



**HALCO**  
HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario



## MEDIA ADVISORY

*For immediate release*

### **VITAL COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ABOUT HIV CRIMINALIZATION AND THE WAY FORWARD**

*Issue takes on new urgency following last week's provincial election results*

**TORONTO June 13, 2018** — Canada (and Ontario) has the dubious distinction of having one of the highest rates of criminalizing people living with HIV in the world. As Pride Toronto marks 35 years of AIDS activism this Pride Month, and with the results of last week's provincial election creating uncertainty about the future of HIV overcriminalization, leading activists will discuss the progress made so far, and where the advocacy goes from here. The discussion will look at the situation in Ontario, at the federal level and in other provinces.

**WHO:** Richard Elliott, Executive Director, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

Muluba Habanyama, Freelance journalist and community activist living with HIV

Notisha Massaquoi, Executive Director, Women's Health in Women's Hands and member of the Ontario Premier's Roundtable on Violence Against Women

Ryan Peck, Executive Director, HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO) and co-chair, Ontario Working Group on Criminal Law and HIV Exposure (CLHE)

**WHAT:** Community dialogue on the issue of HIV criminalization (in Ontario and across Canada)

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 14, 2018. 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. **Registration begins at 6:00 p.m., discussion to begin at 6:15 p.m. sharp.**

**WHERE:** Chelsea Hotel, Rossetti Room, 33 Gerrard St. W. Toronto.

The event is free of charge and open to the public. It is co-hosted by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, HALCO, CLHE and Pride Toronto.

Interviews with panelists are available on request.

-30-

**Media contact:**

Joshua Terry  
Communications and Campaigns Officer  
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network  
Telephone: +1 416 595-1666 ext. 236  
Email: [jterry@aidslaw.ca](mailto:jterry@aidslaw.ca)