



**GLOBAL**  
**BLACK** GAY MEN  
C O N N E C T

ICASA 2021

# GBMSM PRE-CONFERENCE

SUMMARY REPORT  
DECEMBER 5, 2021

# Table of Contents

01

Introduction

02

Our Story

03

Why a GBMSM  
pre-conference?

04

Key issues

05

Moving Forward

06

Acknowledgments

# Introduction

**On December 5, 2021, the Global Black Gay Men Connect (GBGMC) held an ICASA 2021 pre-conference focusing on gay, bisexual, and other Men who have Sex with Men (GBMSM).**

**Under the theme “*taking stock of the past and present of GBMSM in Africa organising with specific focus on continental networking platforms into the future*”, the goal of the pre-conference was to provide an initial platform to discuss and articulate issues facing GBMSM communities, examine the current health programing landscape at the continental level and to facilitate a collaborative, and collective initiative towards concrete solutions to challenges faced by GBMSM communities in Africa.**

**Due to COVID-19, the pre-conference was held virtually and included participants from all over the globe who came to discuss various issues affecting GBMSM, including access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services, funding priorities, social enterprising, accountable funding, movement and network building, and safety and security.**

The one-day pre-conference heard from seasoned HIV activists, global leaders in the HIV response, our funding partners, and allies on efforts to break the chains of HIV transmission among GBMSM, exploring what has worked and should be implemented at scale and what we need to retire in our quest to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

The speakers reiterated the need to intensify efforts towards ending HIV and inequalities across all spheres of life to enhance human rights and quality of life for communities on the fringes of the HIV response.

They urged all stakeholders in the business of ending AIDS to double up on their efforts and commitments to end the social, economic, racial and gender inequalities, punitive laws, policies, and practices, including violence, stigma, and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on HIV status, and other human rights violations that perpetuate the AIDS pandemic.

# Our story so far

## Our Mission

We are a global platform that ensures black gay men are mobilized to actively demand social justice towards a harmonious coexistence.

We aim to build an activist movement of Black gay men that is financially-sustainable and able to demand and provide for equal access to health care, education, and opportunities for economic-prosperity and talent-recognition.

Our movement affirms the human rights of all people, emphasizing and including Black and brown LGBTIQ people.

## Our Purpose

A world where all Black Gay Men are free from criminalization, incarceration, killings, and societal bondage.

GBGMC envisions a world where all Black gay men are free from criminalization, incarceration, violence, and where an independent Black gay political power and Black self-determination will be recognized in all areas of society.

When we  
were  
formed

2018

# Why a GBMSM Pre-Conference?

## 1

### **Take stock of GBMSM organising in Africa**

The pre-conference aimed at evaluating the state of GBMSM organising in the continent, especially in the context of HIV and AIDS. This includes questioning GBMSM in the larger LGBTIQ+ movement as well as positioning GBMSM issues at the core of organising.

## 2

### **Articulate GBMSM issues**

In speaking as one voice, the pre-conference aimed to create a collective towards articulating GBMSM issues as a united front and help steer conversation in the continent around visibility of GBMSM.

## 3

### **Examine GBMSM Health and HIV Programming**

Given that ICASA is an HIV and AIDS conference, with a specific focus in Africa, the pre-conference was a key point in discussing and examining GBMSM HIV and AIDS programming. Also to a larger part, we aimed to examine GBMSM health issues including mental health.

## 4

### **Facilitate collaborative, collective community action**

By initiating and sustaining conversation around GBMSM issues, it was expected the pre-conference to articulate, push, advance, and ultimately lead in collaborative action towards key issues such as justice, visibility, safety and security, movement building and networking.

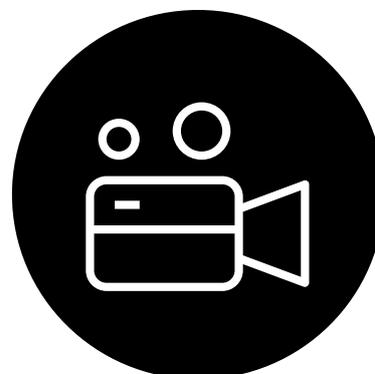
# Key issues

The GBMSM Pre-Conference identified five (5) key areas of focus:

- **Health and HIV programming**
- **Safety and Security**
- **Accountable Funding & Smart investments**
- **Structural Programming using Social Entrepreneurship**
- **Movement Building and Networking**

CLICK ICON TO ACCESS VIDEO

Passcode: u!XNooaR



THEME	WHAT?	WAY FORWARD
<b>Health &amp; HIV Programming</b>	Funding is decreasing globally for HIV; high HIV infections rates; not enough comprehensive service provisions; capacity gaps.	Re-focus on unreached populations esp young GBMSM; increased funding for organisations; advocacy for increased funding; focus on mental health.
<b>Safety &amp; Security</b>	Violations continue; little or no action from authorities; media sensationalism; violence; criminalisation of persons; targeting and shaming continues.	Public interest litigation a new way to engage in; invest in pro-active awareness campaigns and media sensitisation; enhance organisation/personal safety.
<b>Funding Accountability</b>	Most donor requirements are strict; absorption rates are low; capacity issues of organisations; cases of corruption, misuse are common; lack of community involvement from the start.	Ensure participation; include demands, measurements of engagement; promote dialogue; engage in consortia formation to access pool funding; enact accountability policies, mechanisms.
<b>Social Entrepreneurship</b>	Not enough diversification programs; focus on IGA only; little awareness around social enterprising; most donors not funding SE; issues of sustainability; question about profit v/s charity.	Increase awareness of SE; promote diversification of income; engage in profit making ventures; train/promote SE activities; advocate for specific SE work in overall budgets.
<b>Movement Building &amp; Networking</b>	Little or no visibility of GBMSM; cases of mistrust, corruption, no mentorship or leadership training in place; burnouts; founder mentality and personality cults thrive.	Mentorship and leadership re-training to be put in place; transition policies and measures to be put in place and updated regularly; fair pay/compensation for work; selfcare and wellbeing to be invested in.

# Moving Forward

## KEY PRIORITIES FOR GBMSM ORGANISING IN AFRICA



*In these difficult times, we reaffirm the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and commit to partner with governments, other civil society players, our allies, and funding partners in championing the respect, promotion, protection, and fulfillment of ALL human rights. We reiterate that ending AIDS requires ending inequalities and driving multisectoral action across a range of sustainable development goals and targets and that the HIV response is making a vital contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*

# We thank you for your ongoing support of GBGMC

## Acknowledgements

GBGMC acknowledges the contributions of the people who worked tirelessly on the pre-conference, including the organizing committee, ICASA Secretariat, communities, and funding partners for their support, and contributions.

As we work towards the vision of a world free of the burden of HIV, and related stigma and discrimination, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and acknowledge the tremendous work of GBMSM-led civil society, especially in Africa, in steering national HIV responses and governments towards the provision of comprehensive, inclusive and equitable health services for our communities.

**We are because you are.**

**Global Black Gay Men Connect**  
34 W 139th St · Ny · New York,  
NY 10037-1508 · USA  
gbgmc.org  
info@gbgmc.org