



A writer and activist since the mid-1980s, **Robin Gorna's** focus has been AIDS, women's rights, advocacy and strategy. She has led and founded several organisations, most recently the global *SheDecides* movement. Since early 2020 she has been writing about COVID, including living with Long COVID, and how to learn from AIDS for other health and social justice campaigns. She is Vice Chair of the Technical Review Panel (TRP) for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, having previously served as Focal Point for the group of Human Rights and Gender Equality experts. She also sits on the UK NHS Long COVID Taskforce as a "Patient and Public Voice representative". In the early '90s her book *"Vamps, Virgins & Victims: How can Women fight AIDS?"* was one of the first to describe the impact of AIDS on women.

While still a student at St John's College, Oxford she volunteered for the Terrence Higgins Trust (the UK's national AIDS charity). During these early days of the crisis, she initially co-ordinated the "Buddy", direct support, services then joined the Board of Directors; she subsequently joined the senior management team as director of the Health Promotion Department. She went on to lead campaigns and organisations on three continents, playing key roles in the global response to the AIDS pandemic. Her international work started with a secondment to the European Commission in 1991 to advance European collaboration on AIDS, Drugs and NGOs. She worked on the 8th *World AIDS Conference* and co-Chaired the 12th in 1998, as well as the 6th *International Congress on AIDS in Asia & the Pacific* in 2001.

In 2003 she set up the UK government's global AIDS policy team - a vibrant time when the UK held leadership of important global processes. After creating substantial global policy change, she relocated to lead the UK's health and AIDS work in Southern Africa, having the privilege of working closely with the South African government as it shifted from denialist policies on AIDS, and working across the region, focusing on women's health and AIDS in Angola and Lesotho. She has also served as Executive Director of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, International AIDS Society and Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (based at WHO), before returning to the UK to co-found the global *SheDecides* movement aiming to advance the rights of women and girls to decide about their bodies.

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 is now Emeritus Chair of, the Women's Network at St John's College, Oxford; this unites the diverse community of St John's women and provides a focus for her passion for mentoring young women to realise their leadership ambitions. She publishes widely and during the first 2020 lockdown, co-founded Weekend Morning Writers – an online space for people to write in silence and community. This group now brings together diverse writers all over the world and meets regularly on four time zones. Her writing has benefited substantially from residencies at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center on Lake Como, and at the Bogliasco Foundation also in Italy, near Genova. 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*, an opportunity to deepen connections between social justice activists across a range of movements, identifying some of the golden threads of learning and strengthening action and collaboration across movements to advance common goals. Many of the outcomes from these discussions, as well as her extensive experiences working on AIDS and living with COVID, inform her current book *Death, Dying and Discrimination: an activist memoir of living with two plagues and making change*.