

HEALTH GAP COALITION

ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL LIFE- EXTENDING AIDS MEDICATIONS IS DENIED DUE TO HIGH PRICES, ABUSE OF DRUG PATENT PROTECTION, AND UNFAIR GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

Global Treatment Access Campaign

The Health Gap Coalition is a U.S.-based coalition of organizations and individuals advocating for debt cancellation and dedicated to increasing access to essential medications and technologies in countries facing an escalating AIDS epidemic.

95 percent of people with HIV live in the developing world. Virtually none have access to the drugs that treat HIV and its complications. One of the chief obstacles is unaffordable drug prices set by multinational pharmaceutical corporations. While grassroots activist groups plan campaigns to bring affordable drugs to dying people, wealthy governments such as the U.S. continue to support the price-gouging pharmaceutical industry.

Health GAP is committed to working on access issues in the United States and in partnership with third-world activist groups.

On July 9th, 2000, the day of the opening of the XIII International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa, five thousand people joined a Global AIDS March for Treatment Access. This march, the largest AIDS protest ever endorsed by civil society, was organized by the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), a grassroots AIDS activist organization in South Africa launched in 1998, and co-sponsored by Health GAP.

After the International AIDS Conference, advocates from around the world met to determine next steps in achieving the demands laid out by march organizers, and in furthering the global struggle for affordable drug access. At that meeting, advocates agreed to plan for an international day of action on December 1, 2000 – World AIDS Day – and there after to build a global network for sharing information on and organizing medication access campaigns.

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Subscribe to the december1 and healthgap listservs.

www.healthgap.org
www.globaltreatmentaccess.org

THE DEVELOPING WORLD IS THE HARDEST HIT BY THE GLOBAL AIDS CRISIS. AN EFFECTIVE GLOBAL RESPONSE DEMANDS UNITED ACTION AND COORDINATION.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Health GAP Coalition mail a check made out to MOBILIZATION AGAINST AIDS (fiscal sponsor) to 584 Castro Street #416 an Francisco, CA 94114 (On the "for" line of your check, please include "Health GAP" in large print.)

JOIN US IN THE FIGHT FOR HEALTH BEFORE PROFITS:

DEMAND that the urgent public health needs of people with AIDS take priority over the patent system's protection of profits of the multibillion-dollar drug companies.

DEMAND sustainable, affordable treatment access, not drug company public relations ploys of inadequate and restrictive donation plans.

DEMAND globally coordinated programs of manufacture, distribution, and registry of generic medicines, achieving maximum economies of scale and price reduction.

DEMAND full debt cancellation for nations devastated by AIDS, not endless loans with their promise of more crippling debt from the North.

DEMAND the inclusion and consultation of developing nations in decision-making processes regarding the global AIDS crisis, not unilateral decisions by international bodies.

LISTSERV INFORMATION:

HEALTHGAP: an unmoderated list where articles, requests for information, and strategies related to treatment access are discussed. To subscribe, send an e-mail to listproc@critpath.org with "subscribe healthgap" in the BODY of the e-mail. The subject line of the message should be left blank.

DECEMBER1: forum focusing on Dec.1 actions. Subscribe by sending an e-mail to listproc@critpath.org with the following message in the BODY of the e-mail: subscribe december1 "your name". The subject line of the message should be left blank.