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**Journal of the International AIDS Society Publishes Special Issue Highlighting Linkages
Between Law Enforcement and the Global HIV Response**

*Cites Critical Need for Effective Partnerships Between Police and HIV Programmes
Working with Key Populations*

Durban, South Africa – The Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS) has published a special issue on police, law enforcement, and HIV (available [here](#)). The publication was formally released at the 21st International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2016) currently underway in Durban, and was also the focus of a special press briefing today at the conference.

“In too many parts of the world, HIV risk and the risk of arrest or incarceration go hand in hand,” said Chris Beyrer, AIDS 2016 International Chair and President of the International AIDS Society. “As we work to reform discriminatory laws and policies that criminalize drug use, sex work, and same-sex sexual behaviour, we must also forge common ground between law enforcement and public health to create more supportive environments for vulnerable populations who come into contact with law enforcement.”

“This journal provides powerful evidence of the positive impact that can be made when the HIV community works collaboratively with law enforcement,” said Nicholas Thomson, IAS-NIDA Fellow at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. “Only when HIV researchers, donors, programme implementers, civil society, and police work in close partnership will we be able to have a real impact in reducing HIV in areas with concentrated epidemics.”

The special issue was co-edited by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and the Law Enforcement and HIV Network (LEAHN), and includes an introduction by UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé. It features commentary and original research from an international roster of authors covering the impact of police behaviours and law enforcement practices on the HIV risk of vulnerable populations.

The issue also describes effective partnerships and programmes, which are helping to lay the scientific foundation for constructive, progressive, cost-effective, and evidence-based approaches to reduce HIV risk among key populations – which the latest UNAIDS data indicate represent more than one-third of all new HIV infections globally.

“There is one powerful and potentially very helpful ally, whom we have not adequately engaged in the global HIV response — the police,” said David Patterson, Senior Legal Expert for Health at the International Development Law Organization. “Engaging police in the HIV response and making them part of the solution is critical to reducing HIV risk among vulnerable populations.”

Journal authors called for donor agencies to examine how they can better target funds and programming through efforts such as institutionalized police training, standard operating protocols to guide law enforcement’s engagement with key populations, sustained and facilitated dialogue between police and programmes, and comprehensive evaluations that assess the real-world impact of these efforts on law enforcement, public health, and human rights.

Today's AIDS 2016 journal press briefing featured an expert panel discussion on how the broader HIV community and law enforcement are reshaping their work to create more effective partnerships in the global HIV response. Speakers included representatives from IAS, IDLO, U.S. Department of State / PEPFAR, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, UNAIDS, and the Uganda Harm Reduction Network / Law Enforcement and HIV Network.

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About the International AIDS Society

Founded in 1988, the International AIDS Society (IAS) is the world's largest association of HIV professionals, with members from more than 180 countries working on all fronts of the global AIDS response. Together, we advocate and drive urgent action to reduce the global impact of HIV.

The IAS is also the steward of the world's two most prestigious HIV conferences – the International AIDS Conference and the IAS Conference on HIV Science. These conferences have established a gold-standard meeting that convenes the world's top scientists, civil society members, and policymakers to jointly discuss the fight against HIV.

About the International Development Law Organization

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) is the only intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law. IDLO works to enable governments and empower people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity. Its programs, research and policy advocacy cover the spectrum of rule of law from peace and institution building to social development and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict and striving towards democracy.

IDLO has its headquarters in Rome, a Branch Office in The Hague, liaison offices for the United Nations in New York and Geneva, and country offices in Afghanistan, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mali, Mongolia, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan and Tajikistan.

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