

Live the Promise

HIV and AIDS Campaign

 Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance



Chris Herlinger / EAA

Lobby for a strong declaration on HIV in 2011

Over the next month, your government will be involved in negotiations on the outcome document for the 2011 United Nations (UN) Review on AIDS. This declaration will consider progress made by the international community in implementing commitments made in 2001 and 2006 for a comprehensive and effective response to HIV. One key commitment was the achievement of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. But this goal was not realized.

Therefore, people of faith are joining with wider civil society to lobby governments to ensure that the new declaration – to be approved at a High-Level Meeting on 8-10 June – maintains and strengthens previous commitments rather than weakens them. To support this process, the EAA, in consultation with its members and partners, has developed talking points for religious leaders and faith-based representatives. The talking points support wider civil society advocacy messages expressed in a Civil Society Declaration. They also provide tips for setting up a successful lobbying meeting.

If you haven't done so already, set up a meeting in May with your government delegation to the UN Review on AIDS and download both the Civil Society Declaration and the EAA's talking points from www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hivaids/accountability/ungass/

Faith Voices Raised at the Civil Society Hearing

As part of the 2011 UN Review on AIDS, a Civil Society Hearing was hosted by the President of the UN General Assembly on 8 April in New York. The EAA facilitated faith-based input into the Civil Society Hearing by:

1. supporting three faith-based speakers in the main panel sessions of the hearing. Watch the full proceedings <http://www.unmultimedia.org/search3/webcast/index.jsp?query=HIV%2FAIDS&query1>
2. ensuring faith-based representation in civil society pre-meetings
3. holding two events for faith-based delegates at the hearing - a multi-

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Calendar of Events

11-12 May

Board Meeting of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, Geneva, Switzerland

15 May

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial

26-27 May

G8 Summit, Deauville, France

8-10 June

UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS, New York, USA

21-23 June 2011

UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland

28-30 June

Global Fund Partnerships Forum, Sao Paulo, Brazil

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance is a broad international network of churches and Christian organizations cooperating in advocacy on food and HIV and AIDS. The Alliance is based in Geneva, Switzerland. For more information, see www.e-alliance.ch/

This bulletin is located online www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/resources/bulletins/

Photographs in this bulletin do not necessarily represent the situations, opinions or beliefs of the persons depicted and in no way imply their HIV status.

The HIV and AIDS Campaign is based on the knowledge that all churches are living with and affected by HIV and AIDS. People who live with HIV and die from AIDS related illness are our friends and family, our teachers and neighbors, our pastors and priests. The pandemic continues to be measured in alarming statistics around the globe, and churches and people of faith everywhere must take up their pastoral and prophetic role to overcome stigma and discrimination, to care for body and spirit, and to advocate for universal treatment and effective forms of prevention.



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faith prayer gathering and a debrief meeting. Read the EAA's related press release about the hearing here:

<http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/news/single/article/2011/04/11/un-review-on-aids-is-the-world-moving-away-from-hiv/>

Hold a Prayer Breakfast during June's High-Level Meeting

To conclude the 2011 UN Review on AIDS, world leaders will be gathering for a High-Level Meeting in New York on 8-10 June. The EAA will continue to work with its members and partners to ensure strong faith-based input into this meeting. In particular, it is planning to hold an Interfaith Prayer Breakfast on 10 June. This event will be webcast. Why not consider holding a parallel event in your community?

To receive up-to-date information about faith-based involvement in the 2011 Review, send an email with the message "subscribe UNGASS2011" to info@e-alliance.ch

EAA Member Consultation

Over 50 representatives of EAA member and partner organizations met together in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 20-22 March for a consultation at the mid-term stage of the "Live the Promise" Campaign (2009-2012). The consultation provided an opportunity to take stock of the campaign thus far and to envision work that remains to be done. In particular, EAA members at the consultation:

- *learned about the response to HIV in Chiang Mai*

Consultation hosts, the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT), organized exposure visits to local projects in response to HIV, including a Buddhist monastery, a government care home and CCT's AIDS Ministry.

- *shared their own work in response to HIV*

Five EAA members - CABSA, Christian Aid, the National Council of Churches in India, World Vision UK and the World Association for Christian Communication - presented case studies of recent advocacy work. EAA members and partners also led their colleagues in daily devotions based on their own experiences of HIV and the faith-based response to it.

- *considered the faith-based response to HIV and the next steps*

During an opening panel on this theme: Steve Kraus (UNAIDS) provided faith-communities with ideas on how they could help to achieve the new UNAIDS vision of 'Zero new infections, Zero discrimination, Zero AIDS-related deaths'; Jean-Louis Lamboray (Constellation for AIDS Competence) emphasized the strengths of faith communities in responding to HIV; JP Mokgethi-Heath (INERELA+) challenged faith communities to ensure that their response to HIV was life affirming and inclusive; Erlinda Senturias (CCA) gave an overview of the growing interfaith response to HIV in Asia.

- *contributed to EAA plans for 2011 and 2012*

Consultation participants provided input into current EAA work to follow up on the 2010 High Level Religious Leaders' Summit; to develop a consultation on HIV, human rights and theology; and to support faith-based involvement on access to treatment issues. They also developed talking points for the 2011 UN Review on AIDS (see page 1).

- *affirmed the EAA's current campaign priorities*

During the consultation as a whole, and particularly during group discussions and a closing plenary session, EAA members affirmed the general direction of the Live the Promise Campaign. However, they also emphasized the critical need for faith communities worldwide to do much more to address HIV-related issues linked to human rights, justice and vulnerability, and stigma and discrimination.

A full report of the consultation is currently being compiled. It will be posted online where, in the meantime, you can already download all powerpoint presentations and other related documents from the consultation. Go to: <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hivaid/s/hiv-consultation/>

Global Fund Workshop

Following the consultation, the EAA held a one-day workshop to enhance the participation of faith-based organizations in Global Fund processes. The workshop was facilitated by Global Fund, Catholic Relief Services, and EAA staff. The event not only provided important information and skills-building to EAA members and partners, but it also led to the identification of potential strategies for strengthening, replicating and increasing such efforts in the future. As a result, the EAA is now exploring how it can better support:

- informed and strategic faith-based advocacy on international resource mobilization and accountability
- exchange and networking between faith-based representatives already involved in resource mobilization processes, such as faith-based representatives on Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs)
- EAA members and other faith-based representatives to engage in resource mobilization processes, including Global Fund mechanisms

If you are an EAA member that would be interested in being involved in the development of this work, please contact Ruth Foley at rfoley@e-alliance.ch

Help plan faith-based input into AIDS 2012

The 19th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2012) will be held in Washington DC, USA, from 22-27 July 2012. The nomination phase for two committees that will have the responsibility for coordinating, planning and supporting faith-based involvement in AIDS 2012 has been extended. To nominate candidates, fill in and return the nomination form (found at <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hivaid/s/iac2012/> along with the Terms of Reference) to rfoley@e-alliance.ch by 13 May 2011.

The two committees that will be set up are:

- **A Global Reference Group** that will set the overall direction, priorities, policies and related planning for coordinated faith-based activities at AIDS 2012. Key tasks will include the planning of a pre-conference and the identification of ways to support faith-based input into the main conference programme.
- **A Local Host Committee (LHC)** that will plan and facilitate the logistical aspects of global faith-based participation in AIDS 2012, including the pre-conference, and will support coordinated US-based interfaith input into the pre- and main conferences.

In 2011, regional AIDS conferences are being held in Asia and Africa. ICAAP will take place in Busan, Republic of Korea on 26-30 August (www.icaap10.org). ICASA will take place in Addis Ababa, Egypt on 4-8 December (www.icasa2011addis.org). Registration and abstract submissions for both conferences are still open.

Focus on: World Association for Christian Communication (WACC)

With corporate and personal members in 120 countries, WACC promotes communication for social change. It believes that communication is a basic human right that defines people's common humanity, strengthens cultures, enables participation, creates community and challenges tyranny and oppression. During the recent consultation of EAA members in Chiang Mai, Lavinia Mohr, WACC's Deputy General Secretary and Director of Programmes, spoke about a project designed to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination in Ghana.

What actions have you been engaged in related to EAA's Live the Promise campaign?

WACC has been involved in a communication campaign in the Manya Krobo district in Ghana's Greater Accra region. This district has the highest recorded HIV prevalence rate in the country. By training and then accompanying local opinion leaders, including people with HIV and AIDS, religious leaders, traditional leaders, women and youth group leaders, teachers, health workers and media professionals, the campaign reached communities in several scattered remote



villages. A float procession through the communities ending with a public talk at a market centre formally introduced the campaign in early 2010. This paved the way for interpersonal interactions, talks at public gathering places and activities in schools and religious institutions.

What impact will this action have?

An illustration of the campaign's achievements is its success in gaining the trust of 'prophets' and 'prophetesses' – leaders in prayer camps that are in effect forms of village hospices to which people with terminal illnesses go 'to die'. Partly as a result of this, the campaign was able to open up space for informed public discussion on HIV and AIDS and, in so doing, advance the goal of eliminating stigma and discrimination.

If others wanted to develop a similar action, what advice would you give them?

The project was implemented by the Christian Council of Ghana which ensured that it was owned by a local partner who had a broad reach as well as pre-existing relationships with people in the target district. WACC supported the implementation and was instrumental in securing funding from the Department for International Development (DFID-UK).

Join the Caregivers Action Network (CAN)

Set up in 2009, CAN is growing from strength to strength. The network, open to both individuals and organizations, aims to ensure recognition of and resources for community and family-based care and support for HIV by:

- identifying relevant opportunities and institutions for collective advocacy at national and international levels with and for caregivers
- serving as a central clearing house for research, policy, information and programs on caregiving and home-based care
- supporting a platform for constituency-building, linking self-supported and self-represented home-based caregivers with relevant institutions

The network was co-founded by EAA member, Cordaid, along with the following organizations: HelpAge International, Huairou Commission, International HIV/AIDS Alliance, the National Community of Women living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda and VSO. For more information and to join the active listserve, go to www.caregiversactionnetwork.org



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Resources/Publications

UNAIDS Executive Director's "2011 Letter to Partners": http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/document/2011/20110218a_LetterToPartners.pdf

Theological and Ethical Resources on HIV - A new bibliography compiled by Enda McDonagh and Sieglinde Mauder of the Catholic HIV and AIDS Network in April 2011: <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hivaids/>

"Good Practice Guide to Using TRIPS Flexibilities to Improve Access to HIV Treatment" by UNDP: <http://www.undp.org/hiv/>

Silent No More: A report by Tearfund UK and online sign-on in response to the untapped potential of the church in addressing sexual violence: <http://www.wewillspeakout.org>

Cape Town Commitment from the Lausanne Movement (see section IIB Part 5 on HIV and AIDS): <http://www.lausanne.org/ctcommitment>

2011 Minute on HIV by the Coordinating Committee of the World Council of Churches: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/central-committee/geneva-2011/report-on-public-issues/minute-on-strengthening-the-ecumenical-response-to-hivaids.html>

For past Action Alerts and Bulletins from the HIV and AIDS Campaign see <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/news/>