

## Media Advisory



### **ACTION FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Highlights of Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network participation at  
the XV International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, Thailand

#### **Satellite Conference:**

#### ***Human Rights at the Margins: HIV/AIDS, Prisoners, Drug Users and the Law***

Friday, 9 July 2004, Asia Hotel

Rates of HIV infection among injection drug users and among prisoners are very high in many countries, and the human rights of these populations are routinely violated. Held just prior to the start of AIDS 2004, this conference will provide a rare opportunity for experts, community leaders and activists from both developing and developed countries to discuss an international agenda for action. Participants will examine prevention and treatment strategies that work, as well as the human rights and public health imperatives for the wider implementation of these strategies. Opening keynote address by Paisan Suwannawong, founding member of the Thai Drug Users Network (TDN).

Co-organized by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, the Lawyers Collective HIV/AIDS Unit (India), International Harm Reduction Development, and the Thai Drug Users Network, and co-hosted by UNAIDS. Additional partners include the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO).

**Registration:** 8 am, Kingpetch Room, Asia Hotel, 296 Phayathai Road, Bangkok (Ratchathewi skytrain station). The meeting will start at 9 am sharp. Complete program (including notes on each presenter) and background materials are available at: <http://www.aidslaw.ca/bangkok2004/e-bangkok2004.htm>

#### **Press Conference:**

#### ***Treatment, Microbicide & Vaccine Advocates Launch Worldwide Effort at Collaboration***

*Human right to health requires comprehensive, global response to HIV/AIDS, say activists*

Wednesday 14 July 2004, 10:00 am

Room B, Impact Media Centre

Advocates from around the world will mark an historic moment as three streams of AIDS activism come together to launch a joint *Statement of Commitment* and 12-point *Plan of Action*. Although historically distinct, advocacy movements for HIV treatments, microbicides and vaccines share much in common, with accelerated research, development and access required in each area. As representatives from each movement will discuss, treatment strategies will not succeed if prevention efforts are failing, while prevention strategies are less likely to succeed if treatments are not accessible. The *Statement* and *Plan* call for a comprehensive, global response to HIV/AIDS – through increased public and private research and the expansion of community health care services that encompass both treatment and prevention – so as to realize the human right to health.

Speakers: Richard Elliott, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network; Saul Walker, International AIDS Vaccines Initiative (IAVI); Megan Gottemoeller, Global Campaign for Microbicides (GMC); Jonathan Berger, AIDS Law Project, South Africa (ALP); Dr. Purnima Mane, UNAIDS

**Oral Presentation:**

***Establishing prison-based harm reduction policies and programs  
in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union***

Wednesday, 14 July 2004, 2:45 pm  
Session Room B, Impact Centre

Presenter: Ralf Jürgens, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. The presentation will be made available online on 14 July at <http://www.aidslaw.ca/Maincontent/issues/prisons.htm>.

**Skills-building workshop:**

***HIV Microbicides, Treatment and Vaccines  
“Cross-Training” for Advocates and Activists:***

*Understanding the Agenda, Strengthening the Capacity*

Thursday, 15 July 2004, 2 to 5:30 pm  
EC Room 5, Impact Centre

The development of and access to better tools, both therapeutic and preventive – to give people better options to respond to HIV/AIDS – is a key uniting issue for advocates working in the areas of microbicides, treatments, and vaccines. This session will give participants an overview of key advocacy efforts and challenges in each area and highlight opportunities for activists from each movement to collaborate. Co-organized by the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO) and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.

**Poster presentations:**

The Legal Network will also give 10 poster presentations at the conference. Topics include human rights-based approaches to HIV/AIDS, stigma and discrimination, needle exchange programs in prisons, criminal law and the disclosure of HIV status, privacy protection and the disclosure of health information, international trade law and access to medicines and more.

For additional information or to book an interview with a presenter or spokesperson, contact:

---

**About the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network**

The Legal Network ([www.aidslaw.ca](http://www.aidslaw.ca)) was founded in 1992 to promote the human rights of people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, in Canada and internationally, through research, legal and policy analysis, education, advocacy, and community mobilization. The Network is Canada’s leading advocacy organization for legal, ethical and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS.

---