



# AIDS 2024 code of conduct

IAS – the International AIDS Society – is dedicated to fostering a welcoming environment and encouraging debate and dialogue among all conference participants, including Global Village visitors. We believe that progress happens when science, policy and activism come together. As such, the IAS upholds freedom of expression as a fundamental principle in our efforts to end HIV as a threat to public health and individual well-being and to promote inclusive participation in our conferences. This code of conduct applies to the entirety of AIDS 2024, including the pre-conferences and the Global Village.

## In a nutshell

### Responsibility

Conference participants must comply with this code of conduct and the host country's laws and regulations (see details below).

### Dialogue

The conference fosters an environment that encourages meaningful participation, including community involvement, to ensure a diverse range of viewpoints are heard. In case of conflict, dialogue among participants is encouraged before any other action is taken to facilitate resolution of or de-escalate disruptions.

### Peaceful protest

The conference welcomes peaceful protest. However, the IAS has zero tolerance for discrimination against groups or individuals based on their identity, harassment, intimidation, hate speech, violence against people, destruction of property, prolonged disruption of conference sessions, or any other action preventing other participants from fully benefitting from the conference for a prolonged period. The conference will support dialogue and participation through a team of community activist liaisons who will provide advice and assistance before and during the conference.

### Reporting breaches of this code of conduct

If you have witnessed any abusive, discriminatory or other behaviour that contravenes the code of conduct, you can write to [report@iasociety.org](mailto:report@iasociety.org). You may also address any IAS staff member on site; you can identify them by their conference badge bearing the word, "Organizer".



## Sanctions

Incidents of misconduct will be reviewed and appropriate actions will be taken, ranging from verbal warnings to denial of access to the conference venue or virtual platform. Participants have the right to appeal decisions within 24 hours of notification.

## In more detail

### Peaceful protest

The IAS endorses freedom of expression as an essential principle in the response to HIV and in promoting full participation in the International AIDS Conference. Activism and advocacy advance commitment, policy and practice aimed at ending the pandemic. The following are not tolerated at IAS events:

- Discriminating against groups or individuals based on their identity
- Harassment
- Intimidation
- Hate speech
- Violence against people
- Destruction of property
- Prolonged disruption of conference sessions or any other action preventing others from participating in AIDS 2024

#### **In Munich, Germany, the following rules and regulations apply related to protests:**

All statements in words and speeches, writing, songs or artistic representations, as well as on means of demonstration (e.g., posters, banners, clothing), must not impair public safety and order and must maintain public peace. This means that there can be no incitement to violence or hatred in general or against particular populations, minorities and countries, for example, by making proclamations denying them their right to exist. No war victims should be denigrated. Acts of aggression must not be glorified, for example, by making corresponding statements or celebrating terrorist attacks. Any denigration of state symbols is also prohibited, including damaging national flags or symbols. The use of symbols of banned organizations is punishable.

### Laws, rules and regulations

Participants agree that they will not interfere with the proper working of the conferences, nor use our virtual conference platform:

- In conflict with any applicable law, rule or regulation of any governmental authority or cybersecurity ordinance



- In conflict with the law, rules and regulations of the host country and the conference venue
- In conflict with any applicable data security and protection laws, including the European Union General Data Protection Regulation and any other relevant data protection regulation
- For any illegal purpose and cybercrime

### **Zero tolerance of harassment or discrimination**

The IAS maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward harassment or discrimination of any form. Unacceptable behaviour at IAS conferences includes:

- Any form of discrimination, cyberbullying, trolling, intimidation and harassment, including sexual, racial, religious, age, disability, marital status and ethnic harassment
- The threat of physical force
- Glorification of violence and the threat or promotion of terrorism
- Verbal abuse of any conference participant. Examples of verbal abuse are dismissive comments related to gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical appearance, disability, body size, religion, race, ethnicity, national origin, caste, age, profession or disease.
- Impersonating any person or communicating under a false name or a name you are not entitled to use

The IAS emphasizes the importance of respect and discretion in all interactions, including posting questions or information in chats or on social media platforms during the conference.

### **Other prohibited activities**

The following are prohibited activities at our conferences:

- Disclosing, publishing or posting any individual's private or personal information without explicit authorization and permission. This includes sensitive details, such as HIV status, contact information (phone number, email, address), profession, organizational affiliation or areas of interest or expertise.
- Recording, filming, transmitting, copying, taking screenshots or downloading any session, presentation or content in any format, except for sharing quotes, summaries, photos or short videos of presenters or slides on social media for non-commercial purposes. Video clips should not exceed 2 minutes and 20 seconds. Sharing full session recordings in any format or photos of entire presentation slides from the sessions is expressly prohibited.
- Copying, filming or taking screenshots of any Q&A or chat activity on the conference platform or in the rooms at the conference
- Any behaviour that falls under the categories defined above, including harassment, discrimination or other inappropriate conduct, in any chat, networking activities or session engagement features in the rooms at the conference venue or on the conference platform



- Submitting unsolicited bulk or commercial messages ("spam") to conference users, including messages directing recipients to any third-party site or resources
- Publishing offensive, untrue or illegal material. The IAS reserves the right to reject or delete any message or posting for any reason.

### Respecting the embargo policy

Breaking the conference embargo policy may result in the removal of the abstract in question from the programme. This includes publication of the abstract data in a journal or public outlet before presentation at the conference. Embargo breaks by media will lead to one or more of the following measures:

- Suspension of the journalist's conference credentials
- Removal of the journalist's name from the IAS media distribution list for two years
- Refusal to award media credentials to the journalist for upcoming IAS conferences

Please direct any questions or concerns about the conference embargo policy for presenters to the AIDS 2024 Abstracts team at [abstracts@aids2024.org](mailto:abstracts@aids2024.org).

Contact [report@iasociety.org](mailto:report@iasociety.org) if you have any questions.