



Speech delivered by Best Chitsanupong, GATE's Human Rights Officer at UN Multi-Stakeholder Hearing during Panel 4 "***Community Leadership, Accountability and Inclusive Governance in a Changing HIV Response in the Context of Reduced Funding and Increased Reliance on Community Systems to Sustain the Response***".

Thank you, madam moderator and panelists. excellencies

My name is Best Chitsanupong. I am a human rights officer at GATE (Global Action for Trans Equality)

As a trans human rights defender, every day in our work, we receive information about trans and gender diverse people, that are under attack, that are being persecuted just for being who they are.

The stigma, discrimination and anti-gender attacks against our communities is what makes trans and gender diverse people vulnerable to HIV.

We talk about community engagement and leadership, but for some of us, that is a faraway dream. When we talk about dreams, some of us can't close our eyes and go to sleep. Because right now at this moment, our main issue is survival.

Trying to remain alive and safe in a world, that refuses to accept our humanity, and who uses our identities, as political scapegoats to win votes.

While you spend millions in campaigns demonizing our identities, we struggle for survival and yet we remain resilient to be active in the HIV response to provide services to our peers, provide capacity building, and provide financial assistance for safety and security and essential prevention and care services.

When we talk about a generation free from AIDS, we need to understand we will never be able to achieve this. If we don't value ALL humans and respect dignity fo ALL.

I urge member states to ensure that our identities are not erased and not to allow the polarization of groups and identities.

To achieve the 2030 goals, we must remain united. If one of us is left behind, we all lose. Reiterate the past political declarations and name us, we are key populations, we are trans and gender diverse people, and we shall not be erased.

I thank you,