

No More Lip Service: A demand for PrEP Access from the trans-community: Engaging the Trans-community at AIDS 2018

As news and for AIDS 2018 is on every lip of researchers, advocates, communities and other stakeholders. For the first time ever, the program for the International AIDS Conference will include a pre-conference focused on transgender people called *No More Lip service: Trans Access, Equity and Rights, Now!* The program will bring together global trans people and activists from Peru, Malaysia, Thailand, United States, India and many other countries in Africa and around the world. JoAnne Keatly, USA, and Amitava Sarkar, India, will serve as co-chairs for the meeting. This will include an entire day of focus on the needs, update research, and capacity building. The co-chairs, representing the IRGT, the Global Network of Trans-Women and HIV, are expected to introduce new delivery model for transgender-focused HIV prevention, care and treatment. The program, called the TRANSIT Service Delivery Model, is designed for advocacy, strategic planning, program design, and provider training and quality improvement. A one of a kind program, TRANSIT builds on the WHO Key Populations Consolidated Guidance recommendations, including those about the use of PrEP.

Several speakers at this conference will address the access and acceptability of PrEP in trans populations. In general, speakers are expected to discuss the lack of data among trans people relate to PrEP use. This will articulate how trans people are excluded from many studies of PrEP involving men who have sex with men. Asa Radix from the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center in New York, NY, will present data from a study she led on the use of PrEP by trans women. In practical terms the trans community is ready to take PrEP as prevention measure however, as related to other Key Populations, social mobilisation need to be done to create demand within the community.

Understanding the needs and views of HIV negative trans and non-binary people in the UK, one researcher lamented "... where PrEP is available and people are invisible and how do you expect effectiveness of PrEP count. If you're already in a stigmatized community, that reinforces discrimination among trans-community. What's really important is seeing someone you can relate to, hearing about health issues that relate to you." When designing

studies it is ideal to include the community affected, as they understand the real issues happening in their own communities.

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