



APPG AIDS Newsletter

September-October 2005

The APPG AIDS working both with national and international issues on HIV/AIDS

News and Updates

It has been sometime since the last newsletter was produced but from now on the APPG AIDS will aim to produce a bi-monthly letter which lists the work of the group, upcoming meetings, and current events.

The APPG AIDS website is up and running again. The APPG AIDS website has now been updated and now covers questions asked in the UK Parliament; Early Day Motions tabled; write-ups and summaries of meetings and former newsletters as well as a list of the current officers of the group. We hope that you will find it useful.

www.appg-aids.org.uk

A funding letter written by Simon Wright former policy advisor to the APPG AIDS has been sent out to a number of organisations via the UK Consortium in an attempt to stabilise the funding for the APPG on AIDS. Currently ca 20-30% of the member of staff's time is being spent securing funding and it is the group's opinion that her time can be better spent. The Group appreciates that many organisations are stretched for resources, however it hopes that a little support from many groups will bring in the finances we need. If you have any queries about this you are welcome to reply to Simon's e-mail (if you have received it) or you can contact Aviva Bresky on 020 7219 6916 or breskya@parliament.uk

The officers of the APPG AIDS will meet shortly to discuss the agenda for the coming year and how to involve more of the newly elected members of the House of Commons in the groups work. The outcome of this meeting will be advertised in the next newsletter and will be found on the website.

Keele University, the African HIV Policy Network, Birkbeck College and the George House Trust are co-organising a seminar

series called 'HIV/AIDS and Law: Theory, Practice and Policy.' The first seminars will be held at Keele University, Staffordshire 9-11 December. See [Keele University Website](http://www.keele.ac.uk).

In Parliament

Newly elected MP Celia Barlow (Hove) asked the **Leader of the House Jeff Hoon MP** if he would consider making PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) available in sexual health clinics through out the UK. Mr Hoon could not supply an answer on his feet and instead urged Ms Barlow to ask for an adjournment debate on the matter. Read the full question and reply on the APPG AIDS website.

Another newly elected MP and member of the International Development Select Committee, **Jeremy Hunt (Surrey South West)**, has recently asked a range of questions on HIV/AIDS and international development. You can read these in Hansard or on the APPG AIDS website.

Dr Evan Harris MP (Oxford West and Abingdon) challenged the Prime Minister to explain the UK policy on treatment and Education when he claimed the the UK steals Doctors and Nurses from Africa but refuses to treat the patients from there. You can read the full question and the reply on the APPG AIDS.

The International Development Select Committee will be holding a hearing on 22nd November entitled 'Delivering the Goods: HIV/AIDS and the provision of anti-retrovirals.'

28th October a roundtable meeting will be held in Westminster with major NGOs working in the field of HIV/AIDS in the UK and the APPG AIDS.

The aim will be to discuss topical national issues and to coordinate lobbying work. In particular we will aim to address the question about how we raise the profile of HIV policy in the UK. There has been a great deal of attention in recent months to international policies, especially around the G8 Summit, while far less attention has been paid to the continued rise in HIV infection in the UK, and the policies needed to address this.

Recently published:

(From Government Departments, NGOs and Medical Officials)

The Department of Health has published its response to the Health Selects Committee's report of Sexual Health and HIV. The response can be found on www.doh.gov.uk

Dr. Jane Anderson, Professor Lesley Doyal and Patricia Apenteng

"I want to survive, I want to win, I want tomorrow" An exploratory study of African Men living with HIV in London.

The Department for Work and Pensions "Opportunity for all, Seventh annual report 2005." This report will be followed by a Green Paper on Welfare Reform. www.dwp.gov.uk

Dr Catherine Dodds from SIGMA Research has recently published "Grievous Harm? Use of the Offences Against the Persons Act 1861 for sexual transmission of HIV"

<http://www.sigmaresearch.org.uk/downloads/report05b.pdf>

Recent APPG AIDS events

The APPG AIDS recently hosted two events which discussed the G8. Minutes and speeches can be read on the website.

The meeting which was held just prior to the G8 meeting was addressed by Dr. Jim Kim from the WHO, Robin Gorna Global AIDS Team Leader from DFID and Dr. Alice Welbourn from the International Community of Women living with HIV/AIDS.

The Secretary of State for the Department of International Development, Hilary Benn MP, addressed the meeting held after the G8 summit to speak about the outcome and future action. Read the survey on our website.

Neil Gerrard MP, the Chair of the APPG on AIDS recently spoke at a Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) sub committee meeting in Moscow on prevention work on HIV in the UK. The trip to Moscow also presented an opportunity for a visit to the corresponding group to the APPG AIDS in the Russian State Duma. Read the speech and more information about the PACE delegation on the APPG AIDS website, together with notes from the meeting with the Deputies from the Duma.

Positive Partners Positively Children (PPC) launched its survey of PPC Users and introduction to the HIV forum for young people infected or affected by HIV in the House of Commons on the 3rd October.

Neil Gerrard hosted the meeting and comedian and broadcaster Helen Lederer was there to support the launch. Read the survey on our website.

On the 9th November the APPG AIDS will be hosting a meeting with Kevin Frost and Naz India and Naz project London to update NGOs and MPs on the HIV/AIDS situation in India.

15th November UNICEF will hold a briefing meeting in the House of Commons on their global campaign on Children and AIDS.

23rd November the International Coalition of Women living with HIV/AIDS will launch their Network Sofia. This launch will be held on the Terrace in the House of Commons.

7th December Health Workers from regions most affected by HIV in England will be invited to meet their MPs to discuss the local situations. Later that same day a larger meeting including all MPs and Health Workers from the identified regions will meet to discuss a way forward.

More events this autumn and winter are in the pipeline, dates to be confirmed.

Other News

The group's former policy advisor, Edwige Fortier, is now in Geneva after a time spent in the USA.

She is working for the Global Fund on AIDS, TB and Malaria and is currently writing their civil society brief. Her new job takes her to many countries but she can also on occasion be spotted in London.