



For Immediate Release
July 1, 2002

Media Contacts

In Barcelona – Naina Dhingra, +011.34.617799406

naina@advocatesforyouth.org

In Washington, DC: Yolande Veron-Sullivan, +1.703.516.9779 x211

yveronsullivan@fhi.org

MORE YOUTH VOICES EQUAL FEWER HIV INFECTIONS

Youth Activists Partner with Peter Piot, Sandra L. Thurman, Stephen Lewis, and Her Royal Highness Princess Rattna-Devi Norodom of Cambodia to Raise Youth Visibility

Washington, DC (July 1, 2002)- Global leaders on HIV/AIDS will team up with youth activists from around the world under the banner of the **Barcelona YouthForce** at the 12th International AIDS Conference from July 6 to July 12, 2002. "In every country where HIV transmission has been reduced, the most spectacular reductions have occurred among young people. Involving youth at every level will lead to further reductions. Efforts such as the **Barcelona YouthForce** are examples of strong partnerships with youth," said Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS. "If we are to break the back of the pandemic, it will be achieved by the youth," said Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS. The **Barcelona YouthForce** is a historic event marking the first time young people and adult allies have organized together to highlight the importance of increasing youth voices at an International AIDS Conference. "Young people have been at the forefront of fighting the global AIDS pandemic. It is time to give us a voice," said Naina Dhingra, Barcelona YouthForce co-coordinator.

The **Barcelona YouthForce** will hold three events open to the press:

- **YouthForce Rally and Reception**

Sunday, July 7th, 14:00 – 16:00; Hotel Barcelo Sants, Pl dels Paisos Catalans s/n. (Metro: Estacio Barcelona Sants)

Youth activists with Sandra L. Thurman, President, International AIDS Trust, Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS, Her Royal Highness Princess Rattna-Devi Norodom of Cambodia, Peter Piot, Executive Director, UNAIDS, and MTV Spain will rally the crowd before the opening ceremony of the conference.

- **YouthForce Press Conference: "Where are the Youth?"**

Monday, July 8th, 15:00 to 16:00, Barcelona Three, Media Center, Fira de Barcelona

Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS, Sandra L. Thurman, President, International AIDS Trust, Lydiah Bosire, Barcelona YouthForce co-coordinator, and Ralph Jager, Coordinator of Young Positive section of HIV Association of Netherlands, and Her Royal Highness Princess Rattna-Devi Norodom of Cambodia will join together to call for more youth involvement and youth/adult partnerships to stem the tide of the AIDS pandemic.

- **YouthForce Press Conference: "More Youth Voices Equal Fewer HIV Infections"**

Wednesday, July 10th, 15:00 to 16:00, Barcelona Three, Media Center, Fira de Barcelona

Scott H. Evertz, Director, Office of National AIDS Policy (USA) joins a diverse group of youth activists from industrialized and developing countries, HIV positive and non-positive, to share experiences and personal stories working on the frontlines of fighting global AIDS.

LEAD ORGANIZERS INCLUDE:

Advocates for Youth
Student Global AIDS Campaign
Youth Against AIDS
The YOUTHNET Program

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MAJOR FUNDING FOR THE BARCELONA YOUTHFORCE:

Advocates for Youth
With funding from the Centers for
Disease Control & Prevention
(CDC)

The YOUTHNET Program,
Coordinated by Family Health
International (FHI) with funding
from the U.S. Agency for
International Development
(USAID)

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OTHER FINANCIAL OR IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE FROM:

UNAIDS Task Inter-Agency Task
Team on Youth and HIV/AIDS
(UNAIDS Secretariat, UNFPA,
UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNDCP,
UNESCO, WHO, ILO, The World Bank)

International AIDS Trust

Program for Appropriate
Technology in Health (PATH)

MTV/Spain

Save the Children

YouthNOISE

The Spanish Youth Council

The Catelon Youth Council

Johns Hopkins University Center
for Communication Programs
(JHU/CCP)

PACT

Pan American Health Organization
(PAHO)

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

International Planned Parenthood
Federation (IPPF)

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CO-SPONSORS INCLUDE:

The Catalan Youth Council
The Futures Group International
Center for Development and
Population Activities (CEDPA)
Africa Alive
Red2002 - Spanish AIDS NGO
Network
Management Sciences for Health
(MSH)
Population Services International
(PSI)
Youth Coalition
African Youth Alliance
Thai Youth AIDS Project