

PLWHIV Petitions the Minister of Health on HIV/ TB Drug Stock-outs



Activists protesting during the World AIDS Day Commemorations.

By Tabitha Mvula

In early November 2010 reports about drug shortages allegedly causing drug rationing and stock-outs began emerging in the country. It was reported that HIV drugs - Abacavir and Lamivudine and 4FDC (tuberculosis drugs) were worst affected, with stock outs being recorded in parts of Lusaka and Copperbelt provinces.

These reports have continued with the latest being the non-availability or low availability of Streptomycin for tuberculosis and Nevirapin for HIV.

It is under this scenario that with support from Diakonia, the Treatment Advocacy and Literacy Campaign (TALC) organized a one-day workshop in January that brought 200 people living with HIV drawn from Network of Zambian People Living with HIV (NZP+), TALC, support groups under the umbrella of Kara Counseling, the Network of ARV Users and the Zambia National ARV

Support Programme (ZNARVs).

The event, at Kara Counseling, in Lusaka's Villa Elizabetha discussed implications of continued drug shortages. Workshop participants drew up a petition to the Minister of Health, expressing dissatisfaction at the status quo.

In the petition, workshop participants demanded the Ministry:

- Puts an end to rationing of both HIV and TB drugs
- considers the plight of PLWHIV as they were experiencing fatigue in getting drugs from the clinics
- saves PLWHIV from taking different drugs that were clearly confusing
- saves medical personnel who were also experiencing fatigue and frustrations
- stops violating PLWHIV's right to treatment
- stops depriving children living with HIV treatment by giving their

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ZARAN Commemorates World AIDS Day 2010

By Tabitha Mvula

On 1st December 2010, ZARAN joined the rest of the country and the world to commemorate World AIDS Day to remember those who have died from and are living with HIV and AIDS.

This year's commemoration was held under the theme 'Universal Access and Human Rights', which was interpreted differently across the world. But in all the interpretations, the message was loud and clear: universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support is a human right that must be promoted and protected.

World AIDS Day activities in Lusaka began with a march from Oddy's filling station in Matero at about 09:00. The march was flagged off by Lusaka District Commissioner Christa Kalulu. Several organizations clad in World AIDS Day T-shirts, and proudly holding banners displaying key HIV messages marched about five kilometres for people living with and affected by HIV. Organisations from the private sector, NGOs and government institutions marched

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News

Editorial

Welcome to a wonderful new year!

We hope 2010 offered you great opportunities for learning and that you are looking forward to 2011.

ZARAN had a busy year in 2010, with several activities with the community, stakeholders and advocacy campaigns. We look forward to an even more challenging and fulfilling 2011.

In this issue we look at several activities that ZARAN undertook last year such as the World AIDS Day commemorations, which saw a number of civil society organisations, NGOs and government departments walk for people who have died or are living with HIV and AIDS.

Perhaps one of the biggest news items of the year was the report from the Global Fund's Office of the Inspector General that revealed glaring irregularities in the way money has been handled in Zambia and other countries. This led some donors to the Global Fund to cut back on funding, leaving millions of lives in the balance. We hope that in 2011 the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS to access treatment, care and support will be firmly protected by those entrusted to do so; this entails accountability for every dollar that is coming in from cooperating partners as well as national coffers.

Also in this issue, we look at so-called AIDS cures that are on the Zambian market. We call for extreme caution, especially for people living with HIV and AIDS on these 'cures'.

We feature these and other stories which we hope you will find useful and enlightening. We wish you a prosperous 2011

Malala Mwendela

ZARAN Commemorates World AIDS Day 2010

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to the Olympic Youth Development Centre on Great North Road chanting slogans and singing songs.

At the commemoration, ZARAN Executive Director Malala Mwendela gave a keynote speech. She said central to achieving universal access and more specifically zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero HIV-related deaths was the promotion of a rights based approach to HIV and AIDS.



ZARAN Executive Director Mwendela delivering her speech at the 2010 World AIDS day commemoration

She said the rights-based approach offered the most comprehensive approach for ensuring universal access.

"This is because the rights-based approach promotes the building of strong legal and policy frameworks for guiding the HIV response. The approach seeks to address the root causes or underlying vulnerabilities of marginalised people in accessing prevention, treatment, care and support. The approach seeks to address rights violations that impede access. Very importantly, the rights-based approach provides a framework for accountability," said

Mrs. Mwendela.

United Nations Resident Coordinator Kanni Wignaraja stated that, globally, HIV infections had been reduced by 20 percent. She said only 15% of Zambians knew their HIV

status, and called for more awareness, counseling and testing and improved access to treatment. Other speeches were given by Miss Kalulu, Luangwa Constituency Member of Parliament, and Provincial Minister for Lusaka Mr. Charles Shawa and Larry Marum, representing the United States government.

Outside the main hall, ZARAN and other organisations exhibited informative and educative material and products. ZARAN displayed and distributed its AIDS Law manual, newsletters, clinic brochures and posters.

The 2010 commemorations took place at a time of major setbacks in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Reports on misappropriation of funds from Global Fund and reported drug shortages and stock-outs on some essential tuberculosis and HIV antiretroviral drugs created a sad atmosphere for the commemorations.

This scenario led some activists to disrupt Mr Shawa's speech as they chanted slogans and waved screaming placards about their right to health, to treatment, care and support and the right to correct information about treatment.

Though much has been done in the HIV response in Zambia, the demonstration by the activists sent a clear indication that more needs to be done to ensure the right to universal access is firmly promoted and protected. The activists couldn't have picked a better day than WAD to air their views and highlight challenges in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Young adults express their views on universal access

By Chenda Miselo

On 9th December 2010, ZARAN held an awards ceremony for its annual essay competition for young people. At the ceremony, held at the Court Yard Hotel in Lusaka, eight promising Zambians were given prizes for their essays.

The title of the essay competition was 'Universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support is a fundamental human right for people living with HIV and AIDS.'

ZARAN received over 70 essays from young adults aged between 14 and 19. The essays were carefully scrutinized by three judges and three of the best were picked.

The overall winner of the competition was 17-year-old Carol Muyabala of Mpika who walked away with an LG Laptop. The second prize was scooped by Lusaka's Richard Lungu, who won a video camera, and the third prize, a Nokia cell phone, went to Roberto Hankolwe of Mazabuka.

ZARAN also recognized five other entrants who made an effort by giving them consolation prizes. These were Chileshe Mbewe, Simon

Kabwela, Chunga, Lukela Kulula, Peter Sichinsambwe, and Elizabeth Chunda. They were each presented with a school bag and a calculator.

Speaking after she got her award, Carol, a double orphan, said she was motivated to take part in the competition because she was affected by HIV and AIDS. In a moving testimony, Carol told of how she had lost both parents and a sibling to HIV and AIDS.

She attributed her family's lack of access to treatment and support to fear of stigma and discrimination.

Carol thanked ZARAN for holding an essay competition which encouraged young people to express their views on important matters.

"I lost my mum, dad and a sibling to HIV and AIDS. I saw this essay competition as an opportunity to express my views on this issue as it has affected me greatly," said Carol.

She appealed to the government and other stakeholders to look at universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support as a

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- syrup formulations to adults
 - stop politicizing the health of people living with HIV and AIDS
 - explains to PLWHIV what would happen if treatment failure developed
 - remembers that there was no third line treatment available in the country
 - introduces a minimum re-ordering system of all essential drugs in health centres
 - to show PLWHIV the stringent measures put in place to minimize further misuse, mismanagement, misapplication and misappropriation of funds meant for health
- Concerned civil society organisations have since met with the Health Permanent Secretary Dr Peter Mwaba.

In its position, the Ministry of Health stated that the rationing of tuberculosis and antiretroviral drugs would soon come to an end. Ministry of Health Spokesperson Dr Rueben Mbewe said some of the issues raised regarding the drugs were resolved following a meeting held on 3 February between PLWHIV and Dr Mwaba.

According to the Ministry, 100,000 bottles of Neviripine arrived in the country on 3 February and another batch of 140,000 would be arriving later in February. The Ministry stated that another consignment for the next seven months was expected soon.

The Ministry stated that the idea of rationing was aimed at allowing every person to have at least some medication. It stated that the shortage of Streptomycin was still global and the government was still awaiting the consignment it ordered.



2010 ZARAN Essay Competition winner Carol Muyabala (far left) and the runners-up

News in Brief

Outrage as minister suggests isolating HIV-positive people

AIDS activists are demanding a full apology from a Kenyan cabinet minister who recently suggested that isolating HIV-positive people may be the way to eradicate the pandemic.

"In Cuba, when President [Fidel] Castro was still very strong, anybody who was tested with HIV and AIDS was actually locked somewhere and once you went in, you did not come out," said Esther Murugi, minister for special programmes, on 28 January at a meeting with members of parliament on HIV/AIDS. "I don't know whether we should be that drastic or what we should do. But sometimes I think, maybe that is what we should do so that those who are ill are locked in."

Kenya's National AIDS Control Council falls under the Ministry of Special Programmes.

<http://www.plusnews.org>

UGANDA: Murder of gay activist "needs urgent investigation"

Gay Ugandans say they are living in fear after the murder of David Kato, a prominent gay activist who opposed the Anti-Homosexuality Bill submitted to parliament in 2009. Police say no suspects have been arrested and the motive for Kato's murder remains unclear.

<http://www.plusnews.org>

Vatican hosts AIDS prevention, care conference

The Vatican will host an international conference in May on preventing AIDS and caring for those afflicted with it amid continued confusion over its position concerning condoms as a way to prevent HIV transmission.

The Vatican's Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers also said Thursday it was working on a set of guidelines for Catholic doctors, nurses and others who care for people with HIV and AIDS. Pope Benedict XVI made headlines late last year when he said in a book interview that someone, such as a male prostitute, who uses a condom to prevent HIV transmission might be showing a first sign of a more moral sexuality because he is looking out for the welfare of another person.

The comments set off a flurry of confusion about whether the pope was justifying condom use in a break with church doctrine opposing contraception. The Vatican insisted he was not.

http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/feb/3/vatican-hosts-aids-prevention-care-conference/?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS



ZARAN staff sharing secret friend presents at the end of year Dinner

Bye Bye 2010

After a lot of hard work in 2010, the ZARAN team needed a special way to mark the end of the year and look forward to 2011. It was in this spirit that ZARAN held a dinner for its members of staff and Board members at Lusaka's Rhapsody's Restuarant. Members of staff exchanged Christmas gifts with their 'secret' friends whom they had picked a couple of months earlier.

It was an atmosphere of great laughter and sharing among friends, looking back at the ups and downs of 2010 and looking forward to 2011.

Well done ZARAN Team!

Young adults express their views on universal access

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fundamental human right for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

The event was graced by United Nations Development Programme Deputy Resident Representative Dr Rosemary Kumwenda as guest of honour and Mandevu Member of Parliament Jean Kapata. ZARAN's Board Chairperson Eddie Mwitwa also graced the event.

Winning essays will be compiled into an Essay Booklet that will be distributed to schools and members of the public.

Lweendo Mbulo is 21 years old and living with HIV.

She has been living with HIV for the past two years. She found out about her HIV positive status after getting tested at a mobile testing centre while in the second term of Grade 12.

"I wanted to know my status. I had been uncomfortable about myself and wanted to be at peace. I somehow expected a positive result," she says.

"I was devastated despite me expecting it. I didn't know what to do or what to think. I hid this news from my parents for about three months. I couldn't tell anyone."

Lweendo suspects she may have contracted the virus from a boyfriend who died a few years ago.

Lweendo says her parents were shocked about the news but advised her on how to take care of herself.

"I told my best friend about my status, but she thought I was just joking and told me to be serious. Am a funny person so most people don't take me seriously. I told her it was not a laughing matter and that it was serious. She accepted and told me to take care of myself."

Many children and young adults living with HIV sometimes suffer in silence, not knowing where to go for support, treatment and other HIV-related services.

They are also unaware that access to these services is a right that should be protected and respected.

Children living with HIV have the right to information, to education, to play freely and to work on completion of their education.

"I can say I was a child when I found out my status. Children with HIV should be treated no different from others. They should access treatment, care and support," Lweendo says.

She says people need to be educated on human rights because many do not understand them.

"Some people understand these rights, that they need to be protected, but there are others that don't. We need to educate these that don't on the rights of children living with HIV and AIDS," she says.

Lweendo says people should not mistreat children who are living with HIV and AIDS.

21 and Living with HIV



"If I had a chance to meet the President, I would ask him to ensure that children living with HIV have access to child-friendly services" Lweendo Mbulo.

"I sometimes face stigma in my community. Some people laugh at me and say 'kanayaka', meaning 'you're sick', because I've lost some weight, but I just ignore them or I tell them it's OK even if I'm sick".

"People need to take time and understand this disease. There are laws that protect us now so we should be treated like everybody else."

Despite HIV being a manageable disease there are still many people who do not want to test.

Reasons vary from being afraid to test due to misinformation about the test, being afraid of reactions from relatives and stigma and discrimination.

Lweendo says most people are afraid to test because they are afraid of what their loved ones will think and how they will act towards them.

"I would like to encourage people, no matter how old you are, to get tested because the earlier you know about your status, the better. Those living with HIV should not be afraid but use themselves as a tool to

encourage others to test as well."

Lweendo is in an NZP+ youth organisation called 'Young Ambassadors' which speaks for the voiceless and sensitises people on HIV and AIDS.

Lweendo says if she had a chance to speak to His Excellency President Rupiah Banda, she would ask him to ensure that children living with HIV have access to child-friendly services.

ZARAN would like to emphasize the need to protect the right to access child friendly services that are responsive to the needs of HIV positive children. They have the right to services including: a full range of accessible and affordable services; privacy; confidentiality; to be treated with dignity and respect; to be treated by people who are trained and knowledgeable; and to access the continuum of care. These services are either very few or virtually non-existent in Zambia but efforts need to be targeted at creating such services for children and young people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

Features

Looking Back at 2010

By Malala Mwondela

The close of a year always presents an opportunity for reflection on what has gone by and anticipation of what is to come. The year 2010 was filled with many significant events as far as HIV, AIDS and human rights are concerned. As ZARAN, we pause to share some of our thoughts on 2010 and our hopes for 2011.

Realisation of Rights

One of the most important events of the year was the judgment in the case of Stanley Kingaibe & Charles Chokoole Vs The Attorney General. The case, which was litigated by Mr. Paul Mulenga of the Legal Resources Foundation, was first reported to ZARAN in 2005.

The two ex-service men alleged that they were tested for HIV and put on anti-retroviral drugs without their consent. They further alleged that they were dismissed on the basis of their HIV status. In passing judgment, though she did not find that the two gentlemen were dismissed on the basis of their HIV, Judge Elizabeth Muyovwe did find that they were tested without their consent. She ruled that mandatory HIV testing was a violation of human rights as provided for in the constitution. This case, the first of its kind in Zambia, has set precedence in promoting the rights of people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS. This case was a victory for people living with HIV and all who are involved in HIV work.

HIV Legal & Policy Environment

A major development in the HIV sector was the development of the new National HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework (NASF 2011-2015). The NASF provides strategic policy and technical guidance for the implementation of the multi-sectoral and decentralised HIV and AIDS response in Zambia. Of particular interest is the prominence

of the human rights approach in the document. The first guiding principle of the NASF is the “adoption of a human rights approach”. In seeking to create an enabling policy and legal environment, the following priority strategies are to be implemented:

- i. Advocate for the review of existing policies and laws to mainstream HIV and AIDS in the context of human rights
- ii. Create public awareness of issues related to stigma and discrimination, and legal barriers that prevent most at risk populations accessing and utilising services adequately
- iii. Develop the capacity of civil society to monitor the environment
- iv. Advocate for the implementation of the CRC and CEDAW
- v. Ensure human rights are adequately addressed to reduce stigma and discrimination, and to promote the dignity of PLHIV and MARPS
- vi. Address gender inequality, gender-based violence and exploitation of women and the girl child.



The NASF provides a platform for addressing HIV using a rights-based approach. ZARAN looks forward to the roll out of this framework and will do its best to contribute to creating an enabling environment.

HIV Champions Visit

In October 2010, Zambia was graced with a visit by the “Champions for an HIV-free Generation”. These are former heads of state and other high-level African leaders seeking to provide stronger, more visionary and outspoken leadership. The Champions for an HIV-free generation are a group of highly visible leaders and outspoken advocates for those affected and infected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The champions emphasised prevention practices and embraced and promoted key policy, legal, cultural and behavioural practices and messages that help accelerate the social outcomes needed to achieve an HIV-free generation.

The champions made headlines in October when former Botswana president His Excellency Mr. Festus Mogae spoke to His Excellency

Mr. Rupiah Banda about the need to involve sex workers and men who have sex with men in efforts to prevent and fight against HIV and AIDS. He noted that homosexuality was a sensitive issue in most countries but there was no need to criminalise it.

In his response President Banda is quoted as saying “Up to now, I don’t understand why we should tolerate homosexuality. So it is difficult to think whether we should have laws or not to permit homosexuality in our society. But looking at the position of the champions you can understand why first, we should not criminalise them.”

Given their emphasis on prevention, the champions merely highlighted an issue that is already articulated in the new National HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework (NASF 2011-2015). In order to reduce the rate of new HIV infections, all sources of possible infection and vulnerability to infection must be addressed in one way or the other, so while subjects such as men having sex with men (in and outside

of prison) and sex workers may be very emotive, we cannot afford to turn a blind eye.

Poor Accountability for Global Funds

One of the saddest developments in the year was the release of the Global Fund’s Office of the Inspector General’s report on the audit of Global Fund grants to Zambia. Serious incidents of abuse and misuse were discovered in the principle recipient organisations, with Zambia topping a list of four countries in which similar findings were reported. This has contributed to the eroding of confidence by donors and the general public in the systems for management of funds as well as in the people who are managing these funds.

ZARAN and other members of civil society bemoaned this situation and the potential effects such as reduced funding which would ultimately disadvantage the ordinary Zambian. The continued abuse of funds for health and HIV must not be allowed to continue. The challenge is for the

government to ensure more funding for health and proper systems to ensure accountability. As Zambians we also have a duty to demand transparency and accountability.

Looking Forward

As we look into 2011, we want to see a national HIV response that is evidence based, that protects the rights of people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS and where the value for the dollar is beyond reasonable doubt. Such a response will entail dealing with difficult subjects such as sex and sexuality, breaking away from the ‘business as usual’ approach to the HIV response and fostering a strong and vibrant civil society.

The rights-based approach which is so clearly articulated in our national documents must be moved beyond rhetoric; only then will we begin to halt and reverse the spread of HIV in Zambia.

Show us the Money for Health

By Malala Mwondela

In October 2010, the Office of the Inspector General of the Global Fund released a report on the audit of its grants to Zambia. In each of the principle recipients (the Zambia National AIDS Network -ZNAN, Churches Health Association of Zambia - CHAZ, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance and National Planning) and sub-recipients, the audit identified significant financial management and control weaknesses, episodes of misappropriation and fraud, and losses of grants which called for reimbursements.

The report came at a time when the Global Fund was struggling and continues to struggle to meet the US\$20 billion target for the next three years and needed to demonstrate results and value for money. The Swedish government withheld close to US \$ 85 million from the global fund on account of misuse of funds in some countries .

In January 2011, Germany, the third largest donor to the fund, suspended its annual payment of more than 200,000 million Euros on account of the allegations of corruption. Jon Liden, a spokesman for the Global Fund, confirmed to the BBC that the misuse of some \$34 million had been uncovered in nine countries by the fund's own inspector

general, following investigations in 33 of the 145 countries the fund is active in.

He said the most grievous instances of fraud had been found in Mali, Mauritania, Djibouti and Zambia - but said in three of those cases it was the fund's own regular audits which picked up the irregularities, and that they had been made public over previous months by the fund itself.

ZARAN and other members of civil society will continue to call for accountability and transparency in the use of funding for health and HIV. Fortunately, many partners as well as the Global Fund have continued to provide funding to Zambia despite these problems. In Zambia, many of those who are responsible for the misappropriation or those under whose clock it occurred, have retained their positions and

business has continued as usual. What is needed in some cases is a complete overhaul of individuals and systems. No prosecutions have been reported in the instances where fraud was discovered.

ZARAN welcomes the Global Fund's move to increase its capacity against fraud and expects the same and even more from the four principle recipients.

The future of funding for health and particular for TB, HIV and malaria largely depends on how the Global Fund and recipient countries respond to the misuse

highlighted by report as well as to those who have allowed or facilitated the misuse.

Showing us the money for health not only means bringing the money in but making it work for our people. What has been happening in Zambia is unacceptable and those that have allowed misuse of funds meant for the benefit of poor Zambians will one day have to account.

In Zambia, attempts to minimise the damage from the report included statements by some of our leaders that the report was not as bad as it seemed and that Zambia was not the only country with a bad report. Such utterances reveal a lack of appreciation of the gravity of the situation. Many people risk losing their lives on account of reduced funding for health.

A chance to comment on global AIDS response

By Malala Mwendela

2011 will be a time of much-needed reflection on the global HIV response.

A comprehensive review of the AIDS response is scheduled to take place in June 2011.

The meeting will review the progress on the implementation of the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment (DoC) on HIV/AIDS, adopted by all UN Member States in 2001, and the Political Declaration on AIDS adopted in 2006.

The DoC provided a comprehensive framework for halting and reversing the HIV and AIDS epidemic by 2010 and gave rise to the universal access campaign which was meant to scale up access to prevention, treatment, care and support. Countries have been reporting progress every two years, with the last report in 2010.

The UN Secretary General's Report of 2010 indicates that though there has been progress - an increase in the number of people who are able to access life- saving drugs and a reduction in infection rates in some parts of the world -- "the progress has not been sufficient to profoundly alter the course of the epidemic". Taking the example of human rights, the DoC based the response on the realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. However, stigma and discrimination against people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS still exist

and many countries still have punitive laws that undermine the efforts to prevent new infections. Women and girls continue to be the targets of abuse that makes them vulnerable to HIV infection.

In terms of funding, the UN report indicates that in order to achieve

The upcoming review is therefore critical in order to name the gaps, renew commitment and chart the way forward for the global AIDS response. Countries like Zambia must do an honest review of the things that need to be done in order to alter the course of the epidemic. Zambia has been

reporting consistently on the UNGASS and many of the gaps are clearly articulated. The challenge is to now action many of the recommendations .

ICASO, international and regional secretariats and sub-regional partners are working with national partners in 15 countries to support the community sector to document, provide critical analysis, and undertake policy dialogue for accountability on achieving universal access commitments. The review is based around participatory action research. Findings will be compiled into a global report, which will be launched at the 2011 review.

As Zambians, and civil society in particular, we must

make it a point to participate in the national reviews in whatever form or shape they take. This is an opportunity to influence the course of the response and consequently the quality of life of Zambian people. ZARAN will keep you informed of related events and processes.

To receive more information email PaulineHG@icaso.org



The UNGASS Declaration of Commitment (DoC) on HIV/AIDS Meeting in New York

universal access, the annual investment into HIV must reach \$ 25.1bn which is roughly 40% more than the total investments made in 2008. Funds continue to dwindle, with donors changing priorities and the Global Fund, the biggest source of funding for TB, HIV and malaria, not able to mobilize the required resources.



ZARAN staff and members at the 2010 World's AIDS at the Olympic youth development center

AIDSLaw Clinic

If you feel you have suffered discrimination as a result of your actual or perceived HIV status, you are welcome to visit the ZARAN AIDSLaw Clinic. You will be received and attended to by a friendly and helpful team of legal

professionals and their paralegal officers.

The clinic is found at ZARAN's offices at 22 Katemo Road, Rhodes Park, Lusaka and is open at the following times:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Morning: 0900 - 1300

Afternoon: 1400 - 1600

Disclaimer

All the information in this publication is verified to the best of the publisher's ability. However, ZARAN does not accept responsibility for any inaccuracies and loss arising from reliance on it.

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Get in touch

Please keep your letters flowing to the Editor's desk. Feel free to share your experiences, views and thoughts with us.

We very much enjoy reading about what you are doing in response to HIV and AIDS

and what you think about the newsletter.

If you have any stories related to HIV and AIDS and human rights that you think we should cover please get in touch.

You can email the editor on zaran@zantel.zm or post letters to ZARAN, P.O.Box 39088, Lusaka. www.zaran.org

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'A rights-based approach to HIV and AIDS'