



**Mpact Global Celebrates 20 Years of Advocacy With Awards Ceremony Recognizing Leaders in Queer Health and Human Rights at International AIDS Conference in Rio de Janeiro on July 26, 2026**

**Mpact to also Host Besotón Sidoso Internacional / International HIV Kiss-In, a Demonstration Celebrating the sexuality of Queer People Living With HIV, on July 29 Outside the Conference Center**

**SAN DIEGO, Calif. (July 6, 2026)** — [Mpact Global](#), the leading global organization advancing queer health and human rights, will host its Mpact's 20th Anniversary Event during the International AIDS Conference in Rio de Janeiro on July 26, 2026. Held during one of the world's largest gatherings focused on HIV advocacy and research, the event will mark Mpact Global's 20th anniversary while honoring leaders advancing queer health, HIV awareness, and human rights.

Mpact will bring back *Besoton Sidoso Internacional / International HIV Kiss-In* on July 29 at 2 pm outside the Rio Centro Convention & Event Center. The public act of defiance and solidarity celebrates the sexuality, visibility, and rights of queer people living with HIV around the globe. A kiss between two HIV-positive men is a powerful demonstration that queer people living with HIV exist and demand respect, equality, and justice. Since 2023, Mpact hosts *Besoton Sidoso Internacional* annually for World AIDS Day across Mexico, and most recently at the U.S.-Mexico border, calling attention to human rights violations and health inequities faced by migrants, particularly those in detention and living with HIV.

"To celebrate 20 years of Mpact in the times we currently live in is an incredible milestone for our community and us. It's a demonstration that investing in our community is still needed and can make a profound impact," said Alex Garner, Managing Director of Mpact Global. "Bringing our community together during the International AIDS Conference commemorates the work we've done together and strengthens our resolve to meet the challenges ahead and ensure our communities' rights are defended and health is invested in."

As HIV funding, healthcare access, and LGBTQ+ rights come under fire, the awards will recognize the individuals and organizations who are leaders in the fight. This year's honorees represent the breadth and depth of global HIV and queer health advocacy, spanning grassroots organizers, researchers, content creators, and community builders working across four continents.

The evening will be hosted by **Lolita Banana, host of Drag Race Mexico**, who publicly shared her HIV status during *Drag Race France*, and will anchor a night centered on visibility and community leadership. She will also be honored as Queer Icon for using her global platform to speak openly and unapologetically about HIV.

**Acep Gates** will receive the Out and Proud award for his courage in being an openly gay, HIV-positive advocate in Indonesia. The **IMARAA Network** will be honored with the Outlaw Spirit award for building and sustaining a queer advocacy network across Eastern and Southern Africa. **Markin Wolf**, a Brazilian adult content creator, will be recognized with Causin a Commotion for his openness about living with HIV and his commitment to reducing stigma. **Tristan Schukraft**, CEO and Founder of MISTR, will receive the HIV Community Vanguard Award for his decades-long work expanding access to HIV medications. **Preto Positivo** will be honored as a Community Voice for their groundbreaking podcast centering Black Brazilian voices in HIV storytelling. And **Dr. Stephane Ku** will receive the Knowledge is Power award for his pioneering research advancing queer health.

"The greatest challenge to ending HIV isn't science; it's access. That's what MISTR is about: removing every barrier between someone and the care they deserve," said **Tristan Schukraft, CEO of MISTR and recipient of the HIV Community Vanguard Award**. "For 20 years, Mpact Global has shown that ending HIV takes more than medicine. It takes community, compassion, and relentless advocacy. Our missions are deeply aligned, and together I believe we can be the generation that ends HIV."

Mpact Global will also present a panel discussion, *Pleasure Principle: Sex Work, Content Creation, & Fostering Wellness and Sexual Satisfaction*, at the AIDS Conference on July 28, 2026. Moderated by Mpact's Alex Garner, the session brings together adult content creators and advocates, **Markin Wolf, Gabriel Antonio, Justin Jett, and Rhyheim Shabazz**, to explore how visibility, representation, and creator platforms can advance HIV awareness and queer health promotion.

For more information, visit: <https://mpactglobal.org/>

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### **Mpact Global Action**

Mpact Global was founded in 2006 as The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF) by an international group of activists who were concerned about the disproportionate HIV burden being shouldered by gay and bisexual men. The organization has since expanded its work to focus on the broader sexual health and human rights needs of all men who have sex with men.

Mpact is the only global organization committed to building community for gay, bisexual, and queer men and dedicated to protecting and defending human rights. The diverse team brings a global perspective on issues concerning the health, equality, and justice for gay and bisexual men. The Mpact Global staff of experts in the field is dispersed across different regions, and the work extends to 62 countries around the globe.