



**ACCOUNTABILITY
INTERNATIONAL**

holding leaders accountable

**Accountability International
Announces
2nd Accountability Pre-conference
At
#ICASA2019
Theme: Holding Leading Accountable**

December 1st 2019 (09h00 - 17h30)

**ICASA 2019 Pre-conference space within the Radisson Convention Centre
Kigali, Rwanda**

Accountability Pre-conference at #ICASA2019

About Accountability International

Accountability International is an African-led civil society organisation that works to improve accountability to the most marginalised. From our head office in South Africa, we conduct research and advocacy that allows us to do our work as a watchdog and hold various leaders accountable. We conceptualise and implement innovatively designed projects that are led by our collaboration with marginalised communities. We put huge emphasis on needs-based research and community-led advocacy. We have developed more than a dozen scorecards since we began in 2005, all as a means to contribute to the demand for accountability from all leaders, whether at global, regional, national or community level.

We provide technical advice in many spaces, and yet remain committed to ensuring that our spaces, communications and products are all highly accessible to all people. We play a watchdog role and work to enhance the capacity of other civil society actors to also take up their role as watchdogs, for sustainable, resilient and inclusive human rights for all.

We use the Participatory Action Research (PAR) model, a best practice in which communities co- develop and lead the methodology, development of research tools, conduct the research and produce the final analysis & context-specific and advocacy-focused reports. Partnerships are a fundamental element in our work. Over the years, we have developed excellent partnerships with hundreds of organisations, from major implementing partners to community-based organisations with national or local bases.

Accountability in the HIV, Health and Human Rights Response

Accountability has been identified as a key factor in improving the response to health development needs in Africa and worldwide. Exactly how accountability functions as a panacea for the gaps in health policy development and health care service delivery is not well understood by many in the field and is seldom implemented in any actionable form.^[1] What is known however is that it is a pivotal factor in access to health and human rights. Most agree on as well is that accountability plays a key role in achieving the Global 2030 Agenda as well as all African commitments on health.

Stigma and discrimination, high levels of sexual and gender based violence, the transmission of and lack of testing, treatment, care and support of HIV and AIDS, the lack of bodily autonomy for women and young girls and key populations, and lack of access to quality, accessible, affordable, acceptable sexual and reproductive health services all play a central role in the current state of affairs for HIV and AIDS on the continent. Ensuring accountability on these and other causal issues is pivotal to ensuring a human rights led response to the HIV epidemic.

Regarding stigma and discrimination, the 2014 UNAIDS Gap Report confirms in its findings that 12 populations have been left behind by the AIDS response. The report states that in order to end the epidemic there is an urgent need to close the gap and provide access to HIV treatment care and support and TB services. Often these 12 populations which have been identified also face issues around criminalization and discriminatory laws which denies their access to critical health services.

Sexual minorities, like IDUs, sex workers and young girls in Africa need leaders to be increasingly accountable to them for their health and human rights.^[2] In addition to this, the revised "Maputo Plan of Action for Implementing the African Continental Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights Policy Framework 2016-2030 has as one of its strategic foci to ensure accountability and strengthen monitoring and evaluation.^[3]

Accountability International has been working in the arena of accountability and good governance since 2008 and has extensive experience in the HIV and AIDS and SRHR arena. We envision the Accountability Preconference as the paramount arena in which to promote accountability, provide information and experiences and training on accountability, and for partners to come together to discuss accountability in the response to HIV, SRHR, health more broadly and universal human rights.

Accountability Pre-conference at #ICASA2019

2nd Accountability Preconference in Kigali, Rwanda – 2019



 **ACCOUNTABILITY INTERNATIONAL**
holding leaders accountable

presents the:

ACCOUNTABILITY PRE-CONFERENCE

#ICASA2019

"Holding Leaders Accountable"

Venue: Radisson
Convention Center
Kigali, Rwanda

Date: December 1, 2019
Time: 9am-5pm

#HoldingLeadersAccountable #Account4All
accountability.international

On December 1st, 2019 Accountability International will convene the 2nd Accountability Preconference, prior to the ICASA, in Kigali, Rwanda.

Objectives

The main objective of this preconference is to uncover and explore the existing and multiple intersecting layers when holding leaders accountable.

Accountability Pre-conference at #ICASA2019

- Improve Accountability Literacy: The role of accountability: literacy, leadership and language.
- Increase awareness of the relevant African health commitments that apply to HIV and STIs and health generally.
- Increase awareness of the new Accountability Framework that the African Union has developed to ensure accountability of African Health Policy Instruments (AHPI).
- Marginalised/most left behind communities and accountability: Demonstrate why accountability to sexually diverse Africans is key to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and 90-90-90.
- Showcase innovative projects and work that increase accountability.
- Exhibit how all stakeholders need to be held accountable: government, UN bodies, funding partners, academics, business and civil society.
- Present the watchdog work of other civil society organisations working on accountability.
- Develop a civil society statement on accountability for ICASA 2019.

Outcomes

- Discuss trends in accountability, governance and identify and examine the common threads/trends that have always existed and that are emerging.
- Highlight and share successful and unsuccessful accountability lessons regionally and globally. For participants to learn from other partners what strategies are being used to increase accountability.
- Foster partnerships between the participants in order to inspire and enhance effective and sustained work on accountability.
- Rethink how civil society deals with accountability, and interrogate new lenses, new strategies and new opportunities.
- Expand the capacity and network of participants.

Participation

The event aims to convene participants and stakeholders from the LGBTQ, HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights community ranging from civil society, funding partners, government and academia.

Programme

The programme will be shared via email and online within the next few weeks.

Registration/RSVP/Media

Please RSVP via [HERE](#).

For all media/programme enquiries, please contact Denis Nzioka: denis@accountability.international

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