

## THE OFFICIAL YOUTH AIDS 2010 NEWSLETTER OF THE XVIII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

EDITION 4 (MARCH 2010)

The fourth edition of the Youth AIDS 2010 Newsletter is ready! Here you will find the latest news about the AIDS 2010 Youth Programme and many possibilities for being actively involved in the XVIII International AIDS Conference. You can catch up on the previous editions on our website, [CLICK](#).




Tell others to subscribe to the monthly newsletter ([CLICK](#)) and Stay in touch and share your thoughts and ideas about the AIDS 2010 Youth Programme on our fan page at [www.facebook.com/aids2010youth](http://www.facebook.com/aids2010youth).

### READ ON AND PARTICIPATE IN AIDS 2010

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### 1. GLOBAL VILLAGE AND YOUTH PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES



The submission period for Global Village and Youth Programme activities closed on 10 February and the results are overwhelming! In total, we received almost 700 applications for sessions, networking zones, booths and cultural activities; a number that will definitely ensure a diverse, vibrant and high-quality Global Village and Youth Programme. As the AIDS 2010 Youth Programme team, we are very happy to announce that out of the 676 programme activity applications, 291 proposals are identified as related to youth. That means youth and their needs will have a prominent position within the Global Village and hopefully throughout the conference!

The submission review process has started and will last until 10 March 2010. The Global Village and Youth Programme Working Group members, together with a team of 136 independent nominated experts, are reviewing and scoring the applications, which are each peer-reviewed by three reviewers.

The confidential scoring process uses a blind scoring system with criteria based on Working Group discussions and [Global Village](#) and [Youth Programme objectives](#), such as:

- relevance of topic/issue to the global HIV response
- interactive and participatory nature
- collaborations and formal partnerships with other groups and
- ties to conference theme

***Rights Here, Right Now.***

The top-scoring submissions will be discussed at the programme activity planning meeting in March 2010. The Global Village and Youth Programme



Working Groups will make the final decision about which activities are selected, ensuring the conference programme is as diverse as possible in terms of geography, gender, and issue areas and key affected populations addressed. Applicants will be notified by **mid-April** if their submission has been successful.

Successful scholarship applicants will be notified by **mid-April**.

## 2. BECOME A YOUTH JOURNALIST!

The Vienna YouthForce is looking for energetic and dedicated youth journalists to cover AIDS 2010. Through writing, blogging, podcasting, photography and video, this team of youth journalists will bring youth issues to the forefront of the conference agenda and offer a youth perspective on the important events, announcements and presentations. The goal of the youth journalist team will be to provide excellent coverage of AIDS 2010, not only to increase the exposure of youth issues at the conference and in the media, but to ensure that those youth unable to attend the conference are updated on youth-related conference activities.

The Vienna YouthForce is working to empower young delegates and promote youth participation in HIV- and AIDS-related activities before, during and after.

Applications should include a cover letter, your CV and a writing sample. For those

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Writing blog entries
- Conducting interviews
- Writing articles for the youth newsletter
- Podcasting
- Photography
- Be available for online trainings prior to the conference and in-person trainings at the Youth Pre-Conference

### QUALIFICATIONS

- Significant interest and knowledge of HIV and AIDS
- Proficiency in English or Russian (proficiency in both languages is an asset)
- Previous journalism or photography experience
- Good communication and language skills
- Detail oriented and the ability to work in a team

interested in being photographic journalists, please submit three examples of your work. The deadline for applications is **2 April**. Please submit your applications or questions to [subteam.media@gmail.com](mailto:subteam.media@gmail.com).

YOUNG PEOPLE SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES  
ADVOCACY

Advocacy can be described as an effort to change public perceptions and to influence policy decisions and funding priorities. At times, the policies of governments, institutions or organisations create barriers, harm or other injustices for individuals or groups of people.

Advocates educate about an issue and also propose specific solutions. Simply put, advocacy is supporting a certain cause and working to get others to support it as well. There are many ways to advocate for an issue. The key is to know what you want to achieve, who you to convince and how you can



motivate them to do what you believe is necessary. Once you know this, you can put together your strategy for change. Young people around the world are working to create positive change to stop the spread of HIV and improve the lives of those living with HIV and AIDS. This includes a wide range of activities such as:

- increasing young people's access to HIV treatment and evidence-based HIV prevention
- implementing poverty-reduction measures such as employment training
- creating and funding needle exchange programmes
- ensuring that women are able to own property and that sexual assault laws are enforced.

The Advocacy Sub-Committee of the Vienna YouthForce has opened an e-consultation that consists of four phases, each taking one week. It was created to get feedback from young people all over the world on youth-specific needs, policies and actions around sexual and reproductive health and rights in their communities. The e-consultation is designed to assist the Advocacy Sub-Committee in creating youth-specific advocacy messages for AIDS 2010. It will help to highlight specific issues of importance to young people around the world, thus creating a unified and global youth movement. By having common messages and goals to advocate for, young participants at the conference will be provided with tools and information to do advocacy work individually while still speaking on the same message.

Find the key messages of the Mexico YouthForce here, [CLICK](#).



#### 4. COUCH SURFING! MAKE YOUR STAY IN VIENNA A CROSS- CULTURAL EXPERIENCE!

Attending a conference can be a very intense experience. Shuttling back and forth from venue to accommodation can feel like being in a bubble. You might miss out on the special things around you in the host city. Feel like doing it differently?

There are several internet-based networks based on the belief that hosting and staying at local homes in different countries is an illuminating and rich form of cultural interaction. The exchange can foster international friendships, thereby increasing understanding among cultures and strengthening peace. Join one of the networks and let your stay in Vienna give you a different perspective.

How does it work? Register online and get in contact with other members of the network. After introducing yourself, you can find the ideal place to stay at someone's home in Vienna. In return, people from other countries can contact you if they happen to be in your city and need a place to stay or want to find new friends.

Check out: <http://www.couchsurfing.org/index.html> or <http://www.hospitalityclub.org>.

#### 5. ORGANISE AN INDEPENDENT CONFERENCE HUB IN YOUR REGION!

AIDS 2010 organisers are committed to making conference content accessible to people all over the world. In addition to the official conference hubs organised in Moscow (Russia), Kiev (Ukraine) and Almaty (Kazakhstan), we invite you to be part of the movement for expanded access by organising an independent conference hub in your community.

##### **What is a conference hub?**

Conference hubs are physical locations around the world where selected sessions of the conference will be screened. These sessions will be followed by moderated local discussions to examine how the content of a session may be used to strengthen the response to HIV locally.

### **Why organise a conference hub?**

Conference hubs are a unique opportunity to build professional capacities among local stake-holders. Through discussion and debate, conference hubs help strengthen the local response to HIV with the potential of developing a comprehensive plan for future action at the local or regional levels. Organisations hosting a conference hub will have an opportunity to engage regional leadership, gain visibility and build partnerships. Organisations that may wish to consider hosting an independent conference hub include local NGOs, faith-based organisations, clinics and hospitals, universities and medical schools, government entities, or UN bodies.

Organising a conference hub is easy and simple. We invite organisations active in the fight against HIV to submit their conference hub application [here](#).

Conference hub submissions open on **16 March** and close on **15 June**. For additional information, please contact the AIDS 2010 secretariat at [hubs@aims2010.org](mailto:hubs@aims2010.org).



### **6. YOUTH PRE- CONFERENCE: SAVE THE DATES!**

**Date: 14–16 July 2010**

**Location: Medical University Vienna**

The Vienna YouthForce and the Youth Programme of AIDS 2010, supported by the UNFPA, are organising a Youth Pre-Conference open to young people attending AIDS 2010 and to other youth. Those already registered for AIDS 2010 will be given preference.

Participants will learn how to advocate to policy makers on issues relevant to young people and how to deliver the YouthForce's advocacy messages at the conference and beyond. The Pre-Conference is an especially important opportunity for first-time conference attendees to meet other youth delegates and gain skills to make the most of the conference itself. Applications for participation can be submitted in **April**. Stay tuned for more details. A call for sessions, training and facilitators will be made by the **end of March**.

For more information, contact [youth@aims2010.org](mailto:youth@aims2010.org).



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](mailto:youth@aids2010.org).

*How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. ~Anne Frank*