



December 2005

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World YWCA News

Christmas Greetings. Christmas greetings to all of our members, friends and partners around the world from the Executive Committee, staff and volunteers of the World YWCA. We wish you a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and look forward to working with you in 2006 to make the world a better place for everyone.



World AIDS Day 2005: Call for Greater Investment in Women's Solutions.

On World AIDS Day, December 1, 2005 the World YWCA hosted a lunchtime panel discussion focused on investing in women's solutions to the AIDS pandemic in Geneva, Switzerland. Speaking on the panel, Gillian Holmes from the UNAIDS Global Coalition on Women and AIDS highlighted that AIDS is becoming an increasingly female crisis despite low risk behaviour by women. She said, "In Asia one of the most salient risk factors for women is marriage. Basing HIV prevention on behaviour change is difficult, especially the way we do it today. The ABC method is completely gender blind." Ms Holmes also urged the audience to stop portraying women as victims and men as evil perpetrators, but rather to recognise men as important partners in the quest for gender equality, and women as solution providers. Stressing the importance of investing in women's solutions to HIV/AIDS, Ms Holmes called for 50 cents of every dollar



Recent Web News

- [WTO Conference: Churches Stand for Justice](#)
- [Equal Access to AIDS Prevention and Treatment](#)
- [Call for Rapid Distribution of Female Condom](#)

Key Dates

- **February 14-19**, World Council of Churches Assembly, Porto-Alegre
- **February 27-March 10**, UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York
- **March 8**, International Women's Day

Africa YWCAs at ICASA. A delegation from eight African countries represented the World YWCA at the 14th International Conference on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA), which opened on

available for AIDS work to be devoted to women and girls' solutions.

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Push for Economic Justice at WTO Ministerial Conference.

Coinciding with the 6th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation, Clarissa Balan from the World YWCA participated in an international ecumenical women's forum on Life-Promoting Trade, from December 12-14, 2005 in Hong Kong. The Forum brought together women theologians, feminist economists, activists, NGO representatives and students aiming to strengthen the capacity of women to engage in discourse on WTO policies through exchange and partnership. Forum participants

affirmed women's commitment to a "holistic and people-centered approach to development" and "life-promoting trade" that "embraces the concept of food sovereignty, demands corporate accountability, the valuing of women's work and gender equality." [Read the full report](#) from World YWCA representative, Clarissa Balan.

Governance Taskforce Update. The World Executive Committee has circulated a final draft of the revised World YWCA Constitution to member associations for review and feedback, which is also available from the Members Pages of the World YWCA website. This draft has incorporated input from the extensive consultation process conducted over 2005, which resulted in over 250 responses, including official responses from 65 national associations. The Governance Taskforce and Executive Committee extend its thanks to all of the associations, groups, volunteers and staff who participated in this process.

The Executive Committee will take input on the final draft until March 27, 2006, before preparing a final Revised Constitution to be distributed in June 2006 and presented for a vote at the Extraordinary World Council Meeting in Nairobi, July 2007. This vote will be taken in two parts, separating the voting on the Preamble, Basis and Purpose from the rest of the Revised Constitution. No amendments will be accepted at the Council meeting, so it is important that associations provide feedback on the final draft, [using the feedback form](#) and indicating whether they accept or reject the current draft and providing any additional comments. For more information and an [overview of the final draft](#), visit the [members pages](#).

December 4, 2005 in Abuja, Nigeria. The conference, which is held every two years, attracts hundreds of international health experts to explore how best to tackle the AIDS epidemic on the African continent. Issues such as making better use of available funding and coordinating work across sectors are key on the agenda.

In partnership with UNIFEM and Help Age International, the World YWCA was involved in a roundtable on HIV/AIDS and care work in Africa, which aimed to highlight the increasing burden falling on women to care and support family and community members affected by AIDS and share good practices. Members of the World YWCA delegation were also involved in pre-ICASA skills building workshops for young people and women living with HIV/AIDS in West Africa, as well as a round table on women living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. The delegation, which was led by the World YWCA's Programme Director for Africa, Helene Yinda, included representatives from Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leon, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Common Concern: Special AIDS Edition.



The latest Common Concern includes a special focus on the World YWCA's work on Women and AIDS. In an interview, General Secretary, Musimbi Kanyoro reflects on five years of progress in mobilising the YWCA's resources and vast networks in the fight against the pandemic. Programmes that are making an impact at the grassroots are highlighted through Around the Globe including peer counselling in Botswana, the child-headed households programme in Rwanda, community based care in Uganda and information and education in Albania. In Young Women on the Move, three positive young women share their ideas for reducing rising HIV infection rates among their peers. This edition also includes an overview of the World YWCA's Global Strategy on Women and AIDS, global partnerships and relevant resources. [Download the latest edition.](#)

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