



National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, Inc.
Acknowledges Douglas M. Brooks
As White House Office of National AIDS Policy Tenure Ends
Welcomes Incoming Director with

March 24, 2016: The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, Inc. (Network), and its members across the nation extend our sincerest thank you to Mr. Douglas Brooks for the work he has done on behalf of the communities across the United States significantly impacted by HIV/AIDS, as he leaves his position as Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP).

The Network came to know Mr. Brooks through our collaborative work with the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition, his work as Chair of the Board of Trustees of AIDS United and with the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. His keen understanding of social systems and the impact of social policies on the health and wellness of diverse communities resulted in his successful tenure as ONAP's Director.

As a Black gay man living with HIV, Mr. Brooks was able to bring his passion, skills and abilities to further our collective national work to address HIV in the United States. His outstanding organization, effective engagement abilities and conceptual clarity enabled him to exhibit a model of how government can be more open and responsive to communities disproportionately impacted by this devastating disease. Under his leadership we now have an updated National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS), that incorporates the scientific advances made to date that could one day bring this Nation closer to eliminating new HIV infections and that acknowledges that HIV does not impact all Americans equally and that Black women and girls, gay and bisexual men, and gay youth 13-24, experience a particularly high burden of HIV disease.

Of particular note, in April, 2015 Mr. Brooks hosted the first National HIV/AIDS Strategy Roundtable on Black Women and HIV which engaged members of the Network from across the country to address the needs of Black women and girls for inclusion into the updated NHAS. The outcome this historic gathering resulted in recommendations to reduce new HIV infections among Black women and girls, increase access to care and improve health outcomes for Black women and girls living with HIV, reduce HIV-related disparities and health inequities among this population and advance a more coordinated national response to the HIV epidemic for this particular cohort of women and girls, all central components of the updated NHAS.

"As a Black woman who has lived with this disease for over 30 years I fully recognize the value of all that Douglas has accomplished during his tenure as the Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy", said Barbara Joseph, Chair of the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, Inc." His tireless efforts to promote better access to quality care, treatment and services for people living with HIV/AIDS, in particular Black women and girls."

Although we have come a long way in the fight against HIV and AIDS and while the current administration has set forth an updated strategy, a federal implementation plan and a community action plan for implementation, Black women and girls Black women and girls

continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV compared with women of other races/ethnicities.¹ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), of the total estimated number of women living with diagnosed HIV in 2014, 62% were Black, 18% were White, and 16% were Hispanics/Latinas.² Young women aged 13 to 24 accounted for an estimated 26% of all new HIV infections in the United States in 2010. Though new HIV diagnoses declined 40% among women from 2005 to 2014, about half of the women living with HIV are in care, there are few effective HIV prevention interventions that are exclusively tailored to them. and only four in 10 have the virus under control.³

While we are saddened that Mr. Brooks leaves his position at ONAP at such a critical time in the evolution of ending the HIV epidemic in this country, the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network remains focused on the future. We eagerly anticipate the appointment of the new ONAP Director and look forward to establishing a collaborative working relationship that will further the national HIV agenda for Black women and girls with HIV/AIDS and one day realizing a nation free of HIV and AIDS.

About the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, Inc. The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN) is organized to provide leadership and expertise in the prevention and spread of HIV/AIDS and other health disparities that affect black women and girls nationally and internationally. The mission of the NBWHAN is to reduce the burden of morbidity, mortality and stigma of HIV/AIDS and other health disparities associated with gender, social, and economic inequities among Black women and girls.

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¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). HIV Among Women.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). HIV Among Women.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2014.