



AFRICAN ALLIANCE | DISRUPTOR'S DIGEST | SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE

This month, we write to name where we stand as a movement.

Across Africa and the world, **health justice is under siege: donor retreat**, the rise of authoritarian politics, and the violent surge of anti-rights and anti-gender movements all threaten to unravel decades of hard-won progress.

At the same time, **we witness genocide and mass violence destroying human lives** in too many corners of this earth.

To look away is complicity.

Now, more than ever, our task is twofold: to raise our voices with clarity and bravery, and to protect the spaces where we can remain whole.

We must stand with all humans facing annihilation, and at the same time insist on creating safe and loved places where our communities can breathe, organise, and heal. Without sanctuary, we cannot fight; without fight, we cannot win.

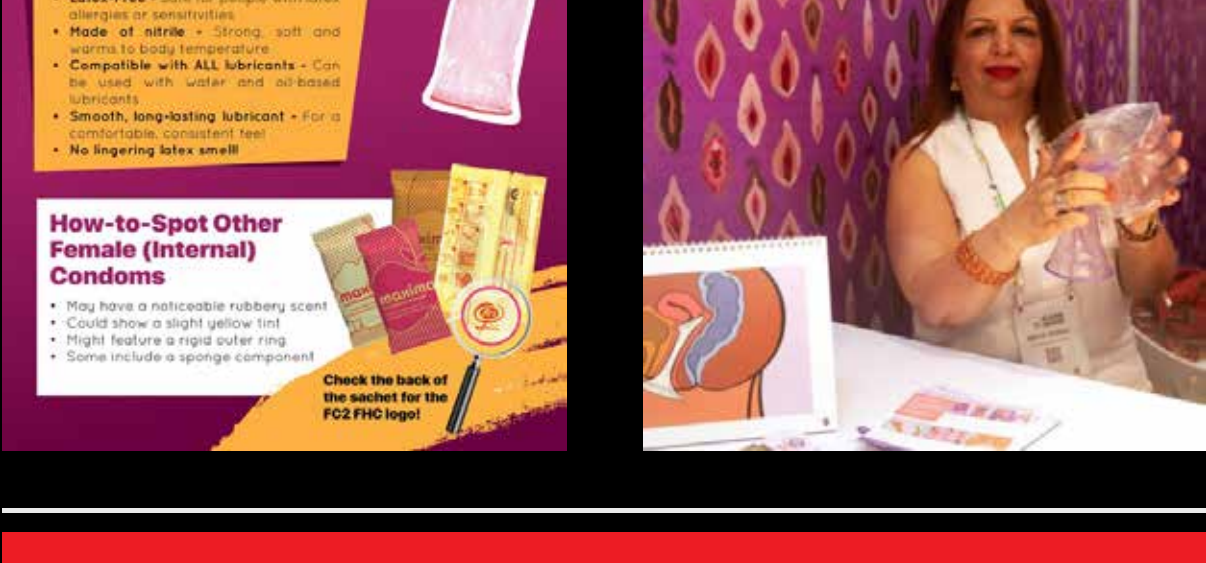
This issue lifts up those who embody that balance: our colleagues building people-centred health programmes, **our partners defending rights in courtrooms and communities**, and our allies who remind us that even in a world that feels broken, there is power in choosing solidarity.

Yours in solidarity,
Tian Johnson
Founder and Strategist

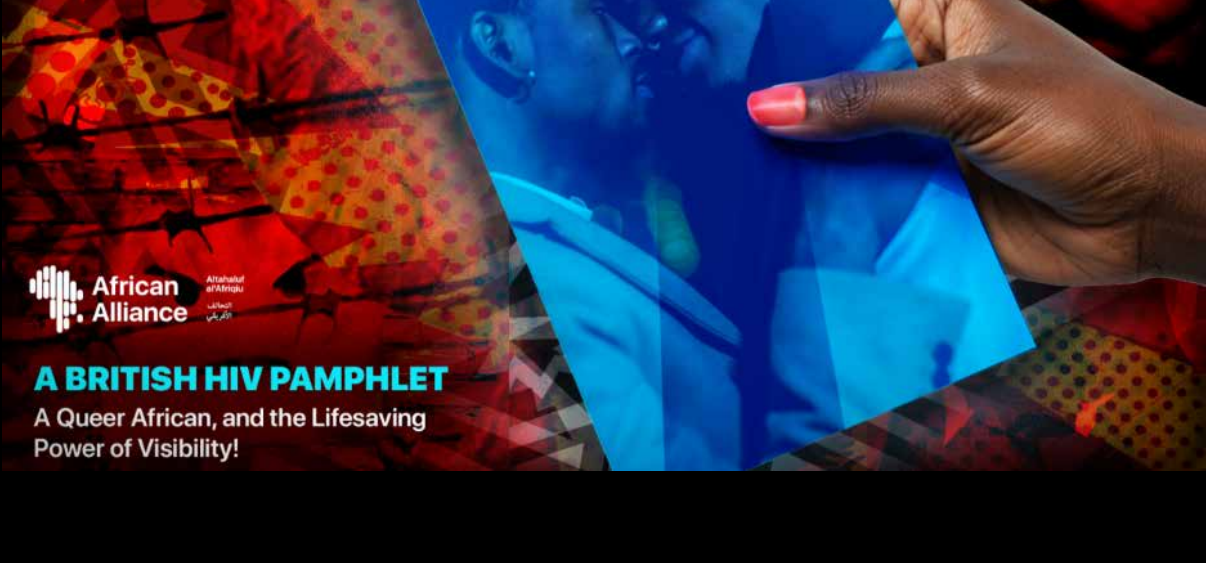
WHAT WE ARE UP TO

This month we supported the promotion of the **FC2 Maxima Condom** at the **South African AIDS Conference** in Johannesburg!

Check out how to find your FC2 Maxima locally in South Africa and read about Maya Gokul - South Africa's inner condom high priestess. and her decades long career in sex education and HIV prevention [here](#).



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

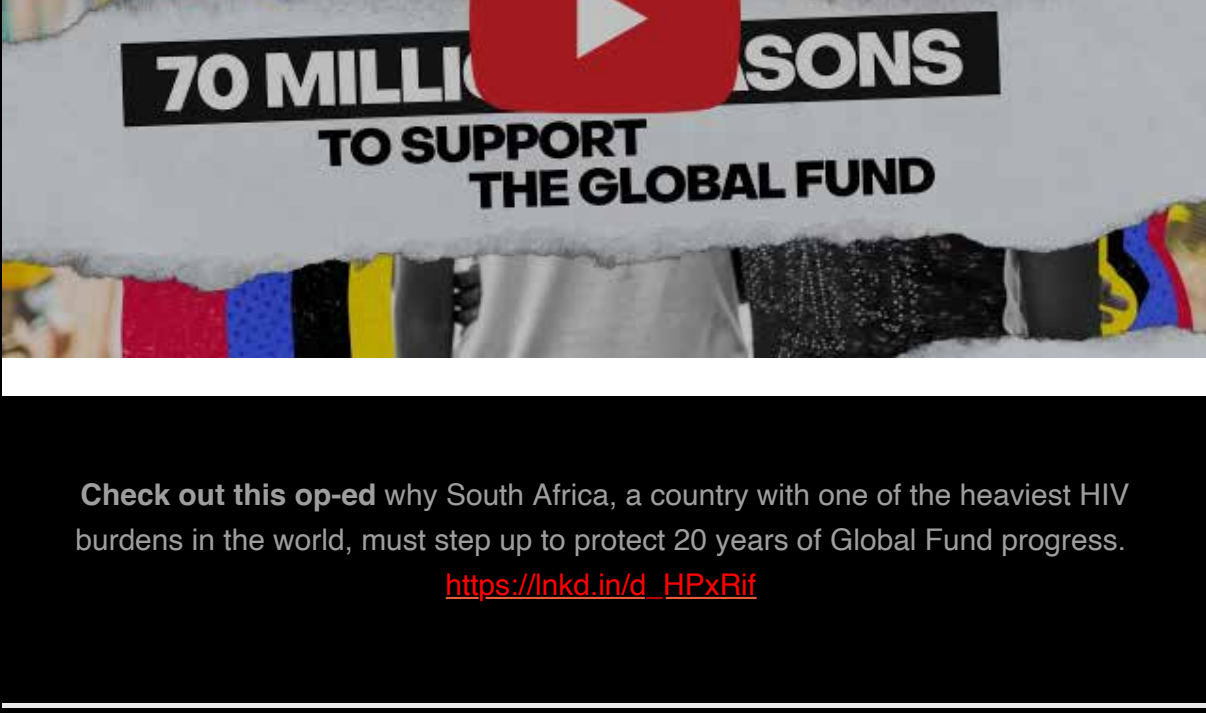


A single piece of paper changed the life of our founder and strategist, Tian Johnson.

A pamphlet they found in the local AIDS library where they were volunteering featured two men in love. The pamphlet was published by the Terrence Higgins Trust, a UK-based HIV organisation.

It was the first time Johnson had seen a photo of two men embracing. "For the first time in my life, I saw what I felt. And it was beautiful."

[Read the full piece here.](#)



Check out this **op-ed** why South Africa, a country with one of the heaviest HIV burdens in the world, must step up to protect 20 years of Global Fund progress.

https://lnkd.in/d_HPxRli

GET TO KNOW YOUR COMRADES

GET TO KNOW THE TEAM



Meet **Barrack Owino**, the Partnerships & Advocacy Lead at the Alliance.

Barrack is a public health and development professional with nine years' experience in programme design, organisational capacity development, policy advocacy, resource mobilisation, health promotion and communication in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Today Barrack leads the Alliances Pandemic portfolio work, co leads the efforts of the Alliances work with the Africa HIV Cure Consortium focused on bringing HIV Cure science to communities across our continent!

WHAT WE ARE READING

A new memorandum from President Trump could label US-based and global health groups as "Anti-American" or "domestic terrorists", writes Emily Bass on her Substack [To End A Plague...Again](#)

Global health advocates could earn such designations by, say, **arguing against pharmaceutical monopolies** or for a **human-rights based** approach to public health that leaves no-one behind.

In short, **advocates and activists seeking evidence-based, high-impact responses to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, maternal-child mortality, vaccine-preventable diseases** and so many other health threats who believe that human rights are fundamental, and scientific evidence is invaluable.

ALLIES IN ACTION



FIND OUT WHAT OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS ARE UP TO

We're proud to say that the renowned community advocacy group the **Treatment Action Campaign (TAC)** is one of our partners. The TAC's work in communities and in the courts revolutionised HIV treatment in South Africa in the early 2000s by forcing that country's government to provide antiretroviral treatment at all public sector hospitals and clinics.



"With what's happened in America, it's difficult to stay strong. We can't go back to the days of just burying people". [Learn more about TAC'S work here.](#)

The TAC has once again taken up the fight against South Africa's health department which is denying that US funding cuts are having a negative impact on health care in the country.

As always, the TAC's work doesn't end at South Africa's borders. Their activism is powered by data gathered through their community-led monitoring project called Rithidze, which is the largest of its kind world wide.

On 24 September, **TAC publicly opposed a United Nations (UN) plan to shutter UNAIDS**, which is currently the only dedicated UN body co-ordinating the HIV response.

In a [joint statement](#) with public interest non-profit SECTION 27, the TAC explained: "Closing UNAIDS now would undermine decades of progress, weakening global coordination of the HIV response at a critical stage of the HIV response, when the agency is expected to finalise the next five-year Global AIDS Strategy and agree on the 2030 targets.

"UNAIDS has been essential in ensuring accountability, mobilising resources, **protecting the rights of members of key populations, and centering community leadership** in the global fight against AIDS."

Today, **their work is more important than ever** amid global funding cuts and growing anti-rights movements that threaten to disrupt decades of progress towards ending the HIV epidemic.

