



Photo: TAC

HIV, AIDS and Advocacy

Bringing about change in policies and practice

Support groups of people living with HIV turn more and more into advocacy groups to stand up for their interests and their rights. In Zimbabwe, young people living with HIV who were trained in leadership and advocacy by BHASO (FEPA partner) now dialogue with the government, and whenever necessary, also demonstrate in front of the respective offices in order to get the medication and what is due to them.

The Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) in South Africa has played a crucial role in the country's AIDS response, and is well known beyond the South African borders as a model of successful advocacy and activism. Since 1998, TAC has held government accountable for health care service delivery, campaigned against official AIDS denialism, challenged the world's leading pharmaceutical companies to make treatment more affordable and cultivated community leadership on HIV and AIDS.

Advocacy is a key component in the struggle towards an AIDSfree future and the fulfilment of the right to health for all. Based on the experience of the partner organisations of aidsfocus.ch, and following up on discussions held at a global level, the aidsfocus.ch conference 2012 will discuss challenges and strategies of networking and joint advocacy towards zero new infections, zero stigma, and zero Aids related deaths.

We invite all partners of aidsfocus.ch and representatives of organisations working in international cooperation, HIV and AIDS to attend, as well as of any other person interested in the discussion. The conference will be held in English.

Objectives of the conference:

- Sharing of experiences on best practice and challenges in the joint struggle toward a future without HIV and AIDS
- Promoting a shared position of Swiss NGOs
- Identifying steps to take

Program

9.00	<i>Arrival, coffee and tea</i>
9.15	Welcome and introduction
9.30	HIV/AIDS advocacy stories: Experiences, strategies, impact
	Nonkosi Khumalo, Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), South Africa Joshua Mavundu, BHASAO, Zimbabwe (partner of fepa) Aashish Masih, Citizen Voice and Action, India (partner of World Vision Switzerland)
	<i>Coffee break</i>
	Paulina Alex, NELICO, Tanzania (partner of terre des hommes schweiz) Eduard Grebe, AIDS and Society Research Unit, University of Cape Town, South Africa <i>Discussion</i>
13.00	<i>Lunch</i>
13.45	Workshops Discussion with the speakers on advocacy strategies and challenges, and the role of aidsfocus.ch and its partners
15.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.30–16.45	Panel discussion with stakeholders from donor agencies, politics and NGOs from South and North. Participants: Nonkosi Khumalo (TAC), Joshua Mavundu (BHASO), Andreas Loebell (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), Yvonne Gilli (Member of Parliament), Joachim Rüppel (Action against AIDS Germany), Helena Zweifel (aidsfocus.ch/ MMS)
16.45	<i>Networking apéro</i>

Further information: www.aidsfocus.ch

Venue: Schmiedstube, Schmiedenplatz 5 (behind Kornhausforum), Bern, www.schmiedstube.com

Conference fee: Partners of aidsfocus.ch: CHF 70.-. Others: CHF 150.-

Moderation: Kate Molesworth, Steering Committee aidsfocus.ch/ Swiss TPH

Advisory Group: Barbara Müller (fepa), Irene Bush (terre des hommes schweiz), Kate Molesworth (Swiss TPH) and Mike Nielson (World Vision Switzerland).

Organisation and Coordination: Helena Zweifel, aidsfocus.ch/ Medicus Mundi Switzerland

The conference is financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Swiss AIDS Federation, terre des hommes Schweiz and World Vision Switzerland. The networking apéro is sponsored by the South African Embassy, Bern.

Registration for the aidsfocus.ch conference 2012

Name

Organisation

Address

E-mail

Please send your registration by post or e-mail by 10 April 2012 to H. Zweifel, Medicus Mundi Switzerland, Murbacherstrasse 34, 4013 Basel, or info@aidsfocus.ch, or register on our website www.aidsfocus.ch. Your participation will be confirmed.