



**Robin Gorna** was the co-founder and Lead of the London-based support team for the 140,000 strong [global SheDecides movement](#), established in early 2017. Establishing this progressive political movement driving change, fuelled by action in local communities and with young people at its heart, drew on over 30 years experience working in global, regional, national and local responses to AIDS, global health, women's rights and international development. Robin has a unique perspective as an early AIDS activist with a firm commitment to women's rights. In the early '90s she wrote one of the first books on women and AIDS: "*Vamps, Virgins & Victims: How can Women fight AIDS?*" and she is now working on a new book focused on AIDS and Global Feminism.

Immediately before taking on the *SheDecides* challenge she headed up the secretariat for the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH). She is an advocate and strategist with a strong track record for leading effective action. While studying for a Theology degree at St John's College Oxford University, Robin signed up as a volunteer for the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) - the UK's AIDS charity. In the early days: she co-ordinated the Buddy Service, was director of THT's Health Promotion Department and served on the Board of Directors. Her international career started with a secondment to the European Commission in 1991. She co-Chaired the 1998 International AIDS Conference, and in 2009 was Executive Director of the International AIDS Society (the professional association of 14,000 scientists, clinicians & activists) that organises these conferences.

In 2003 she established the Global AIDS Policy Team for the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID). This innovative, multi-sectoral team led important global advocacy efforts, forging international agreements to "Universal Access to HIV Treatment, prevention and care", the Three Ones and other aid harmonisation approaches. She worked at the highest levels of government to secure a focus on AIDS through the UK's Presidencies of the G8 and EU in 2005. Robin served on the UK delegations to the Global Fund Board and the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, and then moved to Pretoria, South Africa as DFID's Senior Health and AIDS Adviser in Southern Africa, responsible for a £115 million portfolio of investments in maternal and child health programmes in Angola, on HIV and women & children's health in South Africa, as well as overseeing programmes in Lesotho and across the Southern African Development Community. She retains a close relationship with South Africa – returning often to her beautiful, blue beach house in Cape Town (though mostly living in another beautiful, blue beach house in Brighton, UK).

In 1998, when her twin sons were one year old, she moved to Australia and enjoyed four years as Executive Director of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO), growing their international programmes in Asia and the Pacific, and co-chairing the 2001 Asia-Pacific AIDS Conference, ICAAP. Robin has served on the Board of trustees of many charities, most recently the Orchid Project which seeks to end female genital cutting within a generation. She established, and now Chairs, the Women's Network at St John's College Oxford, and has a passion for mentoring young women to realise their leadership ambitions, and uniting the diverse community of St John's women. Last year she had a residency at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center to work on her next book, reflecting on successes, ongoing challenges, and what we could & should learn from AIDS to make equally big change in other areas of social justice, especially for girls and women. In September 2019 she returned to Bellagio to co-convene a conference on *Power of Law and the Power of People: Movement Lawyering for Global Justice* and is now working with amazing lawyers and activists to draw together a book and series of videos sharing their learning to strengthen action across movements to advance common goals.