



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Grandmother Activists Take Action on Human Rights and HIV at the International Grandmothers Gathering 2023

*Across 11 countries, African and Canadian activists and leaders raise the visibility of a powerful global grandmothers movement.*

[WINNIPEG, MANITOBA] — Grandmother activists and leaders are coming together across 11 countries for the [International Grandmothers Gathering, October 24–26](#). To kick off the event in Winnipeg, more than 100 Canadian and African grandmothers will march through The Forks historic site to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights amphitheatre, where they will deliver a rallying cry for global action on grandmothers' human rights and HIV, on October 24 at 10:15 a.m. CDT.

Over three days, this unprecedented international gathering takes place simultaneously in Canada, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

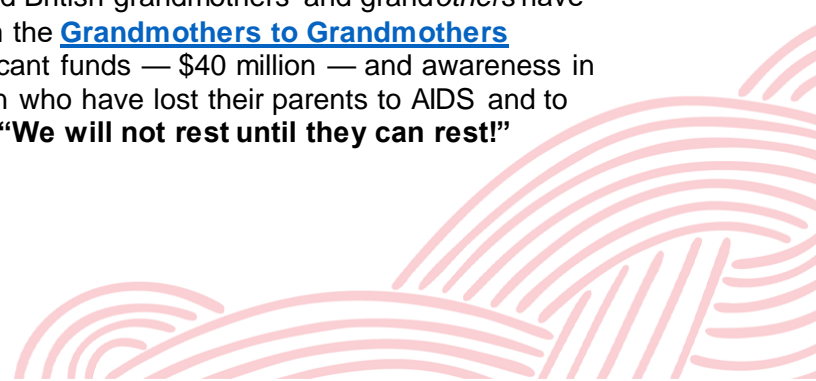
**These gatherings comes at a critical time.** Community-led organizations working with grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa are reporting a major backslide in progress made against the HIV epidemic, and in the protection of grandmothers' human rights. Last year, 500,000 people in Eastern and Southern Africa newly acquired HIV.

**Faced with discrimination based on gender, age, and HIV status, grandmothers are courageous advocates for their families and communities.** They have stepped up to raise a generation of children who have lost their parents to AIDS-related illnesses, with little or no support. Now, grandmothers are organizing to create a collective plan of action to address the structural causes of the challenges they face, and the inequities that fuel the HIV epidemic.

Supported by the [Stephen Lewis Foundation](#) (SLF), the hybrid in-person and online event will connect grandmothers across continents — activists, leaders, and Canadian members of the SLF's [Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign](#). Together they will chart a clear path forward to advance the grandmothers global solidarity movement. They will engage governments, policymakers, and funders to advocate for structural change, and they will create a collective plan of action to build a future free from AIDS.

### About the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

Since 2006, Canadian, American, Australian, and British grandmothers and grandmothers have joined African grandmothers in solidarity through the [Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign](#). Thousands of members raise significant funds — \$40 million — and awareness in support of grandmothers caring for grandchildren who have lost their parents to AIDS and to build a future free from AIDS. Their rallying call, **“We will not rest until they can rest!”**



## About the Stephen Lewis Foundation

For more than 20 years, the Stephen Lewis Foundation has challenged traditional power structures in international development and philanthropy by shifting resources into the hands of local communities. The HIV epidemic remains a public health emergency in sub-Saharan Africa fuelled by racism, gender inequality, and colonialism. Committed to community-led solutions, we provide funding and allyship to local organizations who are restoring hope, reclaiming human rights, fighting injustice, and saving lives.

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### Editor's note:

#### For more on the International Grandmothers Gathering and the grandmothers movement:

- **Visit** the IGG 2023 event webpage: [stephenlewisfoundation.org/IGG2023](https://stephenlewisfoundation.org/IGG2023)
- **Download** the [Backgrounder IGG 2023](#) and [Statement on IGG 2023](#)
- **Watch** a short video series narrated by CBC's Anna Maria Tremonti: [We Will Not Rest](#) (10 min), [Building a Movement](#) (12 min), and [Stronger in Solidarity](#) (5 min).

#### To request interviews with African grandmothers, Canadian Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign members, or an SLF spokesperson, please contact:

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