



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release: Friday, 21 July 2006

People affected by HIV to march for representation

On Saturday 29 July, hundreds of people are expected to march through central Lusaka to demand better representation for people living with HIV and AIDS.

The march will be the first AIDS march in Zambia organised by people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHA), with the march organised through the Treatment, Advocacy and Literacy Campaign (TALC).

TALC member and march organiser, Felix Mwanza, said: "This march has come up because of increased demand from people living with HIV and AIDS who feel they are being left out in most of the things the government is doing concerning their health.

"They saw it fit to march so they can advance their demands, hoping that the government and any other player involved in the fight against HIV and AIDS will respond accordingly."

TALC agreed to organise the march after its June meeting where more than 80 people living with HIV and AIDS demanded a march to raise awareness and make HIV an election issue.

TALC has more than 100 member organisations who join together to lobby for equitable, affordable and sustainable access to treatment, care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS.

Everyone who has been affected by HIV and AIDS is encouraged to attend the march, and those who have lost family or friends are welcome to bring photos of their loved ones to commemorate them during the march.

People interested in joining the march can gather at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Rhodespark from 9 hours on Saturday, July 29 and the march will begin at 10.30 hours.

The marchers will walk down Independence Ave, past the National AIDS Council, and then u-turn and march back to the Lusaka National Museum for a rally at 12 hours. People living with HIV and AIDS will speak at the rally about their experiences and demands.

More...

A full list of demands from people living with HIV and AIDS will be released at a press conference on Thursday. Further details will be available early next week.

The march has been organised with very limited funds and we ask the media to support PLHA and run announcements about the march.

Media contacts: TALC members, who are people living with HIV and AIDS are available for media comment by contacting Melissa Hein on 097173381 or Felix Mwanza on 097565644.

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TALC is lobbying for equitable, affordable and sustainable access to HIV treatment, care and support for all people living with HIV and AIDS. Please support TALC today.