

**Grandmothers to Grandmothers 20th Anniversary Celebration
Ottawa – Canada – October 5-7, 2026**

**THROUGH ACTION AND HOPE
Program**

Monday, October 5, 2026

Day 1 — “Celebrating 20 Years”

Together we'll celebrate 20 years of partnership and impact by honouring the voices, experiences and achievements of African and Canadian grandmothers. We will reflect on this extraordinary movement, 2006 to present, and inspire a renewed commitment to collective action, learning and hope for the years ahead.

9:00–9:50 a.m. Registration opens

10:00 a.m. Tribute to Stephen Lewis Video

Join us in watching this short video as we take time to remember and celebrate the exceptional life of renowned humanitarian Stephen Lewis.

10:10 a.m. Land Acknowledgement

10:30 a.m. Keynote address

Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, Co-Founder of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, will share her reflections on the powerful grandmothers movement, celebrating the remarkable impact of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign over the past two decades. Ilana will highlight grandmothers and their communities, partnerships and stories that continue to inspire and power the Campaign.

11:00 a.m. Welcome and practical details

Our emcees will speak to the goals and purpose of this special gathering, and recognize the determination, creativity, compassion and community that defines the Campaign.

Emcees: Sandi London and Robin Scobie

11:10 a.m. Grandmothers reflection video

11:15 a.m. Panel discussion: A Movement Built on Sisterhood

Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, Mama Darlina Tyawana, and grandmothers who have been part of the Campaign's evolution will share stories and reflections as they explore the impact the Campaign has had for grandmothers in Africa and Canada.

Speakers: Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, Mama Darlina Tyawana and guests

12:00 p.m. Lunch break

1:10 p.m. Panel discussion: HIV Today and the Road Ahead

Dr. Notisha Massaquoi and Idah Mukuka Nambeya share their insights on the current realities of HIV and its impact on our partners and communities. They will discuss progress made, persistent challenges and the work still needed to achieve a more equitable and effective global response to the HIV epidemic.

Speakers: Dr. Notisha Massaquoi, Co-Chair of the SLF Board of Directors, and Idah Mukuka Nambeya, SLF Senior Advisor to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.

2:00 p.m. Panel discussion: 20 Years of G2G — Celebrating Impact, Understanding Change, Shaping the Future

Grandmothers from across the Campaign come together for a conversation about the realities they are facing today. Drawing on their lived experiences, they will discuss the challenges affecting families and communities now, including the ongoing impacts of HIV, poverty, gender inequality, and emerging social and economic pressures. They will talk about their current priorities, how communities are adapting and responding, and why the Campaign's support and solidarity remain as vital as ever.

Speakers: Grandmothers from across the Campaign

2:55 p.m. Stretch break

3:20 p.m. Reflection session

After a day of sharing and learning, we will reflect on key insights, invite participants to share their reflections, and create a collective summary of the day.

3:50 p.m. - Wrap-up with Sandi London and Robin Scobie

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Day 2 — “Revelations & Realities”

As we look beyond our shared history, today invites us to learn, reflect, and engage with the current realities shaping communities affected by HIV and AIDS. We will hear from African grandmothers and partners, explore critical issues facing the movement, and discuss strategies to strengthen our collective impact in the years ahead.

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

9:20 a.m. The Current Landscape: Insights from Community Experts

Melissa Wainaina, SLF Field Representative, is joined by grandmothers from SLF partner organizations in Africa to provide an update on the current state of the movement. They will share successes, challenges, and emerging priorities, while highlighting the resources and supports needed to sustain and strengthen this important work for the future.

Speakers: Melissa Wainaina, SLF Field Representative and Hombisa Ntsikanye Project Director of the Grandmothers Movement in South Africa (GMISA)

11:00 p.m. Break

11:15 p.m. Growing the Campaign: Diversity, Inclusion, Recruitment & Retention

The Diversity, Inclusion, Recruitment & Retention (DIRR) Committee will share its ongoing work, accomplishments and key initiatives. Committee members will talk through progress to date and outline the next steps for strengthening, expanding, and sustaining the Campaign's growth and impact.

Speakers: Diversity, Inclusion, Recruitment & Retention Committee

12:00 p.m. Lunch break

1:00 p.m. Keynote address: Canada's Role in Global Health and the Fight to End AIDS

A representative from Global Affairs Canada (International Development) will speak about Canada's role in advancing global health and supporting efforts to end AIDS worldwide.

1:40 p.m. Breakout Session

2:55 p.m. Breakout Session

Participants will attend two of the following breakout sessions (more information on how to choose breakout sessions to follow):

1. Funding Crisis and Its Effects on Community Responses to HIV

Recent shifts in global funding for HIV and community-led programs have created significant challenges for organizations and the people they serve. This session will explore the impact of the funding crisis on local HIV responses, highlight how communities are adapting, and discuss opportunities for supporters and partners to help sustain critical programs and services.

Facilitated by the Stephen Lewis Foundation

2. Grandmothers as Agents of Community Change

Grandmothers are leading transformative change in their families and communities. In this interactive session, participants will hear firsthand stories of leadership, resilience, and innovation, while exploring the many ways grandmothers continue to advocate for children, strengthen communities, and drive lasting social change.

Facilitated by the Grandmothers Movement in South Africa (GMISA)

3. Recruiting New Members

A strong and diverse membership is essential to the continued growth and impact of the Campaign. This session will explore effective recruitment strategies, share successful practices from grandmothers groups, and identify opportunities to engage new supporters and build a vibrant movement for the future.

Facilitated by Sharon Polanski and Thushika Rajendrakumar

4. Strategic Advocacy Skills: Letters to the Editor

Healy Thompson, Deputy Director of Advocacy at the SLF leads a skills-building workshop that will prepare grandmothers group members to write and submit letters to the editor to national and local newspapers. This workshop will look specifically at key opportunities for letter-writing in fall 2026 including the federal budget and World AIDS Day.

Facilitated by Healy Thompson

4:00-8:00 p.m. - Marketplace and Celebration

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Day 3 — “Recommitment”

We close the celebration with a recommitment to global solidarity and collective action to end AIDS.

9:00 a.m. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

9:15 a.m. Keynote: Why Global Solidarity Matters

Melissa Wainaina, Stephen Lewis Foundation Field Representative and activist, highlights the power of global solidarity and our shared responsibility in the ongoing effort to end AIDS.

Speaker: Melissa Wainaina, SLF Field Representative

9:45 a.m. Soft Power, Strong Impact: What Grandmothers Teach Us About Change

Grandmothers from across the Campaign will reflect on how sisterhood, mutual support, and shared commitment to work together remains essential to the mission of ending AIDS.

Speakers: Grandmothers from across the Campaign.

10:10 a.m. Keynote: The importance of Grandmothers

Meg French, Executive Director of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, reflects on the extraordinary role grandmothers have played in the global response to HIV and AIDS, the impact of the Grandmothers Campaign, and the importance of global solidarity to continue building a future free from AIDS.

Speaker: Meg French, Executive Director, Stephen Lewis Foundation

10:45 a.m. Wrapping up

Our emcees reflect on the past three days of solidarity and the 2026 Grandmothers to Grandmothers Statement is read.

11:10 a.m. Lunch break

12:00 p.m. March to Parliament Hill, followed by Question Period