

Press Release – For Immediate Release

Demonstration against stigmatisation - community groups and medical professions come together in solidarity.

Basel / Lenzburg, November 7, 2019 - On Friday 8th October, hundreds of people will march through the centre of Basel. Together, they oppose the exclusion and stigmatisation of people living with HIV. The demonstration march is another highlight of community activities during the 17th European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS) conference.

At 4pm, the demonstrators gather at the Claramatte.

- Alex Schneider, who organized the campaign as an HIV activist, will explain the motto "**No HIV Stigma**".
- Beat Jans, National Councillor of SP Basel-Stadt and Vice-President of SP Switzerland, will speak at the opening gathering on HIV policy.
- This will be followed by statements by activists from Central Asia and Switzerland: Liliya Ten from Kyrgyzstan describes how dramatically stigmatisation affects women's' health. Swiss HIV activist, Michele Meyer, explains how repressive approaches to diversity endangers our sexual health.
- Marcel Stöckle, the medical officer and head HIV Consultant at the University Hospital Basel, will also be in attendance.

Following the rally, the demonstrators and supporters will move through Basel. The route runs from the Claramatte through the Claragraben via Riehentorstrasse, Rebgasse, Theodorskirchplatz, Wettsteinstrasse, Wettsteinbrücke, St. Alban Graben, Bankverein and Steinenberg to Theaterplatz. There the closing rally takes place until 6 pm.

Also in attendance will be Angelo Barrile, National Councillor SP and Chairman of the Zurich Aids-Hilfe. Angela Lagler and Romy Mathys will be facilitating discussions with HIV activists from across the world. From our location on the Claramatte the view will also extend far beyond Switzerland on the Theaterplatz shining a light on the fact that stigmatisation is one of the biggest obstacles in the prevention and treatment of HIV everywhere in Europe and Central Asia.

"With our demo, we want to show the public that all people have the same rights. Whether you live with or without HIV. Whether you are LGBTQI+, a sex worker, a migrant or whatever," said Schneider, founder of Life4Me+, when explaining the rationale behind the event.

Life4Me+ and their partners are no longer content with a medical approach that focuses purely on blood results and ignores the psychosocial impacts of HIV: *"The virus in the blood is apparently easier to eliminate than the stigma in the mind."*

"We encourage a new generation of HIV awareness campaigns to educate the public on the importance of HIV in 2019" adds Schneider.

For further information visit: www.NoStigma.ch

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