



UCAN Stop AIDS eNews - November 2009

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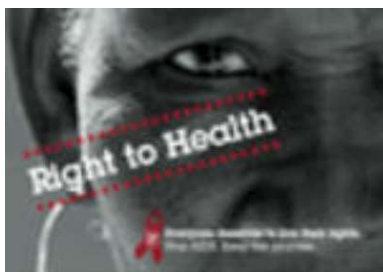
World AIDS Day 2009 Resources Now Available!

To view the resources: <http://www.ucc.org/ucan/world-aids-day.html>

Resources include:

- [World AIDS Day 2009 Litany](#) PDF
- [Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance \(EAA\) World AIDS Day Liturgy 2009](#) PDF
- [Global Ministries HIV and AIDS Stories and Projects](#)
- [Global HIV/AIDS Facts 2009](#) PDF
- [US HIV/AIDS Facts 2009](#) PDF

2009 World AIDS Day Theme: Universal Access and Human Rights



HIV does not discriminate on who it is spread to.

We too should not discriminate on who healthcare is given to.

Universal Access and Human Rights is the theme for World AIDS Day in 2009. As universal healthcare becomes more and more of a debate in our nation's capital, the theme seemed to correspond very well with it.

The theme this year may have two focuses, but they often co-exist when we focus on HIV prevention resolutions, legislation and campaigns that happen throughout the world. Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS, talks about more of this relationship, "Achieving universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support is a human rights imperative. It is essential that the global response to the AIDS epidemic is grounded in human rights and that discrimination and punitive laws against those most affected by HIV are removed".

Many countries still have discrimination laws regarding people who are affected by HIV or AIDS. About 59 countries still discriminate against people with an HIV positive status so that they are not able to live where they want to live or work where they want to work. We need to recognize that these laws are deterring our efforts to prevent HIV and treat people with AIDS.

White House extends deadline for online testimony for National HIV/AIDS Strategy to close-of-business, Monday, November 23

UCAN supports the UCC General Synod's call for a National HIV/AIDS Strategy. We need to let the Obama Administration's Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) know we think it is important, too!

White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) has been holding [community discussions](#) across the United States and the Virgin Islands (and will hold in Puerto Rico next month). ONAP also has an [easy-to-use online form](#) you can use to type out your testimony and/or submit documents to support your stance.

The online testimony period started on October 2, 2009 and will close **NEXT MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23**. So please submit your comments now. And feel free to [send us a copy](#).



Global Ministries responds to Uganda's anti-homosexual bill

Currently on the table in the Ugandan Parliament is the Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2009, which would discriminate against and outlaw homosexuality. This would also in turn, hinder HIV prevention efforts. This letter was sent on behalf of Global Ministries in response to this legislation. Global Ministries is a partnership between the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

To read the letter: <http://globalministries.org/news/africa/sexual-discrimination.html>

President signs Ryan White HIV/AIDS Act and lifts HIV travel ban

Ryan White CARE program continues to provide care to low-income people living with HIV/AIDS

The Ryan White Act, which was named after a boy from Indiana who contracted HIV/AIDS from a blood transfusion, was extended and signed by President Obama this past week. The President also talked about what we need to do to prevent HIV and AIDS. "Tackling this epidemic will take far more aggressive approaches than we've seen in the past -- not only from our federal government, but also state and local governments, from local community organizations, and from places of worship".

To read President Obama's full speech:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-signing-ryan-white-hivaids-treatment-extension-act-2009>

Lifting HIV related travel restrictions an important step toward eliminating stigma

Also during his remarks, Obama announced that he would be lifting the ban which prohibits HIV-positive people from entering the United States without a waiver. The policy change takes effect January 4, 2010. Lifting this ban is an important step to eliminating HIV and AIDS related stigma and discrimination. More than 50 countries still impose some form of HIV-specific restrictions on people wishing to enter or remain in a country for a short period of time (e.g. business, personal or tourism) or for a longer period (e.g. employment, asylum or refugee resettlement, or study). HIV-related travel restrictions have no valid public health rationale and may

in fact undermine HIV prevention and other efforts to stop the epidemic by fuelling stigma and discrimination and causing individuals to hide their status.

For more information about travel restrictions go to the HIV Campaign of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance:
<http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hiv aids/stigma/travel-game/>

UCC General Synod 27 adopts HIV prevention resolution ***"Calling for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in Church and Community"***



This past June, the General Synod convened in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Throughout the four day event, many resolutions were discussed and passed, including one that was submitted by the Health & Wholeness Advocacy office, "Calling for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in Church and Community". This resolution calls for church communities to increase their level of attention and commitment to HIV prevention practices.

To read the full resolution: <http://www.ucc.org/health/hiv aids/uccpolicy.html>

HIV and H1N1 Flu

The bottom line is know how to prevent infection (something everyone should know) and whether to get vaccinated. The answer to the latter is, yes, unless you are allergic to chicken eggs or have had a reaction to seasonal flu vaccines (The same processed is used to make the H1N1 vaccine.).

The CDC is encouraging HIV+ persons to be vaccinated because HIV weakens the immune system and persons with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for flu-related complications.

The following are links to information about HIV and H1N1 Flu:

- Information about H1N1 Flu
<http://www.flu.gov/individualfamily/about/h1n1/index.html>
- Key Facts about the H1N1 Vaccine
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine_keyfacts.htm
- People at high risk for complications from flu
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/highrisk.htm>

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