



IUSY World Congress
Budapest, Hungary, 27-29 February 2004

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, THE KEY TO FIGHTING HIV / AIDS

1. Whereas HIV/AIDS is a disease existing throughout the world, it is more defined and prevalent in poor countries and regions, particularly in Africa. HIV/AIDS affects various sectors such as employment, social relations, education and economic growth. The youth are the ones most affected by the pandemic, which endangers their role in economic growth.
2. HIV/AIDS is not a matter to be left to market economy, but it is a human rights issue that demands urgent and concerted efforts by the international community.
3. We demand that all educational institutions must incorporate HIV/AIDS education in their curricula at an early age.
4. Where surgical practices involve the use of the same equipment on more than one person, that must be banned as it increases the risk of HIV/AIDS infection.
5. Since there is no cure, prevention through education, responsible sexual behavior and using condoms remain vital.
6. Governments should encourage researchers, nationally and internationally, to come up with a vaccine by providing moral and material support.
7. Patent rights on HIV/AIDS ARV drugs must be lifted to enable all countries and regions to produce affordable and accessible drugs. The research in the programme combating HIV/AIDS has to be financed by the international institutions such as UNAIDS and the World Bank.
8. Governments in African countries must make efforts to reverse the trend on brain drain that cripples Africa's economy, particularly the migration of doctors and nurses to rich countries.
9. IUSY member organisations commit themselves to ensuring that HIV/AIDS is demystified to enable greater prevention through awareness.
10. IUSY member organisations further commit themselves to ensuring accessibility to cheaper and affordable drugs by lobbying for the financing of drugs. This financing will make the

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- drugs universally accessible to both rich and poor countries as well as lead to the definition of international policy on issues of HIV/AIDS.
11. The availability of female condoms in campaigning against HIV/AIDS is an important message in empowering young women to make decisions over issues of sexual relations and when to engage in sex, as opposed to leaving all the decision-making powers to males where only male condoms are made available.
 12. The availability of gay condoms in campaigning against HIV/AIDS is also an important message in empowering youngsters, in particular sexual minorities, to make decisions over issues of sexual relations and when to engage in sex."
 13. Economic empowerment of youth in order to achieve financial independence is important in combating HIV / AIDS since this empowers young people to make decisions about their sexuality.
 14. Young people in all countries should be allowed to participate in the formulation and implementation of policies related to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, as they are the ones that best understand the behavioural patterns of youth.
 15. IUSY will advocate even amongst conservative societies and communities, such as religious communities, to desist from their conservative stances on issues of HIV/AIDS prevention, particularly the use of condoms, as well as stigmatisation of those infected by the disease.