



June 16, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Global leaders unite in Oslo to address HIV-related stigma and discrimination toward young people.**

Thirty young leaders from around the world will unite in Oslo June 23 – 25 for the 2009 aids2031 Young Leaders Summit.

aids2031, in collaboration with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNAIDS Special representative HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway, will host the Summit to promote and galvanize young leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. Young leaders will also review the recommendations of aids2031's researchers, scientists, and practitioners for building a long-term response to AIDS.

The young leaders, ranging from ages 17 to 30 from 24 countries, will be joined by an intergenerational group of leaders from diverse sectors for the three day event. This year's participants have diverse areas of expertise in the areas of: human rights; HIV/AIDS; media; international development and the private sector.

*"Young people are often not aware of having rights and discouraged to seek services, information and to speak out," said Selbi Djumayeva, a young 23-year old woman from Turkmenistan participating in the Summit. "I often face how youth is seen only as the target group, risk group or future generation, while there are youth ready to engage today in community organizing and mobilization."*

Prior to and during the Young Leaders Summit, Oslo will host several public events to raise awareness about HIV-related stigma and discrimination and the role of young leaders in combating it.

**An international press conference will be held by telephone on Monday 22 2009 at 17h (UTC/GMT +2). Participants are HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway, Norwegian Minister of the Environment and International Development Erik Solheim, former UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot, aids2031 Meeting Coordinator Caitlin Chandler, Hope's Voice International Executive Director Todd Murray and Wake Up Pune! Himakshi Piplani. Confirm your participation with your name and telephone number by Thursday 18 June to Marianne Hagen, +47 90074124, marianne.hagen@slottet.no.**

aids2031 is a consortium of partners working to mobilize the global AIDS response to include a long-term view. aids2031 sees ongoing investment in youth leadership to be critical to changing the future of the pandemic. For more information about aids2031, please visit: [www.aids2031.org](http://www.aids2031.org).

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For more information about the 2009 Young Leaders Summit, please visit: [www.aids2031.org/youngleaderssummit](http://www.aids2031.org/youngleaderssummit).

**Think stigma and discrimination around HIV and AIDS is over? Think again!  
Here are headlines making news from around the world.**

May 29, 2009 - HIV-Positive Canadian Delegates Barred Entry to the U.S. - United States  
May 1, 2009 - General Practitioners Deny Treatment to Positive Patients in Wales - Wales  
April 30, 2009 - MSM Criminalization Hinders AIDS Efforts in Burundi - Burundi  
April 13, 2009 - Cuba's HIV Community Asking for Respect, Not Tolerance - Cuba  
April 9, 2009 - Canadian Prosecutors Consider HIV a Murder Weapon - Canada  
March 13, 2009 - At-Risk Jamaican MSM Afraid to Seek Health Care - Jamaica  
January 27, 2009 - Many Gay Brits Support HIV Criminalization - United Kingdom  
January 9, 2009 - Prominent AIDS Activist Arrested in Senegal - Senegal  
January 8, 2009 - Possible HIV Link to Papua New Guinean Burnt to Death - New Guinean  
December 24, 2008 - Court: Russia Violated Rights of Jailed Positive Oil Exec - Russia  
December 24, 2008 - Malaysian Politico: Ban Positive People From Marriage - Malaysia  
December 15, 2008 - Ugandan Bill to Require HIV Testing, Disclosure of Status - Uganda  
December 12, 2008 - U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone Decries HIV Stigma - Sierra Leone  
December 8, 2008 - Moscow Mayor: Gay Pride Parades Heighten HIV Risk - Russia  
December 3, 2008 - Thousands of HIV-Positive Burmese Go Without Treatment - Myanmar  
December 3, 2008 - Chinese Activist Detained After World AIDS Day Ceremony - China  
November 18, 2008 - AIDS Misconceptions Still Rampant in China - China

***Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world. - Eleanor Roosevelt***

## **HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway**



The Crown Princess completed her studies in 2003 at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. She took examinations in Development Experience, Theories of Development, HIV/AIDS and Development, and The Global Refugee Crisis. She also spent three months at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), where she focused on HIV/AIDS issues. In April 2006 the Crown Princess was appointed Special Representative for UNAIDS. In this capacity she has been in Nicaragua and Ukraine. A main focus for the Crown Princess' engagement is elimination of HIV related stigma and discrimination – and to strengthen youth leadership in the AIDS response. The Crown Princess is also engaged in a wide range of HIV related work on national level in Norway.

## **Erik Solheim, Norwegian Minister of the Environment and International Development**



Erik Solheim was appointed to Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg's second government as Minister of International Development on 17 October 2005. He is responsible for Norwegian development policy and the administration of most of Norway's development budget. He has an undergraduate degree in social sciences from the University of Oslo, and has served three periods as a member of the Storting for the Socialist Left Party, which he led from 1987 to 1997.

## **Peter Piot, Belgium, aids2031/Institute for Global Health Imperial College**



Dr Peter Piot, 59, is now Director of the new Institute for Global Health at Imperial College London, and was Executive Director of UNAIDS from its creation in 1995 to 2008. Dr Peter Piot came from a distinguished academic and scientific career focusing on AIDS and women's health in the developing world. He completed his medical degree at the University of Ghent in 1974 and pursued a PhD in microbiology at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium. Since 1995, he has been Executive Director of UNAIDS, and has helped to build a broad international coalition against the AIDS epidemic, placing AIDS firmly on the world's agenda. Dr Piot's work has brought together UN agencies with international development agencies, foundations, civil society, business and political leaders, including numerous heads of state. He was responsible for organizing the first ever sessions to be dedicated to a health issue at the UN Security Council in 2000 and the UN General Assembly in 2001, both regarded as turning points in the global response to AIDS.

### **Caitlin Chandler, United States, aids2031**



Caitlin Chandler, 25, works on advocacy and outreach at aids2031, and has been coordinating the Young Leaders Summit. She previously worked for the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA), and is currently on the GYCA Taskforce. She has also worked with the West Africa AIDS Foundation in Accra, Ghana and served as a Board Member and Communications Director for the NYC Student Initiative for AIDS. She created the *Talking With Pictures* digital photography project, and has written on politics and culture for several different publications. Chandler graduated from New York University with an honors B.A. in History and Comparative

Literature.

### **Todd Murray, United States, Hope's Voice International / Does HIV Look Like Me? Campaigns**



Todd Murray, 28, is the Executive Director of Hope's Voice International. After being diagnosed with HIV at the age of 20, Murray decided to take an active role in the world of HIV and AIDS. It was through his own experiences that his vision for Hope's Voice International was born. Murray provides education and advocacy around HIV and AIDS. Speaking at international conferences, hundreds of schools and communities, he addresses the needs of comprehensive sexual health education and young adults living with HIV or AIDS. Murray is the Executive Producer of the Emmy award-winning Does HIV Look Like Me? campaign.

### **Himakshi Piplani, India, Wake Up Pune! HIV Awareness Campaign**



Himakshi Piplani, 21, is a law student from India with a keen interest in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) - at both policy and grassroots level. Piplani has been actively involved with the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS in various capacities including the regional focal point where her primary task was to strengthen GYCA's work of networking and sharing among youth activists, capacity building and international advocacy. She is also working with Wake Up Pune Campaign, a grassroots initiative that aims at addressing HIV & AIDS Stigma &

Discrimination as a social concern with active public participation.