxfam Mexico since 2015. Previously, he was the Head of Research for Oxfam GB. He managed a team delivering high profile research in support of Oxfam’s global campaigns.


Geoff Garnett

Geoff Garnett works as a Deputy Director at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on improving the effectiveness and sustainability of HIV testing, treatment, and prevention programs. Prior to this Geoff was a Professor at Imperial College London researching the epidemiology, evolution and control of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Geoff’s work combines mathematical modeling of the transmission dynamics of HIV and STIs and methods of evaluation, and uses mathematical models to understand the potential impact, effectiveness, cost effectiveness and budget impact of interventions. His current research interests include the use of HIV prevention cascades in the planning and monitoring of HIV prevention interventions, understanding the drivers of HIV risk behavior and adoption of prevention interventions, and how targets and indicators can be used to improve HIV interventions.
Julia Greenberg

Director of governance and financing at the Open Society Public Health Program, where she leads work on leveraging global financing for health and human rights and challenging harmful influences on health-related policy making. Greenberg has worked in public health grant making, advocacy, and community development for over a decade. Before joining Open Society, she was a founding partner of The Fremont Center, where she advised a diverse group of clients, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, the Ford Foundation, and the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition, on program, advocacy, and fundraising strategies. Previously, she worked as the director of the grants department at American Jewish World Service (AJWS), where she developed a grant-making program that supported 350 community organizations across Africa, Asia, and Latin America working at the intersection of development, public health, and human rights. As the associate director of AIDS-Free World, she spearheaded advocacy efforts to combat the homophobia and discriminatory laws fuelling the HIV epidemic in Jamaica. She serves as a member of the board constituency of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and as a board member of Funders Concerned about AIDS.

Geeta Rao Gupta

Senior Fellow at the United Nations Foundation and Founder and Executive Director of the 3D Program for Girls and Women. She is also a member of the WHO Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for health emergencies, serves on the Board of Merck for Mothers, Chairs the Advisory Board of WomenLift Health, a new initiative to promote women’s leadership in global health, and in 2019 was a lead author for the Lancet Series on Gender Equality, Norms and Health. From 2011 to 2016, Ms. Rao Gupta served as Deputy Executive Director at UNICEF and from 2010 to 2011 was a senior fellow at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Prior to that, for over a decade, Ms. Rao Gupta was the president of the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), a non-profit based in Washington, D.C., dedicated to using research to shape international development policies and programs to empower women and girls. Over the course of her career, Ms. Rao Gupta has served on several boards, such as the Global Partnership for Education, GAVI, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the MAC AIDS Fund. Ms. Rao Gupta earned a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Bangalore University and an M.Phil. and M.A. from the University of Delhi in India.
Professor Adeeba Kamarulzaman
Trained is an Infectious Diseases physician and is presently the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya and an Adjunct Associate Professor at Yale University.

Her clinical and research interest is in HIV prevention and treatment in key populations. She directs the Centre of Excellence for AIDS Research (CERiA) at the University of Malaya and is presently Chairman of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation, a trust that raises funds for HIV related programs in Malaysia. She is presently a member of the Malaysian Health Advisory Council. Professor Kamarulzaman has been a Co-Chair of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Committee on HIV and a member of the UNAIDS Scientific Expert Panel and is currently the President-elect of the International AIDS Society. Her achievements have been recognized through several national and international awards including a Doctor of Laws from her alma mater, Monash University, Australia for her contributions to medicine and as a health advocate.

Jules Kim
Korean/Australian sex worker and the CEO of Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association -the peak national organisation that has been representing sex workers and sex worker organisations, collectives and projects throughout Australia since 1989. She is the Chair for the regional sex worker network, Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW) and is the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board (UNPCB) NGO Delegate for the Asia Pacific for 2019-2021. Jules represents sex workers on a number of government committees and advisory mechanisms such as the Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Standing Committee and National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery since 2009 and has provided testimony and expert advice to parliamentary hearings and inquiries in relation to sex work, migration, trafficking and law reform. She has over 20 years' experience in sex work, sex worker advocacy, community development and representation.

Sharonann Lynch
Senior HIV and TB Policy Advisor for the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Access Campaign. Ms. Lynch has worked for nearly 20 years in the global health and humanitarian field, primarily related to access to HIV and TB treatment. She joined MSF in 2006, working for four years in various positions in the field in southern Africa, primarily focused on introducing innovative models of community-based treatment, care, and adherence support and changing national policies to support improved quality of care. In 2009 she joined MSF’s Access Campaign and has led numerous advocacy campaigns related to HIV, TB, and access to essential medicines policies of national governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, and other global health actors.

Anna Marriott
Health Policy Adviser for Oxfam GB and lead for Oxfam's health policy work internationally. She has written and published a number of reports on Oxfam's focus areas of healthcare financing and delivery. Before joining Oxfam GB, Anna worked in South Africa for three years as a consultant for a number of donors and UN agencies on issues ranging from social protection, labour rights in the informal economy, health and education. She also completed a
master’s degree in Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa. Previously, Anna worked as an editor for the international development information gateway Eldis, based at the Institute for Development Studies and for International Care and Relief as a Programme Officer.

Marsha A. Martin
Doctorate in Social Work has been a tenured professor, government official and community advocate with more than 30 years of public health and community health and support service delivery in homelessness, HIV and community mobilization experience at national and local levels. Dr. Martin served as one of ten delegates to the Program Coordinating Board of the UN HIV/AIDS Program in 2017-2018. She also served as Director of the US based Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS) from 2011-2016 where she launched the National HIV Testing Week-US. She is co-founder and coordinating Director of the Global Network of Black People working in HIV (GNBPH), a global association designed to strategically engage Black people across the African Diaspora in the development of culturally relevant solution-oriented frameworks for addressing HIV. Dr. Martin serves on the International Steering & Planning Committee of the International Conference on AIDS and STDs in Africa, ICASA, in partnership with the Society for AIDS in Africa, SAA. Dr. Martin is a consultant to the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR. Dr. Martin served on the Advisory Board of the University of California HIV Research Program, 2011-2017, serving as chair, 2016-17. Dr. Martin currently serves as the Community Convener of Oakland's Fast Track Cities Initiative and continues to support expanded testing through consultancies with several US cities and encouraging coordination of large-scale public health HIV screening programs as the first component of ending the epidemic initiatives. Dr. Martin served as the Executive Director of AIDS Action from 2002 to 2006, the oldest HIV advocacy organization in the US. From 1997 to 2001, Marsha was the special assistant on HIV/AIDS policy to Secretary Donna Shalala at the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Maureen Milanga
Associate director of International Policy and Advocacy at Health Global Access Project (Health GAP). In this position, she works to influence the region by campaigning to win increased access to treatment, improve outdated HIV treatment policies, mobilize civil society to demand game changing drugs faster, increase civil society engagement to ensure meaningful participation and support the enhancement of key population service delivery and focus by donors. Maureen has worked with partners to successfully free up hundreds of millions in U.S. funding to be refocused to more effective programs that focus on communities including key populations. Maureen’s background is in law and human rights. She was an AVAC 2013 fellow working with AIDS Law Project and Health GAP to increase access to treatment for people living with HIV, she was listed in POZ 100 magazine as one of the most effective AIDS activists of 2014, has contributed to Lancet articles on biometrics and public health surveillance in criminalized and key populations and is currently and Atlantic fellow for Health Equity.
Lillian Mworeko

Executive Director ICWEA, has won the CHANGE Courageous Changemaker Award for being at the forefront of challenging gender norms and for promoting and upholding human rights in Uganda. She has been the Regional Coordinator (Eastern African Region) at the International Community of Women living with HIV/AIDS as of 2005. Prior to this function, she worked at The National Forum of People living with HIV/AIDS Networks in Uganda, the Uganda Network of AIDS Service organizations and the Uganda Network of AIDS Service organisations.

Ms. Mworeko collaborated with legal sector stakeholders (i.e. judges, police, prosecutors, prison officials and the media) to challenge a law discriminating against HIV/AIDS people in the constitutional court, as well as institutional discrimination.

Ms. Mworeko obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences at the Makerere University Kampala.

Alessandra Nilo

Journalist specialized in Communication & Health and with a graduate degree in diplomacy. She is co-founder and general coordinator of Gestos– HIV and AIDS, Communication and Gender, an NGO created in 1993 in Brazil, which has ECOSOC status from the UN. She is Regional Director of LACCASO, the Latin American and Caribbean Council of AIDS Organizations and represented the NGOs from LAC at the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board until December 2019. She dedicates her career to increasing the influence of civil society in decision-making processes at local, national and international levels and to demand the full implementation of government commitments in the fields of health, gender and economics. She used the UN resolutions on HIV as a tool to monitor and evaluate the implementation of national AIDS policies and in 2003 she created the UNGASS-AIDS Forum in Brazil, a platform that was expanded for 15 countries for monitoring, knowledge production and political advocacy and to link national and international policies in the fields of sexual and reproductive rights and HIV.

Lynn Ngugi

Seasoned Humanitarian and human rights specialist with over 20 years working with the UN in diverse situations globally including conflict situations, refugees, IDPs, statelessness in varying capacities. Lynn also worked as a Senior Regional Global Advisor for Women and Children covering countries in the Great Lakes, Horn of Africa and the East African regions. She is an aspiring Ashoka Fella through their visionary leader program. Ms. Ngugi will address the challenges faced by marginalized women and girls and opportunities to better include them in global gender equality and development efforts.
Dr. John Nkengasong

Director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prior to his current position, he served as the acting Deputy Principal Director (acting) of the Center for Global Health, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC), and Chief of the International Laboratory Branch, Division of Global HIV and TB., U.S CDC. He received a Master’s in Tropical Biomedical Science at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium and a Doctorate in Medical Sciences (Virology) from the University of Brussels, Belgium. He has received numerous awards for his work including Sheppard Award, the William Watson Medal of Excellence, the highest recognition awarded by CDC. He is also recipient of the Knight of Honour Medal by the Government of Cote d’Ivoire, was knighted in 2017 as the Officer of Loin by the President of Senegal, H.E. Macky Sall, and Knighted in November 2018 by the government of Cameroon for his significant contributions to public health. He is an adjunct professor at the Emory School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. He serves on several international advisory boards including the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Initiative – CEPI, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) among others. He has authored over 250 peer-review articles in international journals and published several book chapters.

Yana Panfilova

Head of Board Union of adolescents and youth “Teenergizer” since 2015. She has been working in the field of support and protection of the rights of vulnerable adolescents for seven years in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. She is the author of the report “Key barriers to HIV testing for adolescents in EECA” (Ukraine, Russia and Georgia).

Yana was born with HIV. When she was 10, she discovered her HIV status. At 13, she spoke openly at the International Conference “Children and HIV” on behalf of adolescents living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Also, as a result of speaking openly about her HIV status in Moldova and of advocacy in June 2013, the Ministry of Health introduced disability benefits for all HIV+ children. In addition, as a result of speaking openly at the expanded meeting of the Coordinating Committee of HIV prevention in Sverdlovsk region in Russia in December 2013 and further advocacy; a decision was taken by the government structures to pay special attention to youth living with HIV. She also spoke about HIV+ teenagers from the EECA region at High-Level meeting on HIV/AIDS UN General Assembly in 2016 and 2018. She was a panellist at the 22nd International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam in 2018 and was a speaker at the first panel at Global Primary Health Care Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Social Work, Academy of Labour, Social Relations and Tourism. Yana is 22 years old and she is from Kyiv, Ukraine.
**Umunyana Rugege**

Executive Director of SECTION27, a human rights organisation based in South Africa that seeks to achieve substantive equality and social justice. She is a human rights lawyer and has been with SECTION27 since its inception in 2010. She holds a BA in Environmental Studies (magna cum laude) from the State University of New York at Buffalo; a Master's degree from Cornell University; and an LLB from the University of Cape Town, and has clerked at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Umunyana has played a leading role in several human rights cases advancing the right to health and works on access to medicines in particular. She has led policy development and law reform that has helped to realise the right to health, particularly for vulnerable groups, and represented patient groups in the Health Market Inquiry into the private health care sector. She has served on the board of a gender equality organisation and has been recognised in the top 200 young South Africans in the Business & Law category. She appears regularly in the media as an expert on human rights.

**Elhadj As Sy**

Chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation Board. With extensive experience in leadership roles in the humanitarian sector, Mr. Sy has previously served as the Secretary General of the IFRC. He has also served as senior levels with UNICEF, UNAIDS, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and other agencies for more than 25 years. Before joining the IFRC - the world's largest humanitarian network - Mr. Sy was UNICEF’s Director of Partnerships and Resource Development in New York. He has also served as UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa and Global Emergency Coordinator for the Horn of Africa. From 2005 to 2008, Mr. Sy was Director, HIV/AIDS Practice with the United Nations Development Programme in New York. Before that, he worked with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as its Africa Regional Director and later as Director of Operational Partnerships and Country Support in Geneva. Mr. Sy has also held the position of UNAIDS Representative in New York and Director of the New York Liaison Office.
Stuart Watson

Chair of the UNAIDS Secretariat Staff Association (USSA) and one of 15 staff representatives who are elected to two-year terms by UNAIDS Secretariat staff. Stuart also serves as a Senior Adviser in the UNAIDS Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Stuart joined UNAIDS in 2003 and has served as Country Director in Papua New Guinea, Sub-regional Director of the UNAIDS Pacific Islands office covering 14 countries, and UCD a.i. in Malawi, and Indonesia. He previously managed the UNDP Pacific Islands HIV Programme. Prior to joining the UN, Stuart worked as Programme Manager for Oxfam Pacific/New Zealand, The Governments of New Zealand and Australia on post-conflict reconstruction programmes, led the social sector team assisting the Government of Papua New Guinea to establish its first HIV response architectures, and taught at universities in Spain, Kuwait and Papua New Guinea. Stuart is a national of New Zealand.