

HIV/AIDS:

A HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is the most devastating health crisis in human history. Today, more than 40 million people are living with HIV worldwide. Of these, 70% of the adults and 80% of the children are in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 22 million men, women and children have died, and 15,000 people are infected everyday. If the current trends do not change, by 2010 there will be more than 40 million children orphaned due to AIDS in Africa.

And the crisis goes beyond AIDS. Right now in Africa, fewer than 3% of the world's health workers struggle to care for people suffering 24% of the global disease burden, at less than 1% of the world health expenditure.

FINDING SOLUTIONS

HIV/AIDS is now a preventable and treatable disease for many men, women and children in the most poor, remote parts of Uganda. From 1991 to 2002, Uganda successfully reduced the HIV prevalence rate from above 15% to 6%, where it has remained stagnant. And anti-retroviral treatment is helping over 70,000 Ugandans live positively with AIDS.

However, significant work remains. Solutions need to be found to violations of health and human rights. In Uganda, access to health care is limited and the health care system itself is crippled by poor infrastructure, old technology and too few health workers.

An empowered, motivated and informed coalition of health professional students can make a difference by educating other students, communities and policy makers on what it will take to save lives and promote human rights.



SEHC students march to promote their campaign to provide free hepatitis B vaccines to all medical students.

For more information on Students for Equity in Health Care (SEHC), please send us an email at: sehcmumsa@yahoo.com



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STUDENTS FOR EQUITY IN HEALTH CARE
MAKERERE MEDICAL SCHOOL, KAMPALA UGANDA



Students for Equity in Health Care (SEHC) is a student-run advocacy group founded in December 2004 by a group of 13 Makerere University medical students with a desire to advocate for equitable healthcare service delivery in the Uganda and world wide. SEHC was formed as a follow up to the “*Taking Action for Change: Health Professionals United for AIDS Advocacy*” conference, organized by Action Group for Health Human Rights and HIV/AIDS (AGHA) Uganda in conjunction with Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), to give health students the forum to provide needed leadership on AIDS and health rights in Uganda.

Today, SEHC has grown from 13 students founders to a national presence with chapters at all three public medical schools in Uganda: Makerere University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Gulu University. SEHC also has chapters at the Paramedical School and Nursing School in Mulago.



SEHC participants develop an action plan during the 2007 National Student Conference.

VISION

A world of equitable access to health care for all

MISSION

To advocate for equitable health service delivery in Uganda and worldwide in partnership with other organizations with similar ideals

OBJECTIVES

- 🚫 Educating health professional students and communities in which they will serve on the relationship between health and human rights
- 🚫 Advocating for observation of the human rights of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and for the health rights of all Ugandans
- 🚫 Networking and collaboration with other organizations with similar ideals
- 🚫 Providing a common forum through which students can voice their concerns to relevant authorities

ACTIVITIES

Since its inception SEHC has been involved in numerous activities that promote both the welfare of the students as well as equitable access to health care in Uganda. Some of SEHC’s recent activities include:

- 🚫 Organizing an annual AIDS action week on campus both to teach and inform as well as to advocate for improved service delivery to people affected by HIV/AIDS
- 🚫 Successfully advocating for provision of a free Hepatitis B vaccine to 700 medical students in Uganda
- 🚫 Working together with the faculty of medicine to find funding for the faculty’s new Problem Based Learning (PBL) curriculum
- 🚫 Holding health and human rights workshops to sensitize students on the importance of the human rights aspect in health care
- 🚫 Building coalitions that seek to improve the health care sector
- 🚫 Creation of a handbook combating stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS in the health sector

MEMBERSHIP

All persons who share in the vision, mission and objectives of SEHC are welcome to join.

JOIN!

Yes! I would like to join Students’ for Equity in Health Care and receive urgent actions and events updates.

I can:

- Organize a presentation at my school/ hospital/community
- Meet with Policy makers
- Distribute IEC materials to my colleagues /campus
- Participate in media activities
- Provide funding
- Provide logistical support
- Provide IEC materials

Any other support please list:

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Name

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Email

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Institutional Affiliation

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Address

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Office Telephone

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Mobile Phone

Please tear off and return to SECH leadership or mail to SEHC Kampala.