



AAA e-NEWS BRIEF – APRIL 2018

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD)

Your contributions keep us going! Please send a tax-exempt check payable to one of African Action on AIDS' addresses below

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. No00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SDLP/S AC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA's work is based on 3 programmes:

"JUST KNOW" Campaign emphasizes "MA YEM, MA BO":

- Knowledge of one's body
- Knowledge that leads to behavior change
- Knowledge that helps to visualize a future without AIDS

"Health before Wealth" Concept promotes:

- Testing for HIV
- Clean hands (hand washing stations)
- Clean water (drinking stations)
- Dignified toilets
- Fighting against Malaria (treated mosquito bed nets)
- Vaccination
- Anti worms medicin

"Women's economic autonomy" through our Scholarship Programme. This scholarship enables each teenage orphan girl to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that will lead to financial and economic autonomy, greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through sexual abuse and violence.

The official theme for International Women's Day 2018 was "Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives". The 2018 IWD comes on the heels of an unprecedented global movement for women's rights, equality and justice. It has taken the form of global marches and campaigns, including #MeToo and #TimesUp on issues ranging from sexual harassment and femicide to equal pay and

women's political representation. The 2018 International Women's Day was therefore presented as an occasion to transform the momentum into ACTION! For AAA, Actions taken should match local problems in order to lead to a positive and sustained transformation. This enables women from different parts of the world, to realize their full potential and transform their lives.

AAA girls therefore chose Reading, Writing, Producing books to ensure that more African women contribute to a debate that will lead to the transformation of their lives. To back this perspective, one of the girl's speakers Benis, argued as follows:

"REASONS WHY WE SHOULD READ... Reading is fundamental to functioning in today's society (instructions, traffic rules, etc...). Reading is a vital skill in finding a good job. Reading develops your mind. Reading helps build one's own perception of life and character. Reading develops imagination. Reading stimulates the creative side of people. Good reading skills improve spelling.

Ideas written down have changed the destiny of people and nations. Reading is one important tool to help discover new things.

REASONS WHY WE SHOULD WRITE: Writing helps to send a message about who we are and what we think. We therefore need to be clear and accurate. Writing translates, communicates and materializes our ideas and thoughts. Writing a book leads to the acquisition of more knowledge through research. Writing and producing a book can change someone's life upon reading your work..."

After an animated exchange, it was decided that this debate should continue, allowing each AAA girl to write a short piece on: HOW AS AN INDIVIDUAL, SHE IS READY TO TRANSFORM HER SELF. This write up should address the personal factor. Transformation can happen, but full potential can only be reached with personal involvement.

The debate, which was organized in Yaoundé on March 10, took place in the presence of few boys and a great friend of AAA, Anne Gregory.

Ruth Bamela Engo, President AAA



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