



HIV and AIDS campaign live the promise

Why the campaign

Since AIDS was identified in the early 1980s, the disease has led to the deaths of over 25 million people, stigmatized and discriminated against tens of millions more living with or affected by HIV, and laid bare the gross inequalities of our society nationally and globally. Currently approximately 33 million people are living with HIV, and still millions each year become infected with HIV, and die because of AIDS.

Since the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) began campaigning on HIV and AIDS in 2001, tremendous progress has been made in increasing treatment and breaking the silence to address the stigma around HIV and AIDS. Yes so much more needs to be done, within religious communities and throughout society, to ensure universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support. In addition, the current economic crisis threatens to stall the progress that has been made, making it all the more critical that global leaders keep their promises to reach universal access.

From 2009-2012, the EAA will build on its effective campaign and high reputation at the grassroots and among international organizations to continue its focus on HIV and AIDS.

Approach of the campaign

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance is a broad international network of churches and Christian organizations cooperating in advocacy on HIV and AIDS and on food. Alliance members represent tens of millions of Christians around the world who share the conviction that advocacy against unjust

structures, practices and attitudes should not be a task we engage in when it is convenient, but must be a fundamental requirement of living out our faith.

Through awareness raising, public campaigning and policy engagement, EAA members will advocate for:

- Addressing the root causes of vulnerability to HIV
- Achieving Universal Access
- Eliminating stigma and discrimination
- Ensuring accountability and sufficient resources

The Alliance's advocacy will uphold cross-cutting concerns which are incorporated in our actions:

- the meaningful involvement of people living with HIV
- a strong commitment to gender equality and women's human rights, underpinned by a gender analysis
- seeking, hearing, and integrating the voices of people from the regions and areas most impacted by HIV
- inclusion of and respect towards people who are marginalized in our societies.

The EAA recognizes in its campaign that whom we involve, how we speak, and what we do must all be consistent with our faith that respects the dignity of everyone and seeks a more just, sustainable and peaceful world.



What we will do

The EAA will continue to encourage churches and church-related organizations to speak out on HIV and AIDS in ways that eliminate stigma and discrimination, address the root causes of vulnerabilities to HIV transmission and provide treatment, care and support to all in need. Campaign actions in 2009 include:

- Promoting children's access to treatment and appropriate diagnostics through a children's letter writing campaign, meetings with pharmaceutical companies and an exhibition in New York during the 20th Anniversary of the Convention of the Rights to Child.
- Promoting dialogue and theological reflection on HIV prevention.
- Collecting and developing resources, including theological reflection and worship materials, especially for World AIDS Day.
- Deepening reflection on HIV and human rights from a faith perspective, and strengthening understanding and commitment to work with people who are marginalized.
- Continuing advocacy against HIV-related travel restrictions.
- Coordinating and promoting faith-based participation at the 2010 International AIDS Conference.
- Engaging religious leaders to provide leadership in response to HIV, including co-organizing a High Level Religious Leaders Summit in the Netherlands in 2010.
- Supporting members, and coordinating common advocacy, in policy engagement at national and international levels, such as at the UNGASS review, UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meetings, Global Fund Board meetings and the G8 Summit.

In addition, the EAA will collect and share resource material for education and campaigning, distribute information bulletins updating the network on events and resources, and issue action alerts to galvanize advocacy around common concerns.



The latest campaign information and resources are posted on the EAA's website: www.e-alliance.ch

How to get involved

As an organization or an individual, you can get involved! Here are just a few ways:

- Take part in the "Prescription for Life" action calling on governments and pharmaceutical companies to increase access to testing and treatment for children living with HIV.
- Engage your faith community in a dialogue about HIV prevention.
- Share and recommend resource material for advocacy, education, awareness raising and campaigning.
- Plan actions in your church, community and country for World AIDS Day.
- Contribute to a working group to help plan for faith-based participation at the International AIDS Conference.
- Write to governments to ask them to keep their commitment to provide Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.
- Subscribe to the HIV and AIDS Campaign Bulletin and Action Alerts at: www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/resources/subscribe/

www.e-alliance.ch



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