

## Speaker List & Organizational Sponsors

**Anele Yawa, Treatment Action Campaign National General Secretary:** Anele Yawa became a TAC member in 2002. From 2003 to 2005 he was a TAC district organizer in the Nelson Mandela Metro Municipality (Port Elizabeth). In 2008, he was elected as the Deputy Chairperson of TAC in the Eastern Cape. From 2010 to 2013 he served as TAC's Eastern Cape Provincial Chairperson and also a member of the National Council of TAC. In July 2013 Anele became TAC's national chairperson. Following the resignation of former TAC General Secretary Vuyiseka Dubula in February 2014, he stepped up to lead the organization in the transition period. As of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 Anele Yawa is officially the General Secretary of the TAC.

**Nkhensani Mavasa, Treatment Action Campaign National Chairperson:** Nkhensani is a mother of three kids and is the TAC National Chairperson as well as the General Secretary at Basic Education for All (BEFA) and a Treasurer for the ANC Selbourne Mabund Branch. She has been actively involved with TAC since 2004. She has worked for TAC as a Treatment Literacy Practitioner, National Trainer, Provincial Women's Rights Co-coordinator and District community Health Advocacy Coordinator. She has served both as TAC's Limpopo Deputy Chair and Provincial Women's representative. She has participated at the African Commission on women's and people's rights. She represents TAC in the people living with HIV sector in the South African National AIDS Council.

**Mark Heywood, SECTION27 Executive Director:** Mark joined the AIDS Law Project (ALP) in 1994 and in 1998 he was one of the founders of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC). He has continued to participate on the TAC Secretariat, National Council and Board of Directors. Mark was elected and served as the deputy chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) in 2007 until 2012. In 2009, he was also appointed as a member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on National Health Insurance. Mark has written extensively on HIV, human rights and the law and has been part of the legal teams of the ALP, TAC and SECTION27 that have been involved in major litigation around HIV and other human rights issues in South Africa.

**Asia Russell, Health GAP Executive Director:** Asia has been a leader in the fight against HIV for over 20 years, first as a community organizer and treatment activist in Philadelphia, and ultimately as part of the group who founded Health GAP in 1999, serving as our Director of International Policy until 2014. Asia is a 2008 recipient of the Keith Cylar Courage Award from Housing Works, the 2010 Kiyoshi Kuromiya Award from Philadelphia FIGHT, [the 2011 John M. Lloyd Leadership Award](#), and an award in 2011 from The AIDS Service Organization (TASO), Uganda for her exceptional contribution as an AIDS activist. She is currently based in Kampala, Uganda, where she works with a coalition of local human rights, HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights, LGBTI, and AIDS groups on health funding and policies, to fight homophobic and stigmatizing laws, and to build the capacity of activist and other civil society networks.

**Treatment Action Campaign (TAC)** was founded in December 1998 to campaign for access to AIDS treatment. It is widely acknowledged as one of the most important civil society organisations active on AIDS in the developing world. One of its most significant victories was the 2002 Constitutional Court ruling in which the South African government was ordered to provide anti-retroviral drugs to prevent transmission of HIV from mothers to their babies during birth. In the years following the judgment the TAC's campaigns were instrumental in securing a universal government-provided AIDS treatment programme, which has since become the world's largest. Today the TAC continues to represent users of the public healthcare system in South Africa, and to campaign and litigate on critical issues related to the quality of and access to healthcare. The organisation currently has over 8,000 members and a network of 182 branches and provincial offices in seven of South Africa's nine provinces.

**SECTION27** is a public interest law centre that seeks to achieve substantive equality and social justice in South Africa. Guided by the principles and values in the Constitution, SECTION27 uses law, advocacy, legal literacy, research and community mobilisation to achieve access to healthcare services, basic education and sufficient food. Underpinning all of our work is the promotion of the rights to equality and dignity as well as the principles of good governance and accountability. Across our areas of work we are concerned with the duties of both public and private power. SECTION27 was established in 2010, when it incorporated the AIDS Law Project, which for over 15 years had been at the forefront of the civil society response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa.

**Health Global Access Project** is an organization of U.S.-based AIDS and human rights activists, people living with HIV/AIDS, public health experts, fair trade advocates and concerned individuals who campaign against policies of neglect and avarice that deny treatment to millions and fuel the spread of HIV. We are dedicated to eliminating barriers to global access to affordable life-sustaining medicines for people living with HIV/AIDS as key to a comprehensive strategy to confront and ultimately stop the AIDS pandemic. We believe that the human right to life and to health must prevail over the pharmaceutical industry's excessive profits and expanding patent rights.