

**EmPOWER GIRLS to be Part of the SOLUTION in the interest of PEACE**

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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. 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 International Day of Peace – September 21 - was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly (UN-GA). Two decades later, in 2001, the UN-GA voted to designate the day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire. Since then, the UN has been inviting **nations** and **people** of the world to honour a cessation of hostility during the day, and to otherwise commemorate the day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.

The biggest challenge in Cameroon today being THE RISK of a DIVIDE, AAA girls re-affirm their previous understanding and commitment, because they believe that **PEACE doesn't just happen - it must be nurtured** (<http://africanactiononids.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/AAA-eNewsBrief-November-2017.pdf>):

A- Concept of EXISTENCE

1) One must first Exist to be able to participate in the process of overcoming local challenges; 2) Existing involves embracing who you are, and in so doing, enhancing Self-esteem; 3) Recognizing that **NO ONE IS ALONE**, living peacefully with others as part of One's own existence and survival.

B- Being Part of the SOLUTION – Simple Ways to NURTURE PEACE

The biggest challenge in Cameroon today is the risk of a DIVIDE and AAA girls are determined to be part of the SOLUTION. They collectively and individually decided to adopt daily behaviors **that promote peaceful/respectful/human interactions**. We recorded few of them in English or French as follows: a) *I will be the one to greet my students when I enter the classroom instead of waiting for them to greet me;* b) *I will listen to other people's opinions calmly, even when we do not agree;* c) *Je tâcherai aussi de trouver de bonnes choses sur la vie au Cameroun et pas seulement ce qui va mal;* d) *I will make compliments to people when they do well or look smart;* e) *I will greet people I meet on my way with an encouraging smile;* f) *Désormais je parlerai doucement et gentiment á tout le monde;* g) *I will speak in French or English or in local languages to the patients I receive at the hospital and treat them with respect;* h) *Bonjour, Merci, S'il te plait, Excuse-moi feront désormais partie de mon interaction avec les autres au nom de la paix!*

Ruth Bamela Engo – President, AAA



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