

# High Level Dialogue

Punitive Laws, Human Rights and HIV prevention among men who have sex with men in Asia Pacific

## International Day Against Homophobia

May 17, 2010

### Speakers

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Hon. Michael Kirby      Hon. Ajit Prakash Shah  
Hon. Dame Carol Kidu      Dr. Mandeep Dhaliwal  
Shivananda Khan, OBE      John Godwin

Moderated by Thomas Abraham

### Where

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### When

All are welcome. Please email Flora Leung at [flakeung@hku.hk](mailto:flakeung@hku.hk) to reserve a place.

Council Chamber  
8/F Meng Wah Complex  
The University of Hong Kong

17:00 - 19:00  
Monday, May 17, 2010



Emerging Strategic Research Theme on Diversity Studies  
The University of Hong Kong

## Speaker Bios



The **Hon. Michael Kirby** was, until February 2009, one of the Judges of the High Court of Australia, Australia's highest constitutional and appellate tribunal. He was also Australia's longest serving judge. Beyond Australia, Justice Kirby served on the inaugural Global Commission on AIDS established by the World Health Organization in 1986, and still serves on the Reference Panel on Human Rights of UNAIDS, the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. He has also served between 1993-1996 as the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Human Rights in Cambodia where he put HIV issues at the forefront of human rights concerns, and on various initiatives of UNDP, UNODC, OHCHR, the Commonwealth Secretariat and OECD. Mr Kirby has been awarded the Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) (1983) and Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) (1991).



The **Hon. Ajit Prakash Shah** received his degree of law from Government Law College, Mumbai. After a short span of practice in the District Court at Solapur he shifted to Bombay High Court in 1977 and joined the chambers of the then leading Advocate Justice Shri S.C. Pratap. He then gained experience in civil, constitutional, service and labour matters. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of Bombay High Court on 18th December, 1992 and became permanent Judge of Bombay High Court on 8th April, 1994. He assumed charge of the office of Chief Justice, Madras High Court, on 12th November, 2005 and on transfer took over as Chief Justice, Delhi High Court on 11th May, 2008. In July 2009, Justice Shah delivered the ruling that found India's 150-year-old statute prohibiting homosexual acts as discriminatory and therefore a "violation of fundamental rights." Justice Shah retired in early 2010.



The **Hon. Dame Carol Kidu** is Minister for Community Development in Papua New Guinea and is the only woman member of the 109-member Papua New Guinea Parliament. Dame Kidu was first elected into the PNG Parliament in 1997. Dame Kidu facilitated the establishment of the Parliamentary Committee on HIV and AIDS in 2003 and the establishment of a PNG Parliamentary Group on Population and Development in 2008. Dame Kidu received the Imperial Award of Dame of the British Empire in January 2005 and was awarded International Woman of Courage Award by the Secretary of State of the United States of America in March 2007. She was named Pacific Person of the Year December 2007 and the 2008 Regional Rights Resource Team Pacific Human Rights Award winner for her contribution to promoting the rights of Pacific Islanders. In February 2009 she was honoured with the highest award for a non-citizen by the French Government - the Cross of Knight in the Order of the Legion d'Honneur.



**Dr. Mandeep Dhaliwal**, Team Leader, Human Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity, HIV Group, Bureau of Development Policy, UNDP, New York, has extensive experience with organizations such as the International HIV/AIDS Alliance as well as the Lawyers Collective HIV/AIDS Unit in India, where as the founding Coordinator, she established the Unit's legal aid, strategic litigation, legal literacy, capacity building and advocacy work. She holds an M.D. and LLB and has been working with people living with HIV and marginalized communities in India and a number of developing countries in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. Prior to her present UNDP assignment, she was a senior advisor to the Royal Tropical Institute's Special Programme on AIDS in the Netherlands.



**Shivananda Khan, OBE**, formed Shakti, the first South Asian LGBT organization in the UK in 1988, and in 1991 established the first South Asian HIV organization, The Naz Project. In 1996 Mr Khan formed the Naz Foundation International (NFI) focusing on male-male sexualities and HIV in South Asia, which since then has assisted in the development of four national MSM and HIV organizations in the region, as well as helping to establish some 70 MSM community based HIV service providers. He is the Interim Chairperson of the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM) and is on the Steering Committee of the Global Forum on MSM and HIV. In 2005 he was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) and the New Year's Honours List of the British Queen for his services in HIV prevention and care with males who have sex with males in South Asia.



**John Godwin** is presenting the key findings of the study - Laws affecting HIV responses among men who have sex with men and transgender people in Asia and the Pacific. He is an independent consultant based in Sydney, Australia and has an extensive background in HIV, human rights law and development. He has 20 years experience working with civil society, government departments and UN agencies to address HIV-related issues. In the 1990s he practiced as a lawyer in Australia specializing in anti-discrimination law and conducted test cases relating to sexuality and HIV. He co-authored the Australian HIV/AIDS Legal Guide. From 2004-2008 he was the lead HIV adviser to the Australian Government's International Development Agency (AusAID).



**Thomas Abraham** is Director of the Public Health Communications Programme at the University of Hong Kong's Journalism and Media Studies Centre. He is a former Editor and Deputy Editor of the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong (2000-2002), and has spent more than two decades with the Hindu, one of India's premier English language newspapers. As a foreign correspondent, he was based in London, Geneva, and Colombo, Sri Lanka. When in London, he was regular commentator for BBC World television on South Asian affairs and a panellist for the current affairs programme "Dateline London." He was also vice president of the Foreign Correspondents Association in London, and President of the Foreign Correspondents Association of Sri Lanka. He is the author of "Twenty First Century Plague: The Story of SARS" (Johns Hopkins University Press 2005) and runs a research programme on the reporting and communicating of public health issues, particularly infectious disease. He is also member of a WHO network that is working to develop risk communication principles to be used in the event of an influenza pandemic.