



## Request for proposals: Consultancy to lead development of a global consensus statement on HIV-related stigma

### 1. About the International AIDS Society (IAS)

The International AIDS Society (IAS) leads collective action on every front of the global HIV response through its membership base, scientific authority and convening power. Founded in 1988, the IAS is the world's largest association of HIV professionals, with members in more than 170 countries. Working with its members, the IAS advocates and drives urgent action to reduce the impact of HIV. The IAS is also the steward of the world's most prestigious HIV conferences: the International AIDS Conference, the IAS Conference on HIV Science, and the HIV Research for Prevention Conference.

The IAS promotes and invests in HIV advocacy and research on key issue areas through our strategic programmes, initiatives, and campaigns that advocate for urgent action to reduce the global impact of HIV, including increased investment in HIV cure research; optimizing treatment and care for infants, children and adolescents with HIV in resource-limited settings; preventing and treating HIV-related co-infections; and expanding access to prevention, treatment and care for key populations vulnerable to HIV acquisition – such as men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, sex workers and transgender people – including protecting their human rights by combatting punitive laws and discriminatory policies.

More information on the IAS can be found at [www.iasociety.org](http://www.iasociety.org).

### 2. About the IAS Approach to 'Get to the Heart of Stigma'

There is growing global attention and commitment to addressing HIV-related stigma. Many insights can be gained from attention specifically to stigma (as separate and distinct from discrimination) in addition to those focusing on laws, policies and other structural determinants of health within the global HIV response. Equally, there remains a need to fine tune, amplify and scale up best practice for more effective stigma reduction and mitigation efforts. It is clear that more needs to be done to address stigma, as well as the social, political and structural determinants and personal choices that discourage HIV testing, treatment, and access to health services more broadly. The project will connect evidence with action, and consolidate the evidence base in relation to evaluation frameworks and efforts to better measure stigma reduction efforts internally (self), in healthcare facilities (service) and laws and policies (structures) that facilitate improvements at scale.

The IAS plans to leverage its position to catalyse effective and sustained change to reduce HIV-related stigma at scale. The IAS has an established track record of initiatives to ameliorate the impact of and reduce stigma, with a focus on healthcare settings. In 2019, the IAS consolidated work in this area to get to the "heart of stigma," a portfolio of activities to galvanize scientists, implementers and activists to reduce stigma specifically in healthcare settings at scale, aligned with its mission to lead collective action on every front of the global HIV response through its membership base, scientific authority, and



convening power. The work is guided by an expert stigma advisory board that was established at the 10th IAS Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2019).

The IAS will build on its comparative and recognized strengths as a convener, scientific authority and large membership organization to deliver a programme that strengthens the evidence base and can serve as a basis for further concerted efforts at contextualizing, implementing and scaling up effective interventions.

### 3. Purpose of the Consultancy

The IAS is seeking a consultant, group of consultants or consultancy firm to facilitate a consensus building process on HIV-related stigma concepts and measures. The consensus statement will seek to convene subject experts in order to provide guidance on a number of key issues emerging from a completed systematic and comprehensive global 'state-of-the-field' evaluation of the peer-reviewed and published evidence on HIV-related stigma frameworks, measures, and interventions. The outputs of the review will aim to establish consensus to inform research and strategic priorities in the global response against HIV-related stigma, and will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

The consultant(s) will lead the coordination of the consensus building process, for example by facilitating workshops and/or reviewing input from questionnaires, as well as the drafting of the consensus statement.

Key activities include

- Facilitation of a consensus building process, such as through the development and administration of Delphi surveys and/or consultation workshops
- Collation and analysis of consensus-building outputs
- Co-authoring a synthesis paper (consensus statement) submitted for peer-reviewed publication

### 4. Proposal requirements

The proposal should be no longer than five (5) pages in length including a budget (as fixed fees). It should clearly outline how the project deliverables will be met. The proposal should include the following:

- A cover letter summarizing relevant and comparable experience with this type of work and the approach to the project
- A detailed plan outlining the approach, methodology, timeline and costs
- In addition, please include a sample of recent work (of a similar nature)
- A declaration of any conflicts of interest with private sector entities from the biomedical industry
- Three references from previous clients

For individual consultants: please include recent evidence that the consultant is a registered freelancer in their country of residence.

### 5. Deliverables



#### **November 2021**

- Proposed methodology presented and approved
- Finalised and validated consensus building tools, such as questionnaires or consultation agendas

#### **January 2021**

- Presentation (slide deck) of update on process and intermediary outcomes and considerations from the consensus building process
- Draft consensus statement

#### **March 2021**

- Revised consensus statement submitted for peer reviewed publication

#### **6. Timeline**

The consultant(s) should be available to start as soon as possible.

#### **7. Budget**

Proposed budgets will be reviewed with respect to the activities for delivering in a cost-effective and timely manner. The financial merits of proposals will be considered in the range of USD \$ 28,000 - \$32,000 to deliver this work within the time period.

#### **8. Submission Details**

Proposals must be sent by email to Kasoka Kasoka, [Kasoka.Kasoka@iasociety.org](mailto:Kasoka.Kasoka@iasociety.org) by 23:00 (CET) on 22 OCTOBER 2021. Late proposals will not be considered. For further information, please contact Tessa Oraro-Lawrence, [Tessa.Oraro@iasociety.org](mailto:Tessa.Oraro@iasociety.org).