



HIV/AIDS PREVENTION: THE XVIII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

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Learn About African Action on AIDS (AAA)

AAA is a tax exempt non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code. It is also registered in Cameroon (auth. No 00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SDLP/SAC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA Mission Statement

We believe that no one is alone. We succeed when the youth we serve become agents of their own change and use their knowledge to change their communities.

We reach the youth of sub-saharan Africa whose lives are affected by AIDS.

We affirm that tomorrow's responsible parents are the knowledgeable youth of today.

We educate youth with the knowledge they need to stay alive, and teach them to share that knowledge with their peers

We build extended family support networks in local villages and communities to deliver security, food, education and healthcare to children orphaned by AIDS

We create healthcare awareness by funding women and children's health.

WOMEN - A STEP CLOSER TO FULL CONTROL OVER THEIR BODIES!

African Action on AIDS was represented at the XVIII International AIDS Conference, held from 18 – 23 July, 2010 in Vienna, Austria by a member of its Board of Directors, Dr Herta P. Kaschitz. The examination of the rights of women in the context of HIV took on a powerful new dimension during the conference, with the release of the CAPRISA 004 microbicide trial results. The study, carried out by CAPRISA, the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa based in Durban, provided the first data demonstrating the effectiveness of an antiretroviral-based 1 % tenofovir vaginal gel that can be used without a man knowing it. It reduces a woman's risk of sexually transmitted infection with HIV and genital herpes by up to 54 %. It will take a little while until the medication will be released for general use. However, it is a significant step toward a tool that – apart from the already existing female condoms - puts HIV prevention in women's hands. (see: www.scienceexpress.org)

Other important issues discussed at the biennial Conference, which was organized by the International AIDS Society under the theme of Rights here, right now and brought together some 20,000 participants, were human rights aspects like stigmatization of PLWHA, detainees' human rights and health needs, promotion of evidence-based approaches to harm reduction, easy access to needle exchange and syringe distribution programmes for injecting drug users. Experts said it would be cheaper and more efficient to shift HIV/AIDS care tasks – especially in Africa - from the hands of expensive doctors to nurses, and even to traveling community health workers. And in view of the general scarcity of financial resources, it was important to scale up existing life-saving tools, such as maximizing male circumcision – a method proven to at least halve a man's odds of HIV infection - and promoting the use of condoms. (see: www.aids2010.org)

Information shared by:

Herta P. Kaschitz, AAA Board Member and UN Vienna Representative, supporting the Conference as one of more than 700 volunteers



Dr Herta P. Kaschitz at the conference

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