



Media Release

Global Alcohol Policy Conference [#GAPC2023] welcomes activist Bongiwe Ndondo as a keynote speaker

31 May 2023

Cape Town: We are delighted to announce that Ms Bongiwe Ndondo, the Executive Director and CEO of the Hlanganisa Community Fund for Social Justice and Gender Justice, will be a keynote speaker at the 7th bi-annual Global Alcohol Policy Conference (GAPC) held in Cape Town, South Africa from 24th to 26th October 2023.

Ms Bongiwe Ndondo is a respected figure in the field, serving as the Chairperson of the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA) and a dedicated activist against gender-based violence (GBV). Her keynote address, scheduled for the opening day of the conference, will focus on the crucial topic of *"GBV and Alcohol: A Case for Stepping up the Role and Scope of Regulators."* With over 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector, Ms Ndondo has dedicated her efforts to alcohol policy, social justice, governance, gender equality, child protection, and sustainable livelihoods. Her academic achievements include a Master's degree in Medical Biochemistry.



Throughout her career, Ms Ndondo has collaborated with influential global policy actors such as the Global Fund Civil Society Principal Recipients, the African Union, and various United Nations (UN) agencies. Her extensive expertise and diverse engagements make her a highly relevant speaker at this conference.

The 7th bi-annual Global Alcohol Policy Conference is co-hosted by the Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA), the SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC), and the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA), with co-sponsorship from the World Health Organisation (WHO), and support from important sponsors including the Department of Social Development (DSD), the National Department of Health (DOH), the National Research Foundation (NRF), the DG Murray Trust (DGMT), and the SA National Convention Bureau (SA Tourism).

Under the theme "Investing in People before Profits: building momentum towards the Framework Convention on Alcohol Control," the conference aims to emphasise the importance of prioritising human well-being over financial gains and accelerating progress towards creating a new normal vis-à-vis alcohol use.

End.

For further inquiries or more information, please reach out to Mr Julian A. Jacobs at 061 917 9661 (#GAPC2023: Media Liaison).

***Conference website:** <https://gapc2023.samrc.ac.za/index.html>

Note to News desks:

GAPC Co-hosts

1. Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA) [Co-Host]

It is a network of non-governmental organisations and people working in public health agencies and researchers in academic and other institutions who share information on alcohol issues and advocate evidence-based alcohol policies, free from commercial interests. Regional and national alliances affiliated with GAPA operate in Africa (Southern Africa, East Africa, and West Africa), the European Union, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, the USA, and Western Pacific regions. The bi-annual GAPA conference is the leading forum for the world's alcohol policy makers, advocates, researchers, civil society activists and practitioners. - <https://globalgapa.org/>

2. SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC) [Co-Host]

The SAMRC was established in 1969 with a mandate to improve the health of the country's population, through research, development, and technology transfer, so that people can enjoy a better quality of life. The scope of the organisation's research projects includes tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular and non-communicable diseases, gender and health, and alcohol and other drug abuse. <https://www.samrc.ac.za/>

3. Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA) [Co-Host]

SAAPA was established in 2012 as a platform for civil society organisations in the Southern African region to share resources and experiences in the lobby for evidence-based alcohol policy that promotes the well-being of citizens. <https://saapa.africa/>

GAPC Sponsors:

1. The World Health Organisation (WHO) [Co-Sponsor]

The World Health Organization leads and champions global efforts to achieve better health for all. By connecting countries, people and partners, we strive to give everyone, everywhere an equal chance at a safe and healthy life. - <https://www.who.int/>

2. Department of Social Development [Co-Sponsor]

Management and oversight over social security, encompassing social assistance and social insurance policies that aim to prevent and alleviate poverty in the event of life cycle risks such as loss of income due to unemployment, disability, old age, or death occurring. Developmental social welfare services that provide support to reduce poverty, vulnerability, and the impact of HIV and AIDS through sustainable development programmes in partnership with implementing agents such as State-funded institutions, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs). - <https://www.dsd.gov.za/index.php>

3. National Research Foundation [Co-Sponsor]

The NRF is an independent statutory body established through the National Research Foundation Act (Act No 23 of 1998), following a system-wide review conducted for the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology (DACST). The NRF promotes South African research and innovation interests across the country and internationally, and together with research institutions, businesses, industry, and international partners, we build bridges between research communities for mutual benefit that contributes to National Development. - <https://www.nrf.ac.za/about-us/>

4. SA National Convention Bureau (SANCB) [Co-Sponsor]

The SANCB is a 'one-stop solution' for independent information and assistance, giving neutral advice on all aspects of hosting and organising any business event in South Africa. - <https://www.southafrica.net/za/en/>

5. DG Murray Trust [Co-Sponsor]

The DG Murray Trust (DGMT) is a public innovator that aims to develop South Africa's potential through strategic investment. Together with other funders, NGOs, and government, DGMT studies and supports work being done in the critical areas of early childhood development (ECD), youth unemployment, school dropout and education quality, as well as

innovation in the civil sector. As such, our team is well-placed to share critical insights or provide comments on a range of issues in these areas – or if we are unable to, connect the press to people in our network who can. - <https://dgmt.co.za/>

6. The Department of Health (DOH) [Co-Sponsor]

The Department of Health’s vision is for all South Africans to have a long and healthy life. Its mission relates to improving citizens’ health status through the prevention of illnesses and the promotion of healthy lifestyles and to consistently improving the healthcare delivery system by focusing on access, equity, efficiency, quality, and sustainability. -

<https://www.health.gov.za/>

