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Symposium to address critical issues in LGBTQ+ healthcare

1-2 November 2024 | 08:30 – 16:00 SAST | Microsoft Teams

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) [Faculty of Health Sciences](#) and the [Desmond Tutu Health Foundation \(DTHF\)](#), in partnership with [Inclusive and Affirming Ministries \(IAM\)](#), the [Triangle Project](#) and [Gender Dynamix \(GDX\)](#), will host a comprehensive two-day LGBTQ+ Health and Advocacy Symposium.

The symposium brings together leading healthcare professionals, public health officials, community advocates and academics to address critical issues in LGBTQ+ healthcare. It builds upon the success of the previous annual LGBTQ+ Health and Advocacy Day. It expands its focus on creating inclusive healthcare environments and improving access to health services, particularly for transgender and gender-diverse people.

Key highlights of the symposium include:

- A keynote address on LGBTQ+ inclusivity in public sector healthcare by Dr Hilary Goeman, who is the director for service priorities coordination in the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness
- An expert panel discussion on guaranteeing access to healthcare for LGBTQ+ communities
- Specialised sessions on evidence-informed care for transgender health and supporting transgender youth
- Interactive breakout groups focusing on policy integration, healthcare provider education and community engagement with the aim to publish a collective position paper.

Professor Linda-Gail Bekker, the chief executive officer at the DTHF, will deliver opening remarks, setting the tone for two days of intensive discussion, partnership building and knowledge sharing.

The event will offer attendees an opportunity to engage in a comprehensive programme of expert presentations and interactive discussions. The symposium uniquely combines academic discourse with cultural elements, including a groundbreaking drag king performance by Kings Collab and the screening of 'Mirror Him,' a powerful documentary about a young transgender man's journey in South Africa. Participants will have the

opportunity to engage with experts in LGBTQ+ healthcare and contribute to a collective position paper on integrating LGBTQ+ health into health systems in South Africa.

The morning sessions (09:00 to 13:00 each day) will be broadcast live online.

Members of the media interested in attending the event online are requested to [RSVP](#).

- [View the programme](#).

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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