



## Call for nominations for candidates to serve on the Love Alliance Activists Advisory Committee

### Background

The Love Alliance is an advocacy partnership between Aidsfonds, AFE, GALZ, GNP+, ISDAO, SANPUD, Sisonke and UHAI-EASHRI, funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Together, we invest in addressing structural barriers to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), including gender inequality, decriminalisation, financing for LGBTQI+ people, sex workers, People Who Use Drugs and People Living with HIV, and increased access to health and justice.

The vision of our Alliance is to create a world where all people are able and empowered to make well informed, autonomous choices about their bodies without being criminalised, stigmatised or excluded, so they can enjoy the highest level of SRHR fulfilment and lowest vulnerability to STIs, including HIV, and other diseases.

Our partnership's activities:

- Are driven by the lived experiences of the communities we serve;
- Foster cross-learning and collaborations between partners and the communities they are representing;
- Ensure communities can influence decision making and exercise independent oversight;
- Are based on participatory grant-making to ensure that local activists themselves select local partners and award over 60% of grants and;
- Allow for flexibility in terms of budgeting, priority setting, partnering and innovation to respond to emerging issues.

We are active in 10 countries across Africa (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt and Morocco), and additionally we will advocate at global and (sub) regional level.

### ***Our manifesto***

*The Love Alliance is about us - people and our power when we come together as communities. All of us are criminalised or discriminated against in one way or another due to our identity or HIV status or behaviour, or purely for political reasons. Every year, tens of thousands of us are arrested, prosecuted, incarcerated, deported, fined or denied access to health and justice.*

*We will work in solidarity across countries, across generations/ages and across our communities/identities. We will use experience from our lived realities, evidence from our impact, and partners from different sectors. We choose to focus on the things that bring us together, rather than set us apart. The Love Alliance is our chance to prioritise and invest in challenging the structural barriers of gender inequality, underfunding, criminalisation and we will demand inclusion in access to health.*

For more information on the Love Alliance, please see <https://aidsfonds.org/love-alliance>

To advise on the direction of the programme and to promote the programme's mission the Love Alliance seeks seven candidates who will have a seat on the Activists Advisory Committee.

### **About the Activist Advisory Committee**

The Activists Advisory Committee is part of the governance structure of the Love Alliance and the main independent expert and community advisory body to the Strategic Board of the Love Alliance. The Activists Advisory Committee will be made up of a group of a minimum of five and a maximum of seven expert members. Its core tasks are to conduct reviews and provide forward-looking advice to the Strategic Board on strategic matters.

Aidsfonds as administrative lead has the primary responsibility for the management of the grant. The Love Alliance Strategic Board will have final responsibility for the overall strategic direction of partnership and for overseeing the implementation of the Love Alliance.

### **Responsibilities of Activists Advisory Committee**

- Remaining up to date with work of the Love Alliance and the partners
- Monitoring adherence within the Love Alliance to its core values, and governance principles and minimum standards.
- Conducting an annual review of the Love Alliance, specifically regarding the ToC, the annual plan and annual reports, in relation to the aforementioned values and principles as well as recent developments so that the alliance is still serving the needs of the communities best. As such the committee provides at least twice a year written feedback on progress and advice on how to address the gaps and shortfalls identified in the reviews and on an ad hoc basis as they may arise.
- In addition the Activists Advisory Committee will provide advice to the Strategic Board:
  - On issues raised by the Strategic Board
  - On issues raised by the Activists Advisory Committee, including advocacy trends, opportunities and threats.

The Activists Advisory Committee meets at least twice a year, as part of the annual planning and reporting cycle, and with the aim to provide the Strategic Board with advice prior to their meetings. Ad-hoc meetings may be called if deemed necessary by the Strategic Board or a majority of the Activists Advisory Committee. A member who is absent from more than two consecutive formal meetings without a leave of absence is deemed to have resigned.

Meetings will mainly be virtual web-based meetings (of max 2-3 hours). If needed and feasible, one meeting per year can be a face-to-face meeting, and this will be in the same city as the Strategic Board face-to-face meeting so that there can be a meeting between the Strategic Board and Activists Advisory Committee.

Members are compensated for time investment (expected to be 50 hours per year for preparations and online meetings and any additional time for face to face meetings),

through a flat rate of € 500 per year. Additionally, travel expenses (including per diem) and accommodation costs for face-to-face meetings and/or conferences are covered by the Love Alliance.

### **Composition of the Activists Advisory Committee**

The Activists Advisory Committee will be made up of a group of a minimum of five and a maximum of seven expert members with the following essential qualifying attributes:

- They are nominated representatives of the communities of people who use drugs, sex workers, LGBTIQ+ and/or people living with HIV
- They are trusted and supported by their community to represent one or more of the people who use drugs, sex workers, LGBTIQ+ and people living with HIV communities in the regions and countries where the Love Alliance operates;
- They are activists and experts, and have the capacity to contribute and effectively participate in the activities of the Activists Advisory Committee;
- They support and promote the key principles and approaches of the Love Alliance, including the feminist perspective;
- They are representatives of the constituency and not of their individual organisations.

The Activists Advisory Committee members will include at least two members under the age of thirty, a representative of the trans community and at least one member living with HIV. The Activists Advisory Committee membership represents the people who use drugs, sex workers, LGBTIQ+ and people living with HIV communities.

To ensure the impartial nature of the committee, members will not be employees or board members of partners that are funded by the Love Alliance, but independent associates. Please note that employees of partners or grantees that are funded by Love Alliance partners through other funding streams can apply.

Activists Advisory Committee members are installed for a term of 2,5 years (the term begins 1 August). After the initial 2,5 years, the Strategic Board may decide to extend the term of the Activists Advisory Committee until the end of the partnership, or do launch a new call for applications for Activists Advisory Committee members.

The committee will be facilitated by The Love Alliance Administrative Lead team, who will organise and attend Committee meetings, but will not take part in the decision-making processes.

### **Selection process**

The members of the Activists Advisory Committee will be nominated through this open call for nominations. All nominations will be reviewed and scored by the Love Alliance administrative lead and 1 representative of any interested Love Alliance partner that wishes to be part of the selection process. The short listed candidates will be presented to the Love Alliance Strategic Board for final approval after which the members will be officially installed.

Nominees will be assessed on their commitment to the Love Alliance programme objectives and principles, demonstrated leadership, skills and technical expertise. Balance will be

sought in terms of gender, age, ethnicity and if possible, geographical representation, in addition to the aforementioned criteria for the composition.

## **Requirements**

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

- Candidates are a representative of the LGBTQI+ people, sex workers, people who use drugs and/or people living with HIV communities in the countries and countries where the Love Alliance is implemented. The alliance is committed to diversity and inclusion in its selection process and encourages applications from groups of people targeted for/subjected to intersecting oppressions.
- Individuals must be active in civil society and able to demonstrate strong ties and recognition with the communities they work in. They have at least 2 years of demonstrable experience working for their constituency in their country or region, and have an understanding of working with multiple types of stakeholders (e.g. governments, donors, other NGOs and activists).
- Candidates have in-depth understanding of rights of people who use drugs, sex workers, LGBTQI+ and people living with HIV.
- Personal commitment to the Love Alliance goals, key principles and approaches, including the feminist perspective.
- Individuals are able to communicate verbally and in written in English and/or French, Arabic, Portuguese. They are confident in public speaking and/or writing
- Knowledge and expertise in at least one of the following topics
  - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
  - HIV/Aids programming
  - Gender and Bodily Rights programming
  - Promoting youth leadership
  - Gender mainstreaming
  - Intersectionality between the communities the Love Alliance serves
  - Decriminalisation
  - Movement building
  - Advocacy and policy influencing
- Candidates are willing and able to travel internationally if needed
- To encourage meaningful participation of young activists and leadership development, the alliance is particularly welcoming applications from candidates under 30 years old. As such we are also inviting junior staff (paid/unpaid) to apply.

## **Conflict of Interest:**

Committee members will need to act in line with the alliance's principles and agreements as per the Full Proposal and Governance Statutes, and declare any possible conflict of interest at the start of their term (through signing a Conflict of Interest agreement) as well as at the start of a meeting in relation to agenda items where this may arise. Members cannot be involved in conversations that may impact or involve their organisations directly.

## **Nominations**

Candidates may self-nominate, or be nominated by others no later than 9 June 2021. Please send nominations to Naroesha Jagessar (Partnership Coordinator of the Love Alliance), [njagessar@aidsfonds.nl](mailto:njagessar@aidsfonds.nl) and Haitske van Asten ([hvanasten@aidsfonds.nl](mailto:hvanasten@aidsfonds.nl)) with cc to Rajae El Baghdadi ([relbaghdadi@aidsfonds.nl](mailto:relbaghdadi@aidsfonds.nl)). Interviews are planned for the weeks of 14 and 21 June.

To be considered for nomination, please send:

- A profile of the nominee, briefly describing what perspective, skills and experience they will bring to the advisory committee (max. 1 page)
- CV or resume
- Statement of motivation
- One letter of support
- Contact information for 2 references