



MEXICO YOUTHFORCE: Calendar of Main Events

Please note that this calendar is subject to change. An up-to-date version will be available in late July online and at the conference.

July 30 Youth Living with HIV Media Training: The World AIDS Campaign (WAC), in partnership with UNFPA, will hold a media training for 25 young people living with HIV who will be attending the conference. This training will provide participants with support in identifying what their message/s as positive young leaders are, as well as share tips on how to work with the media.

Agentes de Cambio MTV Training: The 10 winners of the “Agente de Cambio” scholarships competition, organized by GYCA, MTV Latin America, UNFPA and Fundación Huésped, will be trained in podcasting, blogging, and other digital reporting techniques by GYCA and MTV staff & VJs.

Mexico YouthForce Spokespeople Training: The selected Mexico YouthForce Spokespeople will have their media training for the two press conferences being held at AIDS 2008. The training will be provided by Burson Marsteller.

July 31- August 2

Youth Pre-Conference: July 31 and August 1, 9:00- 18:00, 9:00- 13:00 August 2.

Over the 2 ½ days of the Youth Pre-Conference, to be held at Centro Tlaltelolco, over 250 young delegates will attend informative and skills-building workshops, in order to empower them through technical information, and advocacy, media and other skills, to be better advocates for youth and for an end to HIV and AIDS at the main conference, in their home countries, and internationally.

August 2 Youth Pavilion set up, all day

First International March Against Stigma, Discrimination, and Homophobia, 13:00: To close the pre-conference, participants will join a wide coalition of local and international groups to march against homophobia and other forms of discrimination connected with HIV as a prominent youth bloc.

Youth Focus Group, 13:30- 16:00:

30 young people will provide input on their use of ICTs and learn about the GYCA/TIG/UNICEF AIDS wiki website

Youth Reception, 21:00: Museo Jose Luis Cuevas (downtown)

August 3 Registration (morning)

Youth Pavilion and advocacy campaign set up, 8:00- 11:00

UN Satellite Session on Youth and Universal Access, 11:15- 13:15: Centro Banamex

GYCA members meeting, 14:00- 17:00:

GYCA members attending the conference will meet to network and share information about our work, discuss results of our recent membership evaluation, and move forward on future projects. Lunch will be served.

Conference Opening Ceremony, 19:00: Auditorio Nacional (Polanco Area). Only delegates with badges.

aids2031 reception, 19:00

August 4 Global Village Opening Ceremony, 12:00

Non Abstract-Driven Session (NADS): Reaching Millions: Youth, AIDS and the Digital Age, 14:30-16:00:
Chair: Paul Meyer (Voxiva). Speakers: Jennifer Corriero (TakingITGlobal), Joya Banerjee (GYCA), Lurdes Chara Estrada (Punto J), Thembi Ngubane (Youth Challenge AIDS, Radio Diaries), Trina Dasgupta (LoveLife, TBD).
Purpose: This panel will explore the growing potential of applying ICTs to health and development, and also the challenges those with language barriers or those without internet access face in contributing to global dialogue and accessing information readily. The substantial number of young people excluded from internet-based organizing leads to a "digital gap" between those with access to the resources provided through ICT networks and those without. Panelists will also explore innovative approaches to bridging the digital gap such as UNICEF, TakingITGlobal and the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS' new wiki-based interactive online site, Youth Challenge AIDS, which uses mobile phone technology to reach youth without internet access.

YouthForce Press Conference: "Setting the Agenda for Youth," 16:00- 16:45: Room 3 (Olmecas), Media Center Hall A, Level 1, Centro Banamex

Youth Orientation Session, 18:30: Youth Pavilion

This session will serve as an in-person orientation for young delegates at the conference. Themes will include: how to strategically choose which sessions to attend, how to network, advocacy 101, info about the YouthForce, key advocacy messages, etc. The session will also highlight key sessions for young people throughout the conference and will tie into the on-line discussion boards on the AIDS2008 website.

August 5 NADS: Addressing the Gap: Commitments, Funding, and Youth Engagement, 14:30-16:00

Chair: Alex McClelland (AIDS2006 Youth Coordinator and UNAIDS former intern). Speakers: Marcel Van Soest (WAC, TBD), Norwell Hinds (UNFPA SYP fellow and UNFPA Jamaica), Sarah Hendricks (Plan International), Misozo Zulu (Global Lesson for Life, Zambia).

Purpose: A) Explore unmet commitments to young people and contrast these with examples and results of young people and adults working together for progress and accountability. B) Identify examples of good practice and strategize on ways to build on and expand them. C) Provide a stage to debate accountability and best practices where such accountability was addressed and a model was established. D) Examine evidence surrounding the effectiveness of meaningful youth participation.

Youth Leadership Forum, 18:30

Speakers: Purnima Mane (Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA), invited 1st lady of Mexico (TBD), Igor Mocerro (21, Philippines, living with HIV), Prateek Suman (22, India, chair of the WAC board).

August 6 Human Rights Session: "HIV/AIDS and Human Rights for Youth: We Claim Our Human Rights," 11- 12:30: Human Rights Networking Zone

August 7 Human Rights March, 7:00: Centro Banamex

YouthForce Press Conference: "Uniting Against Stigma and Discrimination: A Youth Perspective," 16:00- 16:45: Room 2 (Mayas), Media Center Hall A, Level 1, Center Banamex

Youth Closing Session, 17:45 - 18:45: Session Room 1

A panel of young organizers, including the youth rapporteur, the youth coordinator for AIDS2008, and a representative from Vienna who will be involved in AIDS2010, will debrief and evaluate the participation of young people during the IAC and talk about ways to improve it in 2010.

August 8 Youth Partnership Initiative Closing, 11:00- 13:00: Centro Banamex, organized by the WAC and the Mexico YouthForce.

The Mexico YouthForce promotes and facilitates meaningful youth participation and youth-adult partnerships to raise the visibility of youth HIV and AIDS issues before, during, and after the XVII International AIDS Conference through concrete action.

The Mexico YouthForce is a wide-ranging coalition of non-governmental and international organizations, coordinated by Advocates for Youth, Ave de Mexico, the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS, TakingITGlobal, and Youth Coalition. The YouthForce is supported by UNFPA, UNESCO, the Summit Foundation, the Gates Foundation, and Plan International.