



THE ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

on HIV & AIDS

World AIDS Day

There was a lot going on in parliament for World AIDS Day 2015. The group joined with Halve It to mark National HIV Testing Week and invite parliamentarians to take part in a testing drive. We joined with NAT to distribute red ribbons to every MP and Peer and we offered an opportunity for parliamentarians to take part in a photo opportunity to show their solidarity with people living with and affected by HIV.

The group partnered with the APPG on Global Health and STOPAIDS to arrange a panel event to explore the importance of reaching the most marginalised in order to achieve the global target to end AIDS by 2030. The panel event was co-chaired by Lord Crisp and Mike Freer MP and included Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development Baroness Verma, Shadow Secretary of State Diane Abbott MP, and speakers representing marginalised communities in Burma, Indonesia and the UK.



Hello and thanks for reading our Winter 2015 newsletter. You'll see that there's been quite a few parliamentary events and we hope you find this update on our activities useful.

In January the group welcomes Policy Advisor Susie Pelly back from maternity leave, please get in touch via email policy.advisor@appghivaids.org.uk if you would like more information on the group's work.

Parliamentary Launch of HIV Friendly Schools Guide

In November Baroness Gould hosted an event on behalf of the APPG to launch a new resource by [CHIVA](#) to help schools to become HIV friendly and ensure that they effectively support children living with and affected HIV.

The resource aims to challenge misinformation, stigma and discrimination and can be downloaded [here](#).

Lords Questions

On the 1st December there were 2 questions for short debate raised in the House of Lords to mark World AIDS Day. Lord Cashman raised the issue of key populations

in middle-income countries, asking [how DFID plans to invest to tackle the epidemic in this grouping](#). Lord Collins raised the issue of addressing [HIV amongst women and girls](#). HIV remains the number 1 killer of women of

reproductive age and the group is lobbying DFID to ensure that HIV is included in strategies to support the UK government focus on women and girls.

Inquiry Into the Impacts of the Health and Social Care Act

The All Party group has launched an inquiry into the impacts of the Health and Social Care Act (2012) on the provision of HIV services in England.

The inquiry is in response to concerns raised by patient groups and service providers that the introduction of the act, in April 2013, has resulted in fragmentation of HIV services, blurred responsibility for standards and created geographical differences in service quality and availability.

Implementation of the act resulted in significant changes to the commissioning of key HIV services with responsibility being shared between local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England.

The inquiry aims to identify what changes may be necessary to ensure the highest quality of HIV services are delivered whilst ensuring that the appropriate bodies have clearly defined budget responsibility and other accountability measures are in place to ensure that public funds are utilised most effectively. Written submissions can be submitted to the group until the 18th December.

Terms of reference and details on how to submit to the inquiry can be found [here](#).

High Level Parliamentary Panel on HIV

The All Party Parliamentary Group on HIV & AIDS hosted a productive parliamentary panel discussion exploring the need to address HIV & AIDS to improve the lives of women and girls. The panel included DFID Minister Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, President Obama's Ambassador on HIV & AIDS, Deborah Birx, UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director Luis Loures and Luisa Orza, a prominent activist.

Minister Shapps spoke about the great progress that's been made to date in the AIDS response stating that we should celebrate, but the job is not yet complete. Ambassador Birx highlighted that it is possible to end AIDS by 2030 but the time to act is now.

Mike Freer MP, Chair of the APPG said "It's encouraging that we've been able to bring together this high-level panel and that there's so much agreement on the importance of maintaining the financial and political commitment to meet the recently agreed target to end AIDS by 2030. If we are to meet this target we must scale up the response immediately".



Ambassador Birx, Mike Freer and Minister Grant Shapps

Innovation Fund Launch

The group hosted a parliamentary event to mark the launch of the HIV Prevention Fund which will provide £500,000 to seven new innovative local HIV prevention projects.

The event included speeches from Mike Freer MP, Public Health Minister Jane Ellison and Owen Brigstock-Barron from Public Health England.

Global Fund Briefing

Officers from the APPGs on TB, malaria and HIV and AIDS met with Global Fund secretariat to get an update on the fund's new strategy. The next replenishment round for the fund will be in 2016 and a parliamentary debate on the Global Fund will take place in early January.