

Vancouver to host historic gathering on HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa

First-ever African Grandmothers Tribunal to take place September 7 at the Chan Centre at UBC

VANCOUVER, BC, August 14, 2013 – The Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) and frontline African experts will shine a public light on the denial of African grandmothers' human rights and issue a call for action at the first-ever African Grandmothers Tribunal to take place in Vancouver on September 7.

The gathering – a Peoples' Tribunal – will see six grandmothers from across sub-Saharan Africa present their personal testimonies about the struggle to support communities devastated by HIV/AIDS. They will speak about the most pressing issues they face, such as property grabbing, loss of housing, access to healthcare, sexual violence, and food and income insecurity.

They will do so before four eminent tribunal judges including renowned feminist Gloria Steinem, BC Children's Representative Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, former Minister of Health for Botswana Joy Phumaphi and African Women's Development Fund CEO Theo Sowa. Special guest David Suzuki and SLF Chair of the Board Stephen Lewis will launch the event and make opening remarks. Based on the testimonies, and the testimonies of other international experts on the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa, the Tribunal will issue a call for action aimed at charting a new path forward for advancing African grandmothers' rights.

Also attending the Tribunal will be members of the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign from across Canada, including hundreds of members of the Greater Van Gogos, a network of grandmothers groups in southwestern BC that is dedicated to raising funds and awareness as part of the national campaign. The Greater Van Gogos has more than 20 groups and close to 600 members from Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Bowen Island and the Sunshine Coast.

The event takes place at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at the University of British Columbia. Tickets are \$30 (plus service charges) and are available now at www.ticketmaster.ca.

The tribunal will be open to media. Media registration and accreditation details will be issued in a future media advisory.

About the Stephen Lewis Foundation

The Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) works with community-level organizations which are turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa by providing care and support to women, orphaned children, grandmothers and people living with HIV and AIDS. Since 2003, we have funded over 700 initiatives, partnering with 300 community-based organizations in the 15 African countries hardest hit by the pandemic.

African Grandmothers Tribunal: www.africangrandmothertribunal.org

Stephen Lewis Foundation: www.stephenlewisfoundation.org

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