

UNI calls on governments to:

- Apply all the necessary resources to combat HIV/AIDS, to share their best practices/strategies, and to accelerate worldwide efforts to combat the disease.
- Include in their national development policies and programmes special measures to bring together medical practitioners and representatives of complementary medicines, practitioners of traditional medicine and pharmaceutical companies to conduct research together to find a cure for the disease.
- Develop a coherent and non-discriminatory social HIV/AIDS strategy with respect to human and workers' rights, such as infringement of the rights of AIDS and HIV patients by exclusion from jobs, persecution of infected workers, compulsory AIDS testing or reporting to social insurance, etc.
- Carry out campaigns to prevent discrimination against HIV infected people and to call for respect and dignity.
- Demand that an adequate inclusion of women in studies and a gender-differentiated evaluation of the results become standard practice.
- Guarantee that those suffering from the disease have access to comprehensive affordable treatment and generic medicines.
- Reinforce their co-operation at international level so that women and girls in the most vulnerable regions have access to health services, to preventive measures, free-of-charge feminine and masculine condoms, and to medical treatment at affordable prices.

UNI calls on the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to stop the restrictions on public health spending in poor countries. This policy does not permit the development of an effective strategy.



Nadine Hutton: Coffin makers



Fanie Jason: AIDS orphan Cawekazi and her carer, Cape Town

UNI calls on industrialised countries (G8) to increase their influence on the IMF Executive Board, by instructing their Finance Ministers or Treasury Departments to take immediate action on the issue.

UNI calls on the international donors' community to intensify an internationally and regionally co-ordinated programme for curative research, prevention and treatment of the disease.

Photos reproduced with permission from the exhibition *Inside AIDS*, FotoMuseum Opdracht, produced in conjunction with projects aimed at HIV/AIDS prevention and care of victims in collaboration between SETCa-FGTB Belgium and CG COSATU South Africa.  
FotoMuseum Curators: Carlos Polenus (B) and Paul Weinberg (ZA).

UNI/TUD/07-2005/0024-EN

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## Campaigning on HIV/AIDS

UNI, together with its affiliates, and with the support of partners in international trade union solidarity and development cooperation, is actively involved in fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic around the globe.

HIV/AIDS awareness raising is a topic presented in all UNI trade union development and education activities at local, national, regional and international level.

An increasing number of companies are concluding collective agreements with UNI affiliates on workplace policies regulating conditions for HIV positive workers and on access to treatment for AIDS sick workers (examples: South Africa, Zimbabwe and Burkina Faso). These agreements include relevant clauses against discrimination of infected employees.

Materials for training and education in HIV/AIDS issues are available on CD-ROM and on UNI's website ([www.union-network.org](http://www.union-network.org)). These materials exist in various languages and being widely disseminated to union representatives, educators and members, as well as to interested NGOs and associations.

UNI participates in the Global HIV/AIDS Programme, involving the Global Unions Federations (GUFs), the ICFTU, TUAC/OECD, the ILO, UNAIDS, the World AIDS Campaign and Funding Partners, aimed at expanding and strengthening the networks at national, regional and international levels in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

UNI is committed to gaining a strong trade union voice in national and international forums where HIV/AIDS issues are under debate, as governments and civil society should make concerted efforts in fighting the HIV epidemic at national level and in taking the issue of affordable HIV drugs to the international arena.



Gideon Mendel: Nazareth House, Cape Town

UNI believes that particular attention should be paid to the development of medicines capable of preventing the transmission of the virus from mother to child during pregnancy and vaccines to prevent the disease.

UNI seeks to encourage tolerance and combat the marginalisation of and discrimination against people who carry the AIDS virus.

For the period 2005-2006, UNI has launched an HIV/AIDS pilot project, including forty one unions in eleven countries in Southern Africa (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe) and in French Speaking West Africa (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Togo).



Gideon Mendel: Mzokhona Malevu, Enseleni township

Trade unions have a role to play in AIDS prevention. They should incorporate AIDS awareness programmes in their trade union education and organising activities.

UNI calls on its affiliates to:

- Sensitise the leadership and develop trade unions policies on HIV/AIDS.
- Sensitise young union leaders to the severity of the HIV/AIDS problem, to the impact of the disease on the economy, and to factors driving the pandemic.



Paul Weinberg: Leah Shapeng with her granddaughters Ntibaleng and Tina, Bloemfontein

- Continue the UNI campaign "Stop Violence" against women and girls, as freedom from violence and sexual coercion is essential to both physical security and reduced vulnerability to HIV infection.
- Increase training on HIV/AIDS for union activists, as more and better expertise is needed. Train shops stewards and HIV committees' members as organisers of HIV awareness and prevention campaigns.
- Secure the commitment of trade unions to strive to develop workplace programmes based on the ILO Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work, including policies and guidelines that incorporate assessment, programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Conduct mass prevention and information campaigns, placing them in the framework of occupational health and safety and encouraging employers, associations and schools to join in.



Paul Weinberg: Hlabisa

- Negotiate collective agreements on HIV/AIDS with employers and governments.
- Build and strengthen trade unions' sustainable wellness programmes to service members.
- Pressure their respective governments and employers to support the strengthening of occupational health and safety programmes for informing and protecting groups at work, and eliminating the stigma and discrimination attached to HIV/AIDS.



Nadine Hutton: Orphan family Chokwe, Limpopo Province