

# GLOBAL ALCOHOL POLICY CONFERENCE OCTOBER

*The Global Alcohol Policy Conference (GAPC2023), "Investing in People before Profits: Building Momentum towards the Framework Convention on Alcohol Control," will be held from 24 - 26 October 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa.*

## Media Release

### Global Alcohol Policy Conference [#GAPC2023] welcomes world-renowned Professor Dr Jurgen Rehm to South Africa

20 March 2023

**Cape Town:** The Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA), the SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA) and its co-sponsors are pleased to announce the first seven confirmed keynote speakers who will be speaking at the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> global alcohol policy bi-annual conference which will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from 24 – 26 October 2023.

The seven keynote speakers to date are Professor Jurgen Rehm, Professor Antonia Lyons, Saffron Zomer, Dr Hafsa Sentongo, Dr Jacqui Drope, Dr Juan Tello and Paula Leonard.

“We are indeed very happy to have these leaders in their field coming to South Africa in the time where alcohol policy globally is at a crossroads. We believe this conference will not just be a talk shop but will be a platform for critical engagement for developing a path forward realising the WHO Global Alcohol Action plan in achieving our goals of having a world that is free from alcohol harm,” said local conference organising committee chairperson, Prof Charles Parry, director of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)’s Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Research Unit.

Our first keynote speaker to be introduced is Professor Jürgen Rehm. Professor Rehm will be speaking about the experience of what it takes to get taxation policy changes and explaining successes and failures.

Professor Jürgen Rehm is Senior Scientist in the Institute for Mental Health Policy Research and in the Campbell Family Mental Health Research Institute at the Canadian Centre on Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto. He is Professor and Inaugural Chair of Addiction Policy in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto, and he also holds professorships and positions in Germany, Spain, and Russia.



Professor Rehm has been a leader in generating and analysing the scientific data needed to inform clinicians and policymakers of strategies to reduce alcohol-, tobacco-, and other drug-attributable harm. His recent research has increasingly included interactions between socio-economic status, poverty, and substance use, including analysis of policies and interventions with respect to reducing inequalities. His work has been awarded with numerous awards and prizes, most importantly, the Jellinek Memorial Award (2003), the European Addiction Research Award (2017) and the (Inaugural) Kettil Bruun Society Award for Advancement of International Research Collaboration (2021).

The 7th bi-annual conference is co-hosted by GAPA, the SAMRC, and the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA). It is co-sponsored by the Department of Social Development, 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”*.

**End**

**For more information contact:**

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\*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 (NRF) [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). As a government mandated research and science development agency the NRF funds research, the development of high-end Human Capacity and critical research infrastructure to promote knowledge production across all disciplinary fields. The goal of the NRF is to create innovative funding instruments, advance research career development, increase public science engagement and to establish leading-edge research platforms that will transform the scientific landscape and inspire a representative research community to aspire to global competitiveness. 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/>



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