



Celebrating 10 Years of Service to Key and Priority Populations In Uganda

UPDATE ON SUSPENSION OF THE FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON KEY AND PRIORITY POPULATIONS IN UGANDA

On Thursday 3rd May 2018, leaders of key and priority population civil society organizations (KP CSOs) and MARPs Network Limited (MNL) met with the Director General of Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC) Dr Nelson Musoba. The purpose of the meeting was firstly to ascertain the reasons for the suspension of the **First Annual Conference on Key and Priority Populations in Uganda, co-hosted by UAC and MNL**, and secondly to forge a way forward with the aim of lifting the suspension. The meeting achieved both objectives.

The meeting agreed to take the following actions:

- 1. Dr Musoba will directly engage select Government of Uganda (GoU) Ministries, Department, and Agency officials in order to clarify the scientific (implementation and formal) and evidence-based nature of this conference, and to counter any inaccurate information they may have received. MNL will ensure that KP CSO leadership is present at these engagements, and that the correct information is provided to the said officials. (3rd – 10th May 2018)*
- 2. Following these engagements between UAC, GoU stakeholders, MNL will convene a meeting between KP CSO leadership and Dr. Musoba to agree on next steps. (11th May 2018)*
- 3. MNL will share with all stakeholders the roadmap to conducting the First Annual Key and Priority Populations Conference in Uganda with clear actions, timelines, and responsibility centres. (14th May 2018)*

In the meantime, MNL will continue to work with UAC in preparation for the conference and to ensure that the event is representative of how far Uganda has moved towards '**Ending AIDS without Exclusion**'. Additionally, we call upon implementers i.e. service providers, exhibitors and presenters to use this time to fine tune their presentations as guided by the abstract committee comments.

The success of this historical conference will only be made possible with support from all HIV stakeholders including government and non-government actors. As such moving forward, from this conference and beyond in all of our KP/PP work, we should nurture strong alliances between these key actors in order to achieve the synergy that will propel us towards the 90-90-90 goals.

Lastly, we encourage our partners in the diplomatic core, development partners, CSO fraternity, KP/PP community, and other well-wishers to remain calm and await our communication on the next steps/way forward on **14th May 2018**.

Together everyone achieves more.