

YOUTH AIDS 2010



THE OFFICIAL YOUTH NEWSLETTER OF THE
XVIII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

EDITION 2 – DECEMBER 2009

Welcome to the second edition of the AIDS 2010 Youth Newsletter. You can find our first newsletter [here](#). Don't forget to subscribe to our [newsletter group](#) to receive the monthly edition! In this edition, we talk about the many ways to get involved in youth activities for AIDS 2010.

Read on and participate in AIDS 2010...

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1 Programme Activities: Global Village & Youth Programme

A very important part of the International AIDS Conference is the Global Village, which is a zone for communities, NGOs, activists, leaders and scientists. The Global Village is open to all those interested in HIV issues and will be located at the main entrance to the conference venue. The Global Village will house many different activities and spaces dedicated to different themes and population groups. One of the key Global Village areas will be the Youth Pavilion, a central meeting place for young people. The Youth Pavilion will host networking space, workshops, performances and many other exciting activities! See <http://www.aids2010.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=164> for more information.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

You can submit an activity proposal for the Global Village through the online submission system on the AIDS 2010 website. Click [here](#) to access the submission form and guidelines in English. A Russian version of the form and guidelines will be available shortly. You must create a conference profile to access the form.

Once this is done, you can apply for booths, sessions, cultural activities and networking zones, among many other types of activities. Be sure to read the application guidelines carefully before submitting your activity. Don't forget to tick the box if your activity is youth-related. Successful youth-related activities held in the Global Village will form part of the overall Youth Programme at AIDS 2010.

You can also save your application as a draft and work on it later on before finally submitting. If you need help, please check the list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the [AIDS 2010 website](#), and if you have further questions please write to youth@aid2010.org.

All submissions will be reviewed and selected by a group of international reviewers who are experts in the field. We want to ensure that the Youth Programme is vibrant and diverse with activities that address a range of issues and priority groups, as outlined by the Youth Programme Working Group. All applicants will be notified in April 2010 if their application has been successful or not.

Create your conference profile on the website! You can use it to register, submit a programme activity, workshop or abstract and apply for a scholarship

Submit your activities from 1 December to 10 February 2010!

2 Registration and Scholarships

You can now register as a delegate to the conference. There are different registration fees depending on country of origin and month of registration. From now until 24 February 2010 you can register paying the standard fee for your country. The standard [registration fee](#) for youth delegates and students / post-doc is only EUR 175 and for those from middle- and low-income countries it is EUR 115.

Scholarship applications will be accepted through 10 February 2010.

You may also apply for the [International Scholarship Programme](#). The conference organisers are committed to making AIDS 2010 accessible to people from resource-limited settings, researchers globally, young people, community activists and civil society representatives. Please note that the demand for scholarships is very high and the number available is limited. Therefore, we encourage all applicants to seek additional funding. Acceptance of a Youth Programme activity submission does not guarantee a scholarship.

3 Opportunities for Youth Participation at AIDS 2010

STAND UP, SPEAK OUT!

Besides the various activities in the Global Village, we want to encourage young people to take part in discussions in other parts of the conference and to present their own ideas. Another means of sharing your knowledge is to submit an abstract for presentation. See <http://www.aids2010.org/Default.aspx?pageId=179> for more information related to abstracts and abstract submissions.

ABSTRACT MENTOR PROGRAMME

This programme is highly recommended to young people as it aims to increase the submission of abstracts among early-career researchers and those from middle- and low-income countries. The programme gives you the opportunity to receive support and guidance from experienced writers and scientists in preparing an abstract. More specific information on abstract mentoring is available at <http://www.aids2010.org/Default.aspx?pageId=180>.



4 Youth at the 3rd Eastern Europe and Central Asia AIDS Conference

The [3rd Eastern Europe and Central Asia AIDS Conference](#)¹ took place in Moscow, Russia, from 28 to 30 October 2009. The conference theme was *Regional Cooperation: Join the Efforts for Universal Access*. The conference brought together more than 2,500 delegates.

During all three days, the Youth Village was a special area for linking the efforts of young people in the field of HIV prevention. The main objective of the Youth Village was to attract attention to the special needs of young people in the context of the epidemic, and scale up their participation in HIV-related programme development and implementation in the region. The Youth Village under the theme *Act Together* was organised and supported by UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNESCO, and the [Y-PEER](#) network.

Youth activities at the conference were mainly conducted within the Youth Village and included various activities, such as contests for “Volunteer of the year”, “Best Printed Materials”, etc. Youth and adult experts shared experiences during workshops and master-classes on working with goodwill ambassadors (with popular ambassadors as special guests) and youth and business partnerships. There was also a special session dedicated to the importance of involving PLHIV in prevention work.

Young people had the unique opportunity to have a dialogue with high-level representatives, including Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Luiz Loures, UNAIDS representative, Gennadii Onishchenko, Head of the Russian Federation’s Federal Service on Protection of Consumers Rights and Human Wellbeing, religious leaders and many others. These meetings not only offered the chance to receive answers to urgent questions from decision makers, but made the Youth Village a visible and popular venue at the conference.

At the conference closing session, youth delegates presented a final statement on behalf of the Youth Village 2009 and youth of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The statement in Russian is available [here](#). The next Eastern Europe and Central Asia AIDS Conference will take place in Tajikistan in 2011.

5 Activities on World AIDS Day Activities, 1 December 2009

Each year, World AIDS Day aims to increase awareness, fight prejudice, improve education and raise money for the HIV and AIDS response. The slogan for World AIDS Day 2009 was *Universal Access and Human Rights*². The first World AIDS Day took place in 1988. Since then, World AIDS Day remains important in reminding people that HIV has not disappeared, and that there are many things still to be done. The World AIDS Campaign is one important organisation that strategically uses World AIDS Day for advocacy activities and the day has become one of the most important days for HIV and AIDS activism. Read the below example of ‘Designers Against AIDS’.

KNITTING AGAINST AIDS

“Knitting is not only for old fuddy-duddies...”, said the Antwerp-based non-profit organisation Beauty Without Irony, which launched the international project Designers Against AIDS (DAA) five years ago. The main aim of the project is to raise HIV awareness in the international media and the general public. DAA specifically



¹ <http://www.eecaac.org/en/index.phtml>

² <http://www.avert.org/world-aids-day.htm>

targets young people in industrialised countries using elements from pop culture such as music, fashion, design, arts, sports, film, and celebrities.

For World AIDS Day 2009, Designers Against AIDS teamed up with the gay-lesbian federation of Antwerp and with the Flemish expert organisation for sexual health 'Sensoa' to organise an exclusive knitting benefit called Knitting against AIDS .

The idea behind the event was to give symbolic warmth to people living with HIV through self-designed and knitted scarves. Many designers and artist, including Walter Van Beirendonck, Anna Heylen and some students from the Antwerp fashion academy, participated in the event,. But the event was not limited to Flemish celebrities. Everybody could join in and contribute through knitting to support HIV prevention and social acceptance of people living with HIV. And many did so. Knitting for World AIDS Day became a huge success. People from all over the world sent in their scarves, including the Flemish rapper Brahim, the 'Black Eyed Peas and others from the U.S. and China.

Volunteers sold the scarves in a pop-up store in a shopping mall in Antwerp one week before World AIDS Day. Items not sold right away went to an auction held during a fund raising concert that took place on World AIDS Day in Antwerp. All net proceeds were donated to the Designers Against AIDS and to their Care-for-AIDS Fund. This project showed that HIV prevention can be creative, fun and fashionable.

For more information [click here](#).



This newsletter is brought to you by:

AIDS 2010 YOUTH PROGRAMME WORKING GROUP: The Youth Programme Working Group (YPWG) is the official organising body that prepares the Youth Programme at the conference. The Working Group organises sessions, workshops related to youth, the Youth Pavilion in the Global Village, and a lounge for young people living with HIV. The Working Group consists of 11 people from different regions of the world who work together to prepare the official Youth Programme for AIDS 2010.

VIENNA YOUTHFORCE: The Vienna YouthForce was launched after AIDS 2008 and is a global platform for international, regional and local youth organisations that focus on HIV and AIDS, as well as on youth sexual and reproductive health and rights. We work together and organise youth activities and advocacy campaigns prior to and during the conference. These activities include the youth pre-conference, youth advocacy campaigns and the youth commitment desk. Ten youth organisations are participating in Vienna Youth Force: Advocates for Youth, Community Forum Austria, Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA), International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), the World AIDS Campaign, Youth Coalition on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, YouAct, Y-PEER, CHOICE for youth and sexuality and Youth R.I.S.E.

The Youth Programme Working Group and the Vienna YouthForce are working together closely as a common body for young people at the International AIDS Conference. If you have questions, you may contact us at youth@aids2010.org.

"Act as if what you do makes a difference - It does."

~William James (1842-1910) Psychologist and Author