

## Concept note and agenda

### EP event “In conversation with”

7th of April from 11am to 12:30pm CET

Virtual format

At the occasion of World Health Day, of the 40 years of the AIDS epidemic, and in view of the adoption of an EP resolution on HIV/AIDS (in April in DEVE and May in plenary), Aidsfonds, Friends of the Global Fund Europe and Global Health Advocates want to prompt a conversation between three members of the European Parliament and 3 remarkable people affected by HIV and tuberculosis in intimate and unusual format. The community speakers will be:



**Joyce Ouma:** After being diagnosed with HIV in her final year of high school, Joyce experienced stigma and social isolation, with some friends and family members pulling away from her. Now, 7 years after her diagnosis, Joyce is a youth leader in the fight against HIV and its stigma. She is an active member of the Global Fund board and Youth Council and the Women 4 Global Fund’s Strategy Working Group.

**Anton Basenko** was 14 when he started using drugs. After many failed attempts at getting clean, he found out he was HIV and hepatitis C positive. In 2004, Anton became one of the first patients of Global Fund-financed opioid substitution therapy in Ukraine and got cured of hepatitis C. Today, Anton is married and has become a father, and is an ardent advocate on behalf of people living with HIV and using drugs.



**Loyce Maturu** was born with HIV and grew up facing stigma and verbal abuse all her childhood. She did not start receiving antiretroviral treatment until she contracted tuberculosis when she was 12 years old. In 2004, Loyce joined the Africaid Zvandiri Programme where she had the opportunity to meet her peers with the same status. She began to gain confidence and realised she had a life ahead of her. Since then, Loyce has become a strong voice of advocacy for these young communities living with HIV and TB in Zimbabwe.

While travelling, and the ability of MEPs to meet in person civil society and communities from partner countries, has been put on hold since the outbreak of COVID-19, this event provides a unique

opportunity for MEPs to engage in a genuine dialogue with local communities. Joyce, Loyce and Anton speak about how, through EU investments in the Global Fund to fight HIV, TB and Malaria, their lives have changed for the better. Since the creation of the Global Fund in 2002, the EU has donated €2,5 billion, contributing to saving 38 million lives. Parliamentarians have been supportive of the Global Fund since its creation. This event will be an opportunity for them to meet the faces and engage with the stories behind these numbers, and inform discussions surrounding the April/May resolution on HIV/AIDS.

**Dianne Stewart**, the Head of the Donor Relations in the Global Fund, will also take part in the event and will answer to all questions about the work of the Global Fund, and the EU's support thereof.

### **Agenda "In conversation with"**

**April 7 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm**

11:00-11:15: General introduction and round of presentations

11:15-11:45: Conversations between MEPs and community speakers

11:45-12:00: Plenary session - main takeaways

12:00-12:20: Intervention by Dianne Stewart (Global Fund to fight HIV/TB and Malaria) and Q&A

12:20-12:30: Concluding remarks

