

A LETTER FROM THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION AND THE NATIONAL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Dear Grandmothers,

We – the National Advocacy Committee and the Stephen Lewis Foundation – have some exciting news to share. But first, here's the background.

All of you will know that the National Advocacy Committee was formed more than four years ago by a number of women from Grandmother groups across Canada. Through NAC's passion and commitment, they have, through you, contributed to changing the way older women are seen and heard – and have become a strong and respected voice for advocacy around HIV and AIDS.

Up to this point, NAC has operated under the umbrella of the SLF and the Grandmothers Campaign. The relationship has been immensely rewarding – for NAC, for the Campaign and for the SLF. But, over time, it's become obvious that NAC's capacity and reach is so developed and mature, that the SLF umbrella is no longer necessary nor practical. In form and function, NAC has become its own civil society organization.

As a result of this remarkable evolution, NAC will now be an independent organization (soon to be named) – separate from the Grandmothers Campaign and the SLF. Of course, we will work as allies on particular issues of mutual interest and concern, but as separate entities, often working on parallel tracks.

The grandmothers advocacy network will continue its important advocacy work, engaging the Canadian government and the public around CAMR and the Global Fund. The Grandmothers Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation will continue its vital work of raising awareness and funds, which are critical for the brilliant grassroots projects and advocates in Africa. Many of you, in groups across the country, will continue or begin to work with the now-independent grandmothers advocacy network on advocacy initiatives AND within the Campaign as you continue your fundraising and awareness raising work with the support of the SLF.

How will this working alliance function? We know that you'll have a lot of questions and that's why we've produced [some FAQs](#) along with the answers. If we haven't raised or answered your particular question, you know you can always be in touch with the SLF or the grandmothers advocacy network for clarification. We are still fine-tuning the process, and are hoping that you, the groups that make up the Campaign, will read the FAQs and provide us with questions and comments that will assist us to create ever-more clarity. To reach the grandmothers advocacy network, please send an email to grandmothersadvocacy@gmail.com. If you have questions for the SLF please send them to jsolberg@stephenlewisfoundation.org.

We started this joint letter by saying we have something exciting to share. It is exciting! This is the next chapter in the development of NAC and the Stephen Lewis Foundation – working allies with the wellbeing of the African grandmothers at the heart of it all.

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