

A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

[Amsterdam, The Netherlands, January 2019] Founding Executive Director of International Civil Society Support (ICSS), Peter van Rooijen, has stepped down as head of the organisation. Peter founded ICSS in 2006, following his engagement in the HIV response and global health since the onset of the epidemics. Peter van Rooijen will continue in a new role through a partnership between the Joep Lange Institute and ICSS, in which he will focus on the future of aid.

From January 2019, taking over as Executive Director is Raoul Fransen, who has been at ICSS since its inception as a Senior Policy Adviser and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. He has been actively involved in supporting global health and, in particular, community-led programmes supporting people living with HIV.

“It has been a privilege to be witness to the leadership and diverse accomplishments demonstrated by Peter over the past nearly two decades. It also sets a high bar,” said Raoul Fransen. “As Peter will remain on the ICSS team to lead on the future of international development aid and global health financing, an area of great significance and potential to ensure access to quality services for all. I am grateful for the confidence and support expressed by many of our partners and I look forward to furthering our collaboration in this new role.”

“The best way of expressing how I feel is ‘being proud’. Raoul and I have worked side-by-side for over 20 years, we have shared the passion for our work as well as the many frustrations,” said Peter van Rooijen. “Raoul has become a unique leader in our field who combines professionalism with a deep knowledge of the role of communities and people living with HIV in the response. I am delighted that he, as a young leader, will guide ICSS into the future.”

“The Supervisory Board of ICSS believe this change in leadership can bring new opportunities to achieve our shared goals.”, said Frans van den Boom, PhD, chair of the ICSS Supervisory Board. “We express our sincere appreciation for the commitment and vision demonstrated by Peter over the past years, as well as the inexhaustible array of innovative initiatives he established. Raoul’s understanding of current priority issues, key stakeholders and his technical expertise ensure our confidence in ICSS’ ability to continue its work towards its mission and goal to enhance the response to HIV and broader global health through strategic partnerships supporting strong and effective community and civil society leadership and policy advocacy at country, regional and global level.”

ICSS, a non-profit NGO, facilitates civil society partnerships in global health such as the [Global Fund Advocates Network](#), which brings together more than 600 individuals and organizations from the global North and South in advocating for a fully funded and effective Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria, the [Free Space Process](#), convening key global civil society and community networking organisations with a focus on HIV, and the [Civil Society Sustainability Network](#), which coordinates the work of activists and advocates from around the world to address the funding crisis in middle income countries, in the light of the current rapid withdrawal of international donor funding for the HIV/TB and malaria responses.

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