



NO EMBARGO

Press Release # 2 - 15th November

WORLD AIDS DAY 2006

Take Action Today

Around forty million people are living with HIV throughout the world - and that number increases in every region every day. In the UK alone, more than 60,000 people are living with HIV and more than 7,000 more are diagnosed every year. Ignorance and prejudice are fuelling the spread of a preventable disease.

World AIDS Day, 1 December is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV and AIDS. This year, it's up to you, me and us to stop the spread of HIV and end prejudice.

Get the red ribbon

The red ribbon has been an international symbol of HIV for fifteen years. Wear one as a sign that together we CAN stop the spread of HIV and end prejudice.

Wearing a red ribbon is one of the easiest ways you can make a difference on 1 December. Not just by wearing one yourself, but also encouraging your friends, colleagues and family to wear one as well. Ribbon and collecting boxes are available from the Fife Men Project and monies raised will enable updated information to be available all the year! Please contact the project for information, ribbon or boxes!

Saturday 25th November – Kirkcaldy Farmer's Market - 9:00-13:30

Information and fund raising stall. Designer Christmas Cards, handicrafts on sale and load of information about the project's work and our sister organisation Wola Nani in South Africa. www.wolanani.co.za

Friday 1st December Ribbon Balloon Release - 12:00 in the Town Square Kirkcaldy with special guests to release the remembrance balloons.

We are pleased to announce that we will be joined for the Balloon Release by Roy Kilpatrick Director of HIV Scotland

HIV Scotland: “The independent voice for HIV in Scotland”

HIV Scotland is an HIV voluntary sector policy and support organisation, providing HIV information and advice. As the leading HIV policy organisation, HIV Scotland gives the views and expertise of voluntary organisations the authority of an independent and collective voice.

As well as promoting the value of the sector's response to HIV, HIV Scotland represents the needs of those living with or vulnerable to the virus. Effective HIV health promotion activity is essential to Scotland's health and well-being. At the core of our activity we advocate equality and fairness for all individuals and communities affected by HIV.

Since our inception in 1995, the epidemic has changed dramatically. Global and national trends demand complex and broad-based responses, not only to health and social needs, but also to the stigma, discrimination and inequality which fuel the epidemic.

<http://www.hivscotland.com/>

Also present to launch our “Stop Homophobia” Campaign will be Linda Thompson Development Worker Healthy Gay Scotland.

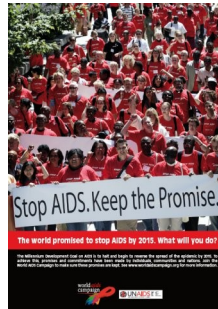
Healthy Gay Scotland (HGS) is a national HIV organisation that promotes the sexual health and well being of gay and bisexual men living in Scotland. HGS is funded by the Scottish Executive and is part of HIV Scotland. Launched in November 1997 Healthy Gay Scotland has developed innovative campaigns. Working collaboratively with other agencies we produce new programmes and resources to promote HIV and health. HGS is advised by a steering group, and working with other local and national agencies develops both online and 'out there' resources. <http://www.healthygayscotland.com/>

Chief Inspector Ian Bease the lesbian gay bisexual and transgender (lgbt) liaison officer from Fife Constabulary will also be helping to launch our “Stop Homophobia” campaign building upon the work of the homophobia hate crime helpline, which offers support and third-party to people affected by hate crime.

<http://www.fife.police.uk/>

This will be followed by **refreshments in the Town House**, not as usual in the Fife Men Project centre. As you may know on the night of 31st October, our office was a target for an arson attack. The fire damage has resulted in us having to reallocate some of our services including this event. However the office will be open as usual for individual callers.

UNAIDS – Keep the promise



Accountability came up in the discussions a year ago as 2006 is an important year in the AIDS response. A number of key events have taken place this year including; the High Level Meeting on AIDS, held at the UN in New York in June which was the five year review of the Declaration of Commitment on AIDS; the five year review of the Abuja Declaration in Africa; the Toronto AIDS Conference; and on the 14 November it will be five years since the Doha declaration was signed on access to generic drugs. 2006 also marked the 10 years of UNAIDS and the 25 years of AIDS.

2006 is a year of looking back to learn from the past and looking forward to see how to plan and strategise further on issues like Universal Access. So having these important moments this year we felt that it was the right time and that focus was needed on accountability because of the strong significance this year holds in the AIDS response.

World AIDS Day is crucial for accountability because we know what works and we need to find out why programmes that work have not been implemented in light of Universal Access and country target setting. We want to make sure that the world is informed and aware and that all the leaders know that the public and civil society are watching and that we are very serious about all these promises.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Spokesperson from the Fife Men Project– Alec Deary, Services Co-ordinator m: 07721 663421

For further information contact the Fife Men Project, Lambda Centre, 5 South Fergus Place, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1YA 01592 265666 Fax: 01592 643866

www.fifemen.org.uk – E: enquiries@fifemen.org.uk

John Taylor – Blood Borne Virus Manager – Fife NHS – Haig House – Cameron Hospital – 01592 712812

Ian Robertson – Fife Social Work Service – Positive Support for people infected and affected by HIV & Hepatitis 01383 313322

