



2021

16TH ANNUAL

VIRTUAL

WOMEN AS THE

FACE OF AIDS

SUMMIT

06.07.21





**Iris House continues to be grateful
for the generous support of**

Corey Johnson, Speaker

and

The Entire New York City Council

**for their ongoing leadership and support of our
Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit.**



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June 7, 2021

Welcome to the 16th Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit!

I hope this day provides each of you with something that is meaningful — whether inspirational, reassuring, informational, practical, or all of the above. At the same time, I am thankful that this Summit will allow women across the globe to be heard.

Our theme, “Women Without Bounds” is more meaningful today than ever. Today is a gathering like no other in New York City or anywhere in the United States. Merged by our common interests to end the epidemic, we know this cannot be done without the voices of everyone at the table. This unique summit brings together people living with HIV/AIDS, caregivers, medical professionals, policy makers, researchers, and activists to ensure all of our voices are heard equally.

Eleven breakout sessions will offer storytelling and lessons on subjects as far-ranging as sexuality as well as health literacy. We are also excited to hear from several speakers during today’s plenaries, including Dr. Oni Blackstock, MD, MHS. Dr. Blackstock’s keynote will explore HIV/AIDS and the implications of race and healthcare.

This year’s Summit, as in years past, will provide the opportunity to celebrate champions among us who use their activism to lift others. I am so glad that you will help us honor Dr. Oni Blackstock and Kim Nichols, as well as our global champion, Abosede Oladayo. Our honorees continue to show us year after year how we can use our voices to help ourselves and others.

We are ever grateful to our speakers, workshop facilitators, Iris House staff and volunteers, as well as our very generous sponsors who are listed in this journal. At the core of this event, however, is each of you. Whatever your connection to this cause, it is your personal story that needs to be told and heard.

While I know today’s sessions will certainly inform, I also understand that the conversations and networking in the chats, in the group conversation room, as well as the connections that form are even more critical as we plot a path to end this epidemic. Today, and as we move forward, let’s ensure that our thoughts and our voices are heard—because it’s our time.

Thank you for being here today and participating in our 16th Summit.



Ingrid N. Floyd
Executive Director

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PHOTOGRAPHY NOTICE

Please be advised that portions of the Summit will be recorded and may be posted on the Iris House website for viewing by others after today's event. The morning plenary sessions will be broadcast live on Facebook. Photos will be taken during this event for use online and in printed materials. By entering and participating, you irrevocably grant permission, acknowledge and consent to the use of your image/likeness, voice and comments for broadcast in any and all media by Iris House and the licensed parties. You also release, discharge and agree to hold harmless the licensed parties and each of them from and against all actions, damages, costs, liabilities and claims to which the licensed parties of any of them may be subject to as a result of or in any way related to use of the materials by any of the licensed parties.

The Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit is made possible by the generous support of government, corporate and non-profit sponsors who join with Iris House every year in presenting this event! We deeply appreciate their dedication to our program and our work.

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New York City Council,
The Honorable Corey Johnson, Speaker

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(as of June 1, 2021)

The 16th Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Virtual Summit Program

Monday, June 7th, 2021 11:00 AM—6:00 PM EST

11:00 AM Opening Remarks

Ingrid Floyd, Executive Director, Iris House

11:15 AM HIV and Health Justice

Oni Blackstock, MD, MHS

11:45 AM "Girls Without Bounds: Getting Young Girls Around the World Involved in HIV"

AHF Global Girls Act Initiative

Afternoon Plenary Session

1:00 PM "Women Without Bounds: Voices of Women Living with HIV from Around the World"

Panelists - Hulda Brown, Maria Mejia, Abosedede "Bose" Oladayo, and Katie Adsila Willingham

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM Recognizing our Honorees - Women in the Fight Against HIV - Dr. Oni Blackstock, Kim Nichols and Abosedede

"Bose" Oladayo

15-minute wellness break with entertainment

2:30 PM EST Breakout Session I

COVID-19, Service Needs, and Telehealth Use Among HIV-Positive Women in New York

Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

I am U, Inc. and Healing is Voluntary, LLC

The Intersection of HIV, Diabetes, and Race: Successful Prevention and Management of Diabetes in Our Communities

Iris House, Inc.

The Well Project: Building Global Advocacy and Support Through Online Communities

The Well Project

Women Thriving Through Two Pandemics

Iris House, Inc., PWN-NYC, and LAISP Church

15-minute wellness break with entertainment

For a full description of today's sessions, please visit

<http://www.irishouse.org/the-16th-annual-women-as-the-face-of-aids-summit.html>

3:45 PM EST Breakout Session II

Boots on the Ground—Latinas Connecting Their Communities to HIV and COVID Services

Voces Latinas

Breastfeeding and HIV in the U.S. and Canada: Centering Women's Lived Experiences

The Well Project

Libyan Women and HIV: An Examination of the Impact of Sociocultural, Economic, Political and Religious Factors that Contribute to Libyan Women's Vulnerabilities to HIV

Abier Hamidi, PhD Candidate, Bournemouth University, United Kingdom

Makidada: Blood Sisters Doing it for Themselves

Growing into Greatness

Simply Glow'd in an Era of Black Girl Magic!

Iris House, Inc.

You Are Not Alone: WORLD's Leadership Institute Deep Dive Into Leading Beyond Your Diagnosis!

Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases

4:45 PM EST Virtual Exhibit Hall

A virtual exhibit hall will be held featuring sponsors. All sponsors will have the opportunity to present for 3-4 minutes on their organization and its services.

Full Program and FREE Registration are available at www.irishouse.org.

The 16th Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit is sponsored in part by educational grants from The New York City Council, Corey Johnson, Speaker; Janssen Therapeutics; ViiV Healthcare, Gilead Sciences, and community support from Mt. Sinai Institute for Advanced Medicine; Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS; Amida Care, AIDS Healthcare Foundation; AIDS Center for Queens County (ACQC); God's Love We Deliver; Exponents, and others.

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Oni Blackstock, MD, MHS, Dr. Oni Blackstock is recognized as a thought leader and influencer in the areas of HIV and health equity. She is a primary care and HIV physician and intersectional equity advocate with expertise in racial, gender and LGBTQ equity.

Within the health care and public health arenas, Dr. Blackstock has developed and implemented racial equity programs and initiatives, including establishing the first Bureau-based Racial Equity program at the NYC Health Department, which have led to improved workforce equity and more equitable administrative and programmatic policies. Additionally, her own experience living at the intersection of several marginalized identities has informed her deep commitment to advancing health equity.

Dr. Blackstock holds degrees from Harvard College, Harvard Medical School, and Yale School of Medicine. She has been the recipient of awards and recognition from media outlets such as [GO](#), [Out](#), and [Essence](#) magazines and community-based organizations such as [Callen-Lorde Community Health Center](#) and [Exponents](#). She has appeared on [Democracy Now!](#), CNN, [MSNBC](#), Peacock, and [Yahoo Finance](#).



Kim Nichols served as the Executive Director of African Services Committee for 40 years. Throughout her leadership, the organization was able to expand public health services in Harlem, address the social determinates of health faced by immigrant African communities in NYC, and highlight the unique experiences faced by these communities. She has retired as of ear, but her contribution to HIV prevention is recognized by all. She is a pioneer, a leader and an advocate for many.



Abosede “Bose” Oladayo (Nee Olotu) is an internationally recognized advocate focused specifically on women and girls living with and vulnerable to HIV, based in Nigeria. Bose has been living with HIV for nearly 20 years, during which she has significantly contributed to the progress that Nigeria has made in Nigeria in advancing HIV treatment, advocacy, mobilization, and stigma reduction.

Bose is a Community Advisory Board member and a Global Ambassador for [The Well Project](#), a non-profit organization focused on women and HIV, where she represents the organization in conferences and online, disseminates its information, and provides programming support. Bose also blogs for *A Girl Like Me*, The Well Project’s online support community where women share their experiences living with HIV.



Mentorship is a cornerstone of Bose’s advocacy work -- she is a globally recognized mentor in preventing vertical transmission and mentors Community Based Organizations in low-case detection of TB in communities. She is also a member of the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition, International Community of Women Living with HIV, Global Campaign to End Pediatric AIDS, African Coalition on Tuberculosis, and the Steering Committee of ‘See Us’ (a project highlighting the experiences and challenges of women living with HIV, coordinated by ABBVIE). She serves as the national financial coordinator for Treatment Action Movement and until recently served as the Executive Director of Good Neighbors Foundation, a local non-for-profit organization based in Nigeria.

PANEL SPEAKERS



Hulda Brown is currently the VP of Quan Yin Healing Arts, and connected to the Misha Ruth Cohen Educational Foundation. She serves on the advisory boards of Shanti and Healing Wafers; and is also a speaker for the Golden Compass Program, Honoring Our Experience; Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases (WORLD), plus a host of other organizations.

Ms. Brown has worked with the Black Health Center of Excellence; The San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium; The Senior Disability Action Network; San Francisco Principles and the AIDS Foundation. She has lived with HIV for 30 years.



Maria Mejia was diagnosed with HIV in 1991 as a teenager, and began a journey finding hope, pride, and passion in an under-educated society, unprepared to deal with the growing epidemic of HIV and AIDS. After ten years without treatment, Maria found herself at a crossroads: begin medical treatment or continue to slide towards death. Thankfully, she chose to live and to fight for more than just her own health.

Ms. Mejia immersed herself in HIV/AIDS education and became a powerful activist for education, treatment, testing, prevention, LGBTQ and human rights. She has been featured in magazines, billboards, TV as well as national and international conventions. Maria has been included in four documentaries to help raise HIV awareness. She is a volunteer for the Red Cross, an HIV educator for Jackson Memorial Hospital and a motivational speaker. She is also an HIV consultant and member of several digital advisory boards, plus and sits on the Board of Directors for CANN in Washington, DC.

Maria is co-author of the book "From a Warrior's Passion and Pain" and currently the co-chair of the Women and Minorities Outreach for the Dab the AIDS Bear Project. She is also The Global Ambassador and CAB member for the Women's organization, The Well Project.



Katie Adsila Willingham is a woman of trans experience and Cherokee heritage, from rural northwest Alabama. She was diagnosed with HIV in 2000, undetectable since 2001, and a newbie to the advocacy world, having begun her journey in 2017. She is now the Alabama State Lead for Positive Women's Network USA; an A Girl Like Me blogger and Community Advisory Board member with The Well Project; a member of the HIV Prevention and Care Planning Committee of the Alabama Department of Public Health; writer with WebMD and an ambassador of the U=U message. Katie uses social media to educate and raise awareness concerning HIV, transgender, and voting issues with Facebook groups such as Alabama Poz Life, Alabama Transgender Coalition, and Vote Positive-Organizing for Power Alabama.

Additional panelists: Bose Oladayo and Dr. Margaret Bury

Mount Sinai Institute for Advanced Medicine

IAM's mission is to lead the field in providing compassionate, inclusive, integrated and holistic primary care, prevention, and education, to advance the health of individuals and communities.

PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

- Primary Care for HIV Negative & HIV Positive Persons
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- Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
- HIV Prevention Services
- Nutrition Services
- Mental Health Services
- Treatment Adherence
- Hepatitis C Tests & Treatment
- Access to Clinical Trials
- STD Prevention & Treatment
- Social Services

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- GASTROENTEROLOGY
- CARDIOLOGY
- HARM REDUCTION
- PSYCHIATRY
- CARE COORDINATION
- PEDIATRICS/ YOUTH SERVICES
- ADDICTION TREATMENT
- RE-ENTRY SERVICES (COMING HOME)
- PAIN MANAGEMENT
- NEPHROLOGY
- GYNOCOLGY
- OB/GYN



Mount Sinai

Institute for Advanced Medicine

**OUR
LIFE'S WORK**

**FIGHTING HIV
YESTERDAY,
TODAY. TOMORROW**

ViV Healthcare is proud to support this year's 16th Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit and our shared commitment to ending the HIV Epidemic through HIV prevention, detection and treatment for all women.

Follow us:    

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OraSure
congratulates
Iris House on its
16th Annual
Women as the Face
of AIDS Summit
and applauds all of today's honorees!



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Standing Strong Together



Amida Care is proud to support
Iris House's 16th annual
Women as the Face of AIDS Summit



Medicaid Health Plan
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www.AmidaCareNY.org
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Iris House

16th Annual Virtual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit - Women Without Bounds

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Looking to reduce Anxiety Around Sex?

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Roger Adamson, PrEP Navigator @ ext. 338

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Viola Varner, MSW, CASAC
Assistant Director of Behavioral Health, ext. 306

17 Battery Place, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10004 phone: 212.243.3434 / exponents.org



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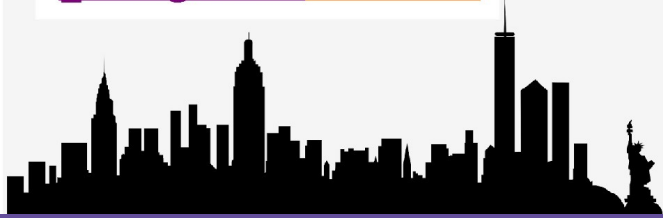


Ryan Health is proud to support Iris House and its 16th Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit!



We Honor Your Work!

project1329



Project 1329 offers services to African Americans and Latino young men who have sex with men and heterosexual youth, ages 13-29 who are HIV positive and high-risk negatives to prevent HIV, STI, HCV and substance use.

Services

HIV, STI and Hepatitis C Testing

Substance Use Prevention and Services

Choosing Life: Empowerment! Action! Results! (CLEAR) Intervention

Social Network Strategy

Peer Leadership and Youth Advisory Board

Educational Workshops

Condom Distribution

Linkage to Medical Care/Referrals to PrEP/PEP

For more information
Contact Ofelia Barrios,
Senior Director of Community Health Initiatives
(646)548-0100 or obarrios@irishouse.org

IRIS HOUSE

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New York, NY 10030
646-548-0100

Central New Jersey Office

630 East Front Street
Suite 100
Plainfield, NJ 07060
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Women Support Services

Emotional Wellness Groups
Life Skills Workshops

Harm Reduction

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Detox Program Referrals
Mental Health Assessment
Substance Use Screening

Nutritional Services

Nutrition Individual and
Group Education
Hot/Cold Lunch
Monthly Pantry Bags

Scatter-Site

Supportive Housing
Case Management
Housing
Referrals as Needed

Outreach, Engagement and Programs Other Services

Emergency Pantry Bags
Treatment Adherence

Prevention/Outreach

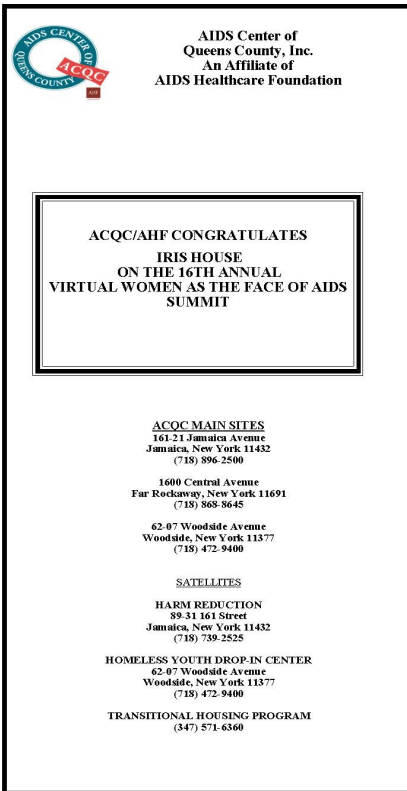
Free Condoms
Prevention Education
Mental Health Screening
Listen Up
I-Matter
Group Education and
Specific Interventions

Pharmacy Services

Home and Community Based Services

TESTING PROGRAMS

HIV
Hepatitis C
STIs



JUST FOR US Program offers services to African American and Hispanic Lesbian/WSW and adolescents ages 13+ who are HIV-positive or at high-risk in order to prevent new HIV, sexuality transmitted infections (STI) and Hepatitis C infection.

Services

- HIV testing
- STI and Hepatitis C testing
- SISTA Intervention-HIV educational sessions for women
- Referrals to PrEP/nPEP, linkage to care and supportive services
- Referrals to substance use and mental health services

FOR MORE INFORMATION

contact **Ofelia Barrios**, Senior Director of Community Health Initiatives at Iris House at (646) 548-0100 or via email at obarrios@irishouse.org

Program sponsored by the NYS AIDS Institute



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- Learn housing options

NY Connects:

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- Is available throughout all five boroughs
- Is accessible for any language



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and the individual calls for help that
each Broadway Show makes
directly impacts people living with HIV / AIDS.**

**When you give at the theatre,
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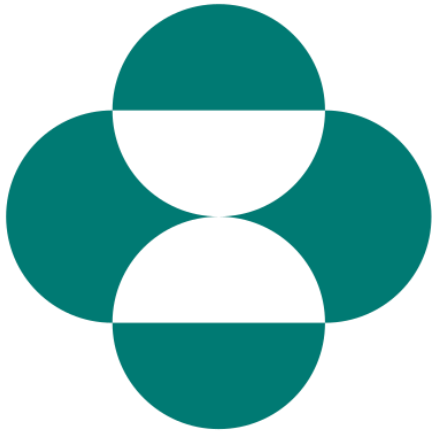
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