

Call for nominations for a gender-based violence expert to serve on the Hands Off II advisory committee

1. Background

Background of Aidsfonds

Aidsfonds is working towards a world without AIDS. We are there to help everyone living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. The main aim of Aidsfonds is to ensure that everyone has access to prevention, treatment, care and support. At the same time, our funding for scientific research contributes to advances in the understanding of AIDS. Aidsfonds always takes the lead when there are fresh insights that could be the start of new and better options. We use scientific research and innovative methods to optimise the programmes that we implement. We also believe in empowering people so they can act in their own interests. For more information see: www.aidsfonds.org

Sex work programme

The sex work programme of Aidsfonds has a long history of implementing projects, both nationally and on global level. The programme is specialised in supporting, monitoring and mentoring sex worker self-led organisations and service providers (law enforcement and health workers). As a result Aidsfonds has a successful track record in international work with and for sex workers. Currently we have three main international global programmes; Bridging the Gaps (focussing on human rights and access to health), PITCH (focussing on lobby and advocacy for sex workers' rights) and Hands Off II, which focuses on violence and sex work in the Southern African region.

Hands Off II programme

Violence is increasingly being recognized as an important risk factor contributing to the spread of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) worldwide. High rates of violence perpetrated against sex workers have been consistently documented in developing countries. Sex workers exposed to violence were more likely to be infected with HIV and other STIs than those who did not report such experiences.

The first phase 1 of the Hands Off programme (2014 - 2019) has proven that the Hands Off model, a combination of engagement with police in the HIV response, litigation and movement building results in reduced violence against sex workers. The second phase (2019 – 2024) will further build on the Hands Off model and intensify interventions that are proven to lead towards a reduction of violence, as well as pilot new and innovative strategies.

The main goal of the programme is to reduce violence against sex workers at community, national and regional level. Hands Off will contribute to the reduction of violence through four long-term outcomes: 1) an empowered and resilient sex worker movement that demands its rights, 2) increased access to and use of inclusive services for sex workers, 3) a more enabling environment for sex work, and 4) sex workers protected and served by law enforcement.

The programme's primary target group is female, male and transgender sex workers, meaning those who receive money or goods in exchange for sexual services, either regularly or occasionally. Hands Off is implemented in South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. See for more information: <https://aidsfonds.org/work/hands-off-reducing-violence-against-sex-workers>

To advise on the direction of the programme and to promote the programme's mission Aidsfonds seeks a gender-based violence expert to serve on the Hands Off II Advisory committee.

About the committee

The Hands Off II Advisory committee will be responsible to advise on the direction of the programme and to identify regional opportunities for maximum impact. Additionally the committee will promote Hands Off's mission at international conferences and platforms such as the International Aids Conference and ICASA. The committee meets annually to review the Theory of Change, advocacy strategy and the programme's impact. It provides advice to Aidsfonds.

Aidsfonds will assume primary responsibility for the management of the grant through its existing procedures and policies. Aidsfonds' Supervisory Board will have final responsibility.

Responsibilities of the committee

- To identify priorities and provide advice on strategic direction with regard to sex work, HIV and gender based violence programming
- To protect the best interests of the Hands Off II beneficiaries and to promote Hands Off's mission at conferences and meetings
- To identify funding opportunities and promote Hands Off II with potential funders and stakeholders
- To be available to participate in a yearly strategic review and planning retreat, organised around international or regional conferences, such as ICASA and the international AIDS conferences.

Committee members are elected for two-year terms (2020-2022). The term begins at the 1 August 2020 and candidates must be prepared to serve the entire two-year term. Elected committee members are willing and able to undertake at least 4 hours work on the Hands Off committee per month, including reading documents and consulting with peers.

The committee will meet face-to-face on a yearly basis for a one-day strategic review and planning retreat. Additionally the Programme team will update the committee on a quarterly basis in writing on progress and developments within the programme.

Members are willing to serve on a voluntary basis. Costs for face-to-face meetings and conferences are covered by Aidsfonds from the Hands Off budget.

Composition of the committee

The Advisory committee will consist of five members and one observing member, representing stakeholders with different perspectives and technical expertise on at least one of the Hands Off overall long term programme goals. The Hands Off programme team seeks diverse and passionate individuals that are leaders in their community, field, movement or sector. The membership shall consist of:

- One seat for a member **with expertise on the subject of (gender-based) violence**
- One seat for a member **from the sex worker community**, with expertise in movement building
- One seat for a member with expertise in **(community-led) service delivery** of health, legal or psychosocial services
- One seat for a member with expertise in **advocacy & policy influencing** for key populations' rights, or expertise in community sensitizing, media or working with religious or community leadership
- One seat for a member with expertise in **law enforcement & public health**
- One **observer seat for a sex worker representative** from the Hands Off partners (annual rotation seat)

To ensure the impartial nature of the committee, members will not be delegates from Hands Off implementing partners, but independent associates who are nominated and selected by Hands Off partners. The committee will be facilitated by Aidsfonds programme team members, who will organise and attend Committee meetings, but will not take part in the decision-making processes.

The sex worker member who holds the observer seat will be mentored by the coordinator of the Southern African Sex Workers Alliance (SASWA- to be established by implementing partners under Hands Off II) to build leadership capacity. The sex worker representative will bring in the partners' and context perspective to the committee meetings.

Selection process committee members

The members of the Hands Off strategic committee will be nominated through an open call for nominations. These nominations will be reviewed and scored by the Hands Off programme team and the Governance working group, representing three Hands Off partners. Together they will decide on the final composition of the committee. Nominees will be assessed on their commitment to the Hands Off programme objectives, demonstrated leadership, skills and technical expertise. Balance will be sought in terms of gender equality and if possible, geographical representation.

Requirements

The selection process will be conducted based on the following criteria:

- In-depth understanding of sex workers' rights and personal commitment to the Hands Off goals
- Strong networks within his/her respective field of expertise
- Understanding of environments relevant for the Hands Off programme and preferably of the Southern African context
- Willing to travel internationally on a yearly basis (costs covered by Aidsfonds)
- Confidence in public speaking and/ or writing
- Fluent in English
- Involvement or experience in working with civil society organisations will be an added value
- Knowledge and expertise in the topic of (gender-based) violence and/ or Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

How to apply

Candidates may self-nominate, or be nominated by others by 1 August 2020. Please share nominations to ivanbeekum@aidsfonds.nl. For more information, contact Ingeborg van Beekum.

To be considered for nomination, please send:

- A profile of the nominee, briefly describing what perspective, skills and experience he or she will bring to the advisory committee
- CV or resume
- Contact information for 2 references.