

AIDS 2018: WCC-EAA Global Organizing Committee Terms of Reference

Background

The 22nd International AIDS Conference, AIDS 2018, will be held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, from 23-27 July 2018. The International AIDS Conference is the largest conference on global health in the world. First convened during the peak of the AIDS epidemic in 1985, it continues to provide a unique forum for the intersection of science, advocacy, and human rights.

The theme of AIDS 2018 is *“Breaking Barriers Building Bridges”*, drawing attention to the need to promote human rights based and evidence-informed HIV responses that are tailored to the needs of particularly vulnerable communities and to collaborate in fighting the disease beyond country borders.

The faith-based response to HIV and AIDS has become more visible and integrated because of the increased engagement and coordination of faith-based representatives over the past International AIDS Conferences. It is vital that the facilitation of such faith-based participation continues to grow and be built upon in the run-up to, and during, AIDS 2018.

Purpose

The purpose of the Global Organizing Committee (GOC) is to set the overall direction, priorities, policies and related planning for all faith-based activities coordinated and supported by the WCC-EAA at AIDS 2018. These activities should:

1. Provide opportunities for networking, sharing of experiences and capacity-building for faith-based representatives attending AIDS 2018
2. Facilitate faith-based advocacy with a common voice in the run-up to, and during, the conference
3. Provide space and technical assistance to representatives of faith-based organizations organizing and sponsoring their own activities at AIDS 2018
4. Provide orientation for representatives of faith-based organizations attending the conference, including by disseminating information about faith-based activities at AIDS 2018

The GOC will work closely with the WCC-EAA HIV campaign coordinator and the Local Host Committee (LHC) that is responsible for providing logistical support for faith-based activities at AIDS 2018 and for facilitating European faith-based input into such activities and related advocacy.

Specific tasks to be overseen by the GOC will include:

- Developing an Interfaith Pre-Conference concept, theme, programme, workshop streams and speakers, and implementing these plans in liaison with the WCC-EAA HIV campaign coordinator and the LHC
- Identifying opportunities and taking a lead in coordinating faith-based activities within the main conference program (e.g. Interfaith Prayer Room, Global Village, Advocacy)
- Facilitating the integration of religious leaders and faith communities from around the world into the main conference program
- Framing overall funding proposals, coordinating approaches to donors and receiving and acting on reports from the LHC and other working groups
- Evaluating the execution of the GOC’s tasks after AIDS 2018

Membership

The GOC is appointed by the WCC-EAA International Reference Group and will also report to the WCC-EAA HIV and AIDS Strategy Group. A transparent and extensive nomination process will ensure that a pool of experienced people is identified for consideration. GOC membership will be diverse, representing different global regions, religions and ecumenical partners and including people living with HIV. At least one member of the LHC will sit on the GOC, and vice versa.

The individuals that serve on the GOC will ideally:

- Represent a specific faith, denomination or faith-based agency, including WCC-EAA participating organizations and WCC member churches
- Participate on behalf of their institution
- Have experience of working on awareness of HIV and AIDS issues
- Have experience of working in an ecumenical and/or interfaith context
- Have good planning skills, the ability to provide oversight, direction for a large task as a member of a larger team
- Have the ability to function well as part of a team and committee environment
- Be committed to promoting the greater involvement of people living with HIV
- Have experience in advocacy, education or theological reflection in the area of HIV and AIDS
- Be committed to promoting collective interfaith and ecumenical work rather than individual organizations/agendas

GOC members are expected to have the time, resources and commitment to:

- Actively participate in GOC conference calls
- Be responsive to email discussions on key issues
- Attend and participate in AIDS 2018 and other related faith-based activities, such as the Interfaith Pre-Conference
- Promote faith-based input into AIDS 2018 within their respective regions, sectors, institutions and denominations
- Take a leadership role in facilitating a specific aspect of faith-based input at AIDS 2018 (e.g. Interfaith Prayer Room, Global Village, Advocacy, Pre-Conference)

Working methods

The GOC's mandate will run from January to September 2018. The GOC will work by email and conference calls, and members take up leadership roles in activities at AIDS 2018. Face-to-face meeting will be organized where needed and possible. At least one GOC member will serve as a link to the LHC and to other working groups that may be set up. The Group will be coordinated by WCC-EAA staff with the support of the chair, who will be elected during the Group's first conference call.