



Sexual Rights e-News

16 Days of Activism update

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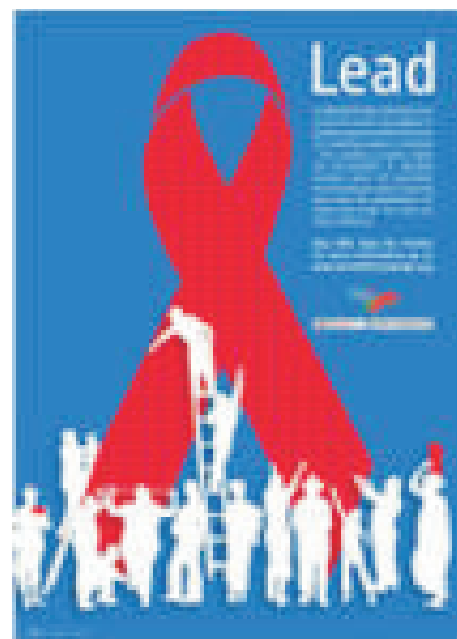
01-13 December 2008

SRC expands HIV/AIDS prevention efforts

Children and youth lack unfettered access to HIV information, sexual and life-skills Education. In an effort to expand the reach of effective prevention efforts to young people who are at high risk of contracting STIs including HIV, the Sexual Rights Centre (SRC) embarked on an information campaign on December 1-3, 2008. The campaign targeted young people living in Makokoba and Emganwini high density suburbs in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. SRC screened a 90-minute film, Yesterday, a touching story about one woman's experience of living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa. More than 250 young people viewed the film and some

requested that the SRC should continue screening educational films on a regular basis. Film was used because of its power to 'cultivate' people's conceptions of social reality. Young people were targeted because of the need to groom future leaders who actively participate in the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

This year's World AIDS Day theme is "Lead, Empower, Deliver." The SRC believes that young people are the future leaders and by involving them at an early age we encourage them to continue to promote the campaign slogan, "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise."



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SRC holds Festival at Psychiatric Hospital

Stigma and discrimination of Persons Living with Disabilities must be confronted and governments in developing countries should acknowledge the skills and abilities of persons with psychological disabilities. The Sexual Rights Centre (SRC) held a festival on December 03, 2008 at Ingutsheni Psychiatric Hospital in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, to raise awareness about this day

and to promote a positive image



SRC commemorates International Day for Persons with Disabilities held at Ingutsheni Psychiatric Hospital, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

of persons with psychological disabilities.

Approximately 150 patients from the Hospital were treated to music, dance, poetry and a film as they commemorated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This year's theme was "Dignity and Justice for All."

The SRC has been conducting weekly workshops aimed at providing information on HIV/AIDS to persons with psychological disabilities.

Human Rights for Women - Human Rights for All

The life of a Commercial Sex Worker (CSW) in Zimbabwe is characterised by acute discrimination by the community, the church and the law. The police have been sited as the worst perpetrators of violence against CSW. In a workshop held in Gokwe on December 12, 2008 following the recommendations and research by the Open Society Institute (OSI), some CSW revealed that police arrest and detain them on flimsy excuses as a means of coercing for sex. Such treatment by the police has also resulted in CSW failing to report cases of sexual abuse by clients. Stigma and discrimination has

resulted in CSW failing to access Sexual and Reproductive Health services that are commonly offered for free in the community. Doctors and nurses have a negative attitude towards the CSW. This makes treatment of STIs a major challenge because CSW are often tongue lashed by the health workers for their 'unholy' profession. SRC works with Commercial Sex Workers to support them in strengthening their capacity to advocate for their rights. The organisation does not make stigmatising judgements about sex work.

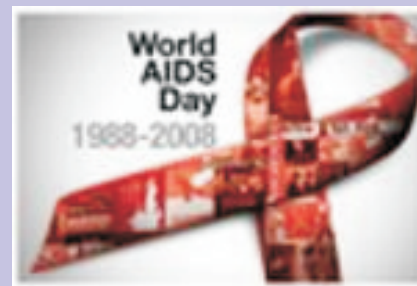
Women, Violence and HIV Raising awareness using film

SRC involves the church in that violence against women is a campaign violation of women's basic human rights.

SASA is a 30-minute documentary film from Uganda about women, violence and HIV and AIDS. It narrates the harrowing personal stories of two women. Women from the church were targeted to involve them in formulating creative strategies for change.

On 13 December 2008, the Sexual Rights Centre (SRC) screened SASA in Gokwe. The event was attended by 15 women from the churches. The women recommended that the Church should be involved in the fight against violence and HIV through challenging harmful cultural practices and educating women about violence, abuse and sexual rights.

SRC's goal was to raise awareness about the link between Sexual Rights, Violence and HIV/AIDS. SRC wanted to show



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Scores attend film screening

More than 60 people thronged the Mutamba beer hall in Gokwe, Zimbabwe on 12 December 2008 to watch the film, Why did I get married? that was screened by the Sexual Rights Centre (SRC) as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence campaign.

Why Did I Get Married? Is a film that challenges adults to analyse their relationships and talk openly about problems that all marriages experience.

As part of promoting action against gender-based violence the SRC targeted beer hall patrons particularly men so as to involve them in the fight against gender-based violence. Research has shown that there is a close link between alcohol abuse and violence.

Beer hall patrons who attended the event recommended that the SRC should regularly screen educative films because it stimulates debate about Sexual and Reproductive Health issues.

**The SRC team wishes you a happy festive season and a prosperous 2009.
For more information about the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence contact
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