



Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, 25 February 2005

Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share with you an update on the development of the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA). GYCA is an idea in formation by over 530 youth working to fight the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. The coalition was proposed by youth worldwide, including the attendees of the XV International AIDS Conference in Bangkok and XIV International AIDS Conference in Barcelona. More than half of people infected each day by HIV are youth; disproportionately young women. Youth do not have the information, education, and services necessary to protect themselves from infection. In addition, we recognize that the vast majority of people living with HIV/AIDS do not have access to life-saving treatment and care. We believe that by networking HIV/AIDS youth groups and adult allies worldwide, we can strengthen and empower the youth movement against AIDS, in solidarity.

Our Coalition is currently under formation and we invite youth of all ethnicities, nationalities, sexual orientations, and HIV statuses to participate in its development. GYCA recognizes that while there is an enormous array of youth-serving HIV/AIDS organizations worldwide that work on the many facets of the pandemic, there is currently no global coalition that draws together a diversity of youth affected and infected by HIV/AIDS.

Not only is there an absence of a North-South dialogue between youth working to fight HIV/AIDS but many HIV/AIDS youth-led initiatives are uninformed about other groups doing similar work in their own countries. We hope to collaborate to provide the technological and organizational capacity to link youth groups and organizations worldwide. We invite you to join us to devise how to connect organizations to funding, support, networking, and thus reduce duplication of services and provide opportunities for youth to make their voices heard.

Activities

- GYCA participated in February 26 Youth AIDS Day, organized by Global Justice, by conducting a series of global actions designed to raise awareness and to scale-up political and community commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS. Regional focal points and their teams, as well as highly active GYCA members came together in a short period of time with few resources to develop incredible actions in their towns, cities, and communities.
- GYCA was asked to provide feedback into UNAIDS' revamped HIV Prevention Strategy by conducting brief e-consultation from Feb 28-March 3 on specific questions regarding youth and prevention efforts. This e-consultation will also be held for UNFPA's Global Youth Partners, and UNICEF's Voices of Youth.
- GYCA regional focal points are conducting extensive research projects on progress made toward achieving the targets on HIV/AIDS and youth set forth in the UNGASS (United Nations General Assembly Special Session) Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS. This is a collaborative project with Global Youth Partners. Reports from 15-17 countries will be published and presented by the Executive Director of UNFPA, Dr. Thoraya A. Obaid, at a June 2, 2005 Roundtable of the General Assembly at the United Nations Secretariat.
- GYCA is working with TakingITGlobal to develop an interactive website that will help empower youth leaders in HIV/AIDS with the necessary training tools, capacity building resources, events, scholarships, opportunities, and information, as well as networking opportunities and a global directory of youth HIV/AIDS organizations and programmes.
- Future plans include contributing to the Global Youth Action Network's review of the World Programme of Action for Youth, reviewing progress made on Millennium Development Goal #6 on HIV/AIDS and possibly bringing youth representatives who are HIV positive and/or from developing nations to the UN General Assembly meeting on the MDGs, possible contributions to ICASA in the fall of 2005, and strengthening the GYCA secretariat in order to begin reaching out to vulnerable youth on the ground in resource constrained areas.



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It is time for youth worldwide to work in solidarity to protect our bodies, our families, our communities, and our countries from the devastation of HIV/AIDS!

For more information or to join our e-forum, please visit www.groups.takingitglobal.org/gyca, or email Mila.Gorokhovich@gmail.com

Regional events and contact information:

BANGLADESH

- Press Conference: Dhaka
Contact: Rishad Salikin rishadaks@yahoo.com

CAMEROON

- Advocacy and Awareness sessions reaching 102 schools, about 15,000 students and 500 teachers, community leaders and members of Parliament
Contact: Tcharbuahbokengo Nfinn
feedar97@yahoo.com

CANADA

- Drop the Debt Letter Writing Campaign: Montreal, QC; Toronto, ON; Guelph, ON; Saskatoon, SK
Contact: David Suk 514-288-5119

EGYPT

- Day of Celebration for HIV/AIDS awareness
Contact: Meena Azer
meena_tharwat@yahoo.co.uk
- HIV/AIDS Seminar: Mansoura University
Contact: Wesam Tohlob
wesam_boosy@hotmail.com

GHANA

- Radio Talk Show on HIV/AIDS (JOY 99.7 FM)
Contact Karl William (kokonte@hotmail.com)

GUYANA

- Letters of Hope and publicity through media: Georgetown
Contact: Edward Charles,
guyanese@guyana.net.gy,
592-225-1116

INDIA

- Promotional Television Ad for Youth AIDS Day: Imphal West, Manipur
Contact: Ishwarchandra Haobam
cue_imp@sancharnet.in
- Discussion Forum: Manipur University
Contact: Vikram Laishram
vikramlaishram@india.com
- Meeting and Memorandum Development: Rajasthan
Contact: Ajay Jain ajayjain79@yahoo.com

- Awareness Meeting: Mumbai, Gujarat
Contact: Sanatomba Meitram
sanatomba@hotmail.com

KENYA

- Discussion Forum: Goethe Institute, Nairobi
Contact: Connie Walyaro - 0722 937102
- Puppetry, skits, songs, dances and verses "Vijana Tumechill, Rights Hatujachill" ("Sex-wise we are chilling/abstaining, but in our rights, we are not"): Mombasa
Contact: Jacqueline Kowa,
jarequil1983@yahoo.com.au
- March to the Provincial Administrative Office, Vigil/Solidarity Demonstration & Panel Discussion: Mbita
Contact - Erick Nyabala
ericknyabala@yahoo.com, +254 720 710 867

KYRGYZSTAN

- School/university visits for HIV/AIDS peer education and Feb. 28 – discussions between youth and government representatives.
Contact: Katia Lukicheva,
katia_lukicheva@yahoo.com

NIGERIA

- Youth AIDS Awareness Consultation: Imo State Ahiazu Mbaise Council Area
Contact: Kingsley Essomeonu - 234-(0)803-669-5163
- Conference on youths, HIV/AIDS, and globalization: Success Academy, Kudirat Abiola Way, Radio Bus Stop, Alausa Ikeja, Lagos
Contact: Adebisi Olugbenga :08023356925
- Radio Broadcast on HIV/AIDS Awareness: Minaj Systems Radio
Contact: Azubike Nwokoye, 234-8055340179
- Awareness publications in Nigerian Newspapers: nation-wide
Contact: Azubike Nwokoye, 234-8055340179

PAKISTAN

- Awareness Raising Walk: Quetta
Contact: Rana Gulzar - argulzar@yahoo.com,
Ahmad Ali - alibforu007@yahoo.com



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- Awareness Raising Seminar: Islamabad
Contact: Pervaiz Tufail pervaiz22@yahoo.ca
- Capacity Building Seminar: Islamabad
Contact: Zahid Shahab Ahmad
shahab_zahid@yahoo.com
- Documentary Film: Islamabad
Contact: Pervaiz Tufail pervaiz22@yahoo.ca
- Networking and Linkages Building Conference: Islamabad
Contact: Pervaiz Tufail pervaiz22@yahoo.com
- Event: Advocacy Walk and Seminar: Pattoki District Kasur
Contact: Ms. Kulsoom Akhtar/Dr Haji Hanif,
aidspak@yahoo.com
- Capacity Building Seminar/Workshop: Rawalpindi
Contact: Ms. Huma Naqvi, nhuma5@yahoo.com

SIERRA LEONE

- HIV/AIDS Awareness articles: Free Town
Contact: Sylvanus S. Murray, 232-22-295572,
Cell: 232-76-666-083

SUDAN

- Document Signing Ceremony
Contact: Osman Mustafa Elnager,
ameer1978@hotmail.com

TANZANIA

- Youth Forum on HIV/AIDS: The Impact of HIV/AIDS to Tanzanian Young People
Contact: Leonard Boniface,
bonnylenny@yahoo.com - ,+255.744.805226

UGANDA

- "Wake Up, It's Time" Letter Writing Campaign: Mbarara
Contact: +25677897646
- "Wake Up, It's Time": Teleconference with students at University of Toronto: Mbarara University of Science and Technology
Contact: : +25677897646
- "Wake Up, It's Time": Protest March and Voluntary Counseling and Testing
Contact: +25677897646
- "Wake Up, It's Time" Radio/TV Talk Show
Contact: +25677897646

UNITED KINGDOM

- Signature collection to ensure HIV/AIDS treatment, Global Fund funding, debt cancellation and generic drug accessibility are on the G8 Agenda
Contact: Mila Gorokhovich –
mila.gorokhovich@gmail.com

UNITED STATES

- Student March Against AIDS: White House - Washington, DC
Contact: 202-296-6727 x228

ZAMBIA

- Peaceful demonstration to the IMF and WorldBank
Contact John Phiri (johnsphiri@yahoo.com)