



Media Release

Global Alcohol Policy Conference [#GAPC2023] welcomes Jacqui Drope to South Africa

29 March 2023

Cape Town: Jacqui Drope, the director of the RESET alcohol initiative at Vital Strategies will be a panellist speaking on *New Initiatives in Promoting Impactful Policies and Reducing Industry Influence* at the upcoming 7th global alcohol policy bi-annual conference hosted by the Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA), the SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA) along with its co-sponsors.

The conference takes place in Cape Town, South Africa from 24 – 26 October 2023.

Jacqui Drope is Director of the RESET Alcohol initiative at Vital Strategies that aims to reduce alcohol harms through alcohol policy for health, social, and economic gains. Jacqui has over 20 years of experience working with global partners to develop and implement strategic, actionable, and impactful public health policies and programs. Her focus has been on country-led, evidence-based interventions to prevent non-communicable diseases (NCDs) with a particular emphasis on tobacco control, HPV vaccination, nutrition, physical activity, and cancer screening. Having worked with partners in over 25 low- and middle-income countries, Jacqui's experience is rooted in collaboration with a wide range of multi-sectoral stakeholders in governments, multilateral bodies, universities, non-profit



organizations, and medical professional societies. She actively seeks a diverse range of perspectives to help stakeholders achieve public health results.

From 2010-2020, Jacqui led the global cancer prevention program at the American Cancer Society where her programs contributed to comprehensive tobacco control legislation and increases in tobacco taxation and HPV vaccination coverage in countries in Africa, Asia, and South America. Jacqui has a unique mix of experience having worked in, and consulted for, various types of health organizations including the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Secretariat, Cancer Research UK, Johns Hopkins Institute for Global Tobacco Control, International Development Research Centre, Union for International Cancer Control, University of California San Francisco Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, Health Canada, and the Senate of Canada.

The 7th bi-annual conference is co-sponsored by the Department of Social Development (DSD), the National Research Foundation (NRF), the DG Murray Trust and SA National Convention Bureau (SA Tourism). The bi-annual conference theme is *“Investing in People before Profits: building momentum towards the Framework Convention on Alcohol Control”*.

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For more information contact: Mr Julian A. Jacobs on 061 917 9661 (#GAPC2023: Media Liaison)

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

Note to News desks:

Additional Information:

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 to 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. Department of Social Development [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>

2. National Research Foundation [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/>

3. SA National Convention Bureau (SANCB) [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/>

4. DG Murray Trust [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 comment 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/>

