

# World AIDS Day – Friday, 1 December 2006

## Fact Sheet

### Theme

The theme for World AIDS Day 2006 is **accountability**. Local and national campaigns are encouraged to develop campaigns and activities that are meaningful in their own contexts under the overall theme of accountability and ideally using the slogan, “Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise”.

The theme is decided by the World AIDS Campaign through consultation with national and international organisations and networks. Calls for accountability have consistently risen in civil society campaigning in 2006 through the United Nations review of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the Political Declaration accepted by the UN General Assembly on 2 June (see [www.ungasshiv.org](http://www.ungasshiv.org)), and commitments first made by the G8 leaders in 2005 to universal access to treatment by 2010.

Accountability is all the more critical as governments should now be in the process of setting national targets as called for in the June Political Declaration and due at the end of 2006. These targets will define the global response to HIV and AIDS over the next several years. However, around the world there is little clarity about how this process is moving forwards. Civil society organisations, who would be enthusiastic and committed partners in setting targets and implementing efforts where appropriate, have so far not been included in national target setting processes.

The World AIDS Campaign and its partners call on all governmental leaders to be accountable for the promises they have made, to set the targets necessary to reach universal access to care, treatment and support, and to make all the necessary resources available in order to overcome the AIDS pandemic.

### Brief History

World AIDS Day was first declared by the World Health Organization and the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution 43/15) in 1988. Since then, it has progressively become one of the most successful ‘international days’ for raising awareness on a global issue.

### About the World AIDS Campaign

The first year-long World AIDS Campaign was launched by UNAIDS in 1997. The objective of the ‘Campaign’ was to substantially extend the impact of the World AIDS Day by involving more partners and translate increased global awareness of AIDS into a more sustainable programmatic response.

After consultation with partners beginning in 2003, the World AIDS Campaign became an independent organization in 2004 order to strengthen and enhance collaboration among various national advocacy efforts.

The World AIDS Campaign supports, strengthens and connects campaigns that hold leaders accountable for their promises on HIV and AIDS. “Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise” is the World AIDS Campaign from 2005-2010.

The WAC secretariat is based in Amsterdam.

### **World AIDS Day Events**

Thousands of events will be held around the world on and around 1 December 2006.

Some of the events are posted on the World AIDS Campaign website at:

[http://worldaidscampaign.info/index.php/wac/wac/keep\\_the\\_promise/wad\\_2006\\_events](http://worldaidscampaign.info/index.php/wac/wac/keep_the_promise/wad_2006_events).

### **World AIDS Day Resources**

Free resources, including photos and graphics, are available at:

<http://www.worldaidscampaign.org/wadcd2006/indexEn.html>

### **Current statistics on HIV and AIDS**

According to UNAIDS, an estimated 38.6 million adults and children were living with HIV at the end of 2005. Approximately 4.1 million became newly infected with HIV and 2.8 million died due to AIDS-related illnesses. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the epicentre of the AIDS pandemic, but no country is unaffected, and incidence rates are rising in a number of developed countries.

Although expanded access to treatment is estimated to have averted 250,000 to 350,000 deaths between 2003 and 2005, globally, antiretroviral drugs still reach only one in five who need them.

2006 is the 25th anniversary of the identification of “AIDS” – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome – although evidence exists to suggest earlier cases. More than 25 million people have died of AIDS-related causes since 1981.

### **For More Information:**

Official Website:

[http://worldaidscampaign.info/index.php/wac/wac/keep\\_the\\_promise/wad\\_2006](http://worldaidscampaign.info/index.php/wac/wac/keep_the_promise/wad_2006)

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