



## MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – From July 14-16<sup>th</sup> 2016, three hundred South African Gogos (grandmothers) will come together for an historic Grandmothers Gathering in Durban. Taking place on the eve of the International AIDS Conference, the Gathering will unite grandmothers from across the country who, with little support, have shouldered the responsibility of caring for children impacted and orphaned by AIDS, and who are at the forefront of rebuilding resilience in their communities. Too often their rights are denied and their voices go unheard.

Participants will discuss their pivotal roles in turning the tide of HIV & AIDS, and will issue a statement calling for the provision of their human rights and the protection of their grandchildren's futures. On the closing day of the Gathering (16 July) the participants will be joined by additional grandmothers to march – 2,000 strong – to the Durban International Convention Centre – the location of the International AIDS Conference – to present their statement.

Led by six South African grandmothers<sup>i</sup> representing an alliance of 21 community-based organisations<sup>ii</sup> supported by the Stephen Lewis Foundation<sup>iii</sup>, the Gathering will comprise a series of groundbreaking workshops run by and for grandmothers themselves. The mobilisation of 2,000 grandmothers for the march has been facilitated by South African NGO, Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust<sup>iv</sup>. (They'll be joined in solidarity by members of the Treatment Action Campaign and the Black Sash.)

14 million children have been orphaned by AIDS. In Sub-Saharan Africa grandmothers have been at the epicentre of the response. This Gathering will ensure that they are at the centre of #AIDS2016.

An international delegation of grandmothers from Canada and Australia will also attend the South Africa Grandmothers Gathering representing the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign – an international movement of older women standing in solidarity with African grandmothers. As well, a number of high profile guests will be in attendance for the march, including the United Nations' former special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, Stephen Lewis, and African Women's Development Fund CEO, Theo Sowa.

### **Grandmothers, special guests, and organizers will be available for interviews.**

<b>WHERE</b>	Garden Court Marine Parade 167 O R Tambo Parade   Marine Parade   Durban, 4001
<b>WHEN</b>	July 14 & 15   Plenary sessions and workshops led by participating grandmothers July 16   9:00am   Grandmothers march and Grandmothers Statement
<b>CONTACT</b>	Roger Musselman, Director of Communications, the Stephen Lewis Foundation Phone: +1 (888) 203-9990 ext. 226 (work)   +1 (416) 560-8819 (cell) Email: <a href="mailto:rmusselman@stephenlewisfoundation.org">rmusselman@stephenlewisfoundation.org</a>

...more

**ADDITIONAL CONTACTS** Claire Hodgkinson, Marketing and Fundraising Manager, Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust,  
 Phone: +27 (0)317655866 (work) / +27737445173 (cell)  
 or Bekky Stredwick +27 (0)834369701 (cell)  
 Email: [fundraising@hillaims.org.za](mailto:fundraising@hillaims.org.za)

---

<sup>i</sup> **Organising Committee**

**Cwengekile Myeni**, Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust, Hillcrest  
**Daisy Maphuele**, Grandmothers Against Poverty and AIDS (GAPA), Cape Town  
**Darlina Tyawana**, Community Activist, Port Elizabeth  
**Eunice Mangwane**, Keiskamma Trust, East London  
**Nosintu Yokwe**, Keep a Child Alive- Blue Roof Wellness Clinic, Durban  
**Zodwa Ndlovu**, Siyaphambili HIV and AIDS Support Group, Umlazi

<sup>ii</sup> **South Africa Partners**

Amandawe Community Care and Youth Development Centre, Cotlands, dlananathi , Ekupholeni Mental Health Centre, Etafeni Day Care Centre Trust, Grandmothers Against Poverty and AIDS, Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust, Izimbali Zesizwe, Keep a Child Alive– Blue Roof Wellness Centre, Keiskamma Trust, Mamelani Projects, Museum of AIDS in Africa , MusicWorks (formerly MTCC), Siyanqoba Community Support Group, Siyaphambili HIV and AIDS Support Group, Sophiatown Community Psychological Services , Tateni Home Care Nursing Services, Treatment Action Campaign, Umtha Welanga, Wide Horizon Hospice, Wits Palliative Care

<sup>iii</sup> **Stephen Lewis Foundation**

The Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) works with community-level organizations which are turning the tide of HIV & AIDS in Africa by providing care and support to women, orphaned children, grandmothers and people living with HIV & AIDS. Since 2003, we have funded over 1,400 initiatives, partnering with more than 300 community-based organizations in the 15 African countries hardest hit by the global AIDS epidemic. [www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org)

<sup>iv</sup> **Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust**

HACT is a Non-Profit Organisation and Trust which has been in operation since 1990. Its mission is to provide unconditional love and hope to HIV/AIDS impacted communities in the Valley of 1000 Hills region of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. HACT delivers HIV prevention education in schools, clinic respite care, community empowerment and income generation projects to vulnerable children and adults in a region which has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world. [www.hillcrestaids.org.za/](http://www.hillcrestaids.org.za/)