

National Environmental Lawyers Association (NELA)
E-bulletin

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HIV/AIDS: Stand up for the challenge. It's everyone's responsibility
- The Regional Campaign Theme and Slogan

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About this e-bulletin

We have launched an informative e-bulletin with a view of providing our valued readers an access to our bi-monthly activities. The bulletin includes materials on HIV/AIDS including articles, reports, real life stories of peoples with HIV/AIDS and activities of NELA in this bulletin. As we are advocating for the rights of HIV/AIDS infected peoples, our information will mainly focus on this issue.

We hope to satisfy our readers with our information. Furthermore, we hope to get co-operation from our readers.

We look forward to hearing from you for suggestions and feedbacks to make our bulletin more informative, effective and promising.

Introduction to NELA

NELA is a Non-profitable organization established by a group of legal professionals on 2002. At the very beginning NELA had worked on the Environmental sector whereas from last two years it has been effectively advocating on the issue of HIV/AIDS through a separate HIV/AIDS unit within the Association.

NELA is an only organization of lawyers, advocating for the rights of HIV/AIDS infected and affected peoples. It has been preparing skilled human resources to work in the area of HIV/AIDS through out the nation. After completion of successful project on "treat equally to HIV/AIDS infected", Since October 2005, NELA has been working on the project "Addressing Human Rights in Face of HIV" which is funded by Action Aid Nepal.

Statistics of AIDS infected

The study has shown that 37.5% reported HIV infected among high risk groups. The total number of reported HIV positive cases in Nepal has more than doubled in the past three years (2665 in Jan 2003 to 5898 in Jan 2006) yet the official estimation remains the same to 60,000. The highest number of reported cases in a single month indicates that there is an increasing number of people getting tested. This probably has to do with increased number of VCT sites across the country compared to earlier years. However what is significant that out of the average of 500 people tested in December, 188 are HIV positive (37.5%). The UNGASS report says the 2005 policy project service coverage study reports 50 sites provided by government and NGOs have reached approximately 5,900 people from the high-risk groups. The National AIDS strategy

projected the estimated cases to reach anywhere between 120,000 to 180,000 by the end of 2005.

AIDS status of Nepal as of January 31 , 2006

HIV + ve	5988
AIDS	972
Death	292

Source: Nava Kiran Plus and NCASC

Women and HIV/AIDS

Almost half of the adults living with HIV and AIDS today are women. Over the past two years, the number of women and girls infected with HIV has increased in every region of the world, with rates rising particularly rapidly in Eastern Europe, Asia, and Latin America. In sub-Saharan Africa, women and girls already make up almost 60% of adults living with HIV.

Launched by UNAIDS in early 2004, the **Global Coalition on Women and AIDS** works at global and national levels to highlight the effects of AIDS on women and girls and to stimulate concrete and effective action to prevent the spread of HIV. Coalition partners seek to address some of the fundamental gender inequalities that fuel the epidemic. Efforts are focused on preventing new HIV infections, promoting equal access to care and treatment, ensuring universal access to education, addressing legal inequities, reducing violence against women, and valuing women's care work within communities.

Guiding Principles

The six principles that guide the Global Coalition are:

- Women are leaders in many areas of the AIDS response but too often interventions are not adapted to their realities leaving them at greater risk of HIV infection and at a disadvantage when it comes to coping with AIDS.
- Many women who are infected or at risk of becoming infected do not practice high-risk behaviors but are frequently married or in a monogamous relationship. They are vulnerable largely because of the behavior of others, through their limited autonomy and external factors, including social and economic inequities beyond their control.
- Women living with HIV and AIDS make a unique contribution to tackling the spread of HIV and fighting AIDS.
- Women are not victims. Their vulnerability does not stem from inherent physical or psychological weaknesses. Their resilience in the face of hardship and difficulty must be recognized and strengthened.
- Men and boys and wider communities must be encouraged to fulfill their potential as positive forces for change in improving the situation of women and girls. Efforts to foster more equitable and respectful gender relations are essential.
- Change is possible — Factors that make women and girls more vulnerable to HIV infection can be changed — if sufficient attention, commitment, and resources are invested.

Where you can get medication/counseling

- TEKU Hospital
- Sparsha Nepal, Chobar (Sunday & Tuesday)

Millennium Development Goals and HIV/AIDS

The UN General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000 provisioned following concepts and promises to work towards HIV/AIDS.

· **To have, by then, halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity.**

· **To provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.**

Contact us for:

Legal Consultancy
Advocacy
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Awareness raising

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