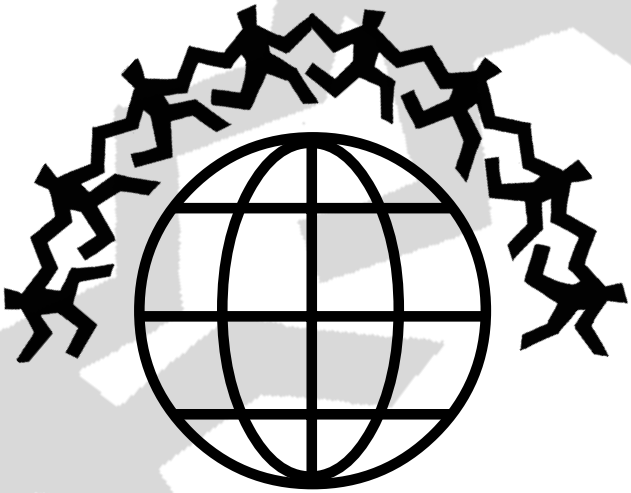
Treatment March

OFFICIAL CALL FROM THE TREATMENT ACTION CAMPAIGN (SOUTH AFRICA)
and the
HEALTH GLOBAL ACCESS PROJECT (GAP) COALITION



GLOBAL MARCH FOR HIV/AIDS TREATMENT

THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE
9 JULY 2000 DURBAN,
SOUTH AFRICA

Treatment March

WE ASK YOU TO ENDORSE THIS CALL AND TO MOBILISE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MARCH BECAUSE:

- HIV has led to the premature death of more than 10 million people from AIDS worldwide.
- Access to treatment is essential in order to save the lives of more than 35 million people with HIV worldwide.
- Available treatment will encourage people to come forward, live openly with HIV/AIDS and give real meaning to prevention efforts.

TREATMENTS ARE AVAILABLE - THE PRICES ARE TOO HIGH!

Anti-retroviral drugs have been shown to extend the lives and improve the health of many people with AIDS and advanced HIV disease.
People in poor countries cannot gain access to life-saving medications because of their price.
HIV infection and AIDS are not a death sentence. There are drugs that can successfully prevent, treat, and cure the opportunistic infections and co-infections, such as tuberculosis, fungal infections, pneumonias, cancers and malaria that kill most people with HIV and AIDS.

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO HEALTH, INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS!

- All people with HIV/AIDS have a right to access to these treatments in addition to health care, employment, education, clean water, adequate nutrition including vitamins and mineral supplements, and housing.
- Denying people with HIV/AIDS access to affordable medicines in order to protect profits or intellectual property rights, is tantamount to genocide.
- Denying access to treatments or prevention intervention by any government body, using the smokescreen of questioning the cause of AIDS, is unacceptable.

TREATMENT WILL SUSTAIN DEVELOPMENT

In the worst affected countries of the world AIDS will massively increase inequality and poverty, widening the gap between rich nations and poor nations, men and women, as well as rich and poor. People must be allowed to live healthy and productive lives.
Access to treatment for people with HIV/AIDS is essential to promote social and economic development for all.

CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO TREATMENT AND FAMILY LIFE

All children with HIV/AIDS have the right to treatment, parental care and support.

Access to treatment for adults with children, can give children access to quality parenting support by prolonging that life and improving the quality of that life. This would reduce the devastating impact on children and poor households.

WOMEN WITH HIV/AIDS HAVE AN EQUAL RIGHT TO TREATMENT

Denial of treatment for HIV/AIDS affects women disproportionately because of social, political and economic inequality.

- All women with HIV/AIDS have an equal right to treatment, care and support.
- All women have a right to anti-retroviral access to reduce HIV transmission during pregnancy.
- All women and rape survivors have the right to be informed that anti-retrovirals may reduce the risk of HIV infection if they are taken within 72 hours of being raped.
- All rape survivors have the right to anti-retroviral access within this time-frame.

HIV/AIDS RESEARCH MUST FOCUS ON POOR COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES

Most HIV/AIDS research has focussed on the industrialised rich countries. The medical needs of children and women across the world have largely been ignored. Treatment and care needs of gay men and men who have sex with men in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean have been neglected.

Research priorities for prevention, treatment, care and support must reflect the profile of the disease and the needs of those who carry the heaviest burden. This is a challenge to the International AIDS Society and the conference.

All people, including people with HIV/AIDS, have a human right to health care, and we call on all individuals, organisations, and governments to ensure adequate medical infrastructure, care and treatments to save the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS.

The Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), Health Global Access Project (GAP) Coalition and the undersigned individuals and organisations will mobilise people throughout the world to support this call.

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INVITATION

As host nation of the continent which is at the epicentre of the epidemic, we ask the South African government to unite and lead all people regarding this call. As representatives of the South African government, we invite the following people :

- the Deputy President of South Africa and chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council, **Mr. Jacob Zuma**;
- the national Minister of Health, **Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang** and
- the Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Dr. Nkosazana Dhlamini-Zuma**, who can spread this message to governments around the world.

Globally we also invite:

- **Professor Jerry Coovadia**, chairperson of the Conference, to receive the call on behalf of the medical and scientific community;
- **Dr. Stephano Vella** of IACS to receive this call on behalf of the medical community to promote to the public the importance of global solidarity in facing the AIDS crisis;
- **Mr. Harvey Bale**, from the International Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, to receive this call to reduce the prices of life-saving drugs;
- **Dr. Peter Piot**, head of UNAIDS, and the ambassadors of every country in the world to receive this call and to translate it into the public policies of the governments they represent;
- the **ambassadors of the European Union and the United States** to receive this call against pressurising poor countries on behalf of drug companies.

We call on every person to join this march in order to save the lives of millions and to build a global movement for HIV/AIDS treatment throughout this world.

ENDORSEMENTS:

Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), South Africa
Federation of Unions of South Africa (FEDUSA), South Africa
Health Global Access Project (GAP) Coalition, United States
International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), United States
National Confederation of Trade Unions (NACTU), South Africa
Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), South Africa
Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA), Australia
International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA)