

1 - Introduction

Welcome to the Student Stop Aids Societies guide! We've put this guide together to help you make the most out of your group. Remember that these are only our suggestions, so we won't be offended if you have other ideas!

We will be in contact with you throughout the year, but if you have any questions please e-mail us at spwnetwork@gn.apc.org or call us on 0207 222 0138.

Why should you campaign to stop AIDS?

The global AIDS pandemic represents the greatest moral and political challenge to our generation.

Imagine yourself in someone else's shoes, someone just like you...

- Imagine waking up one morning to discover that a third of all your friends have an incurable disease which will kill them within ten years.
- Imagine living in a country where life expectancy has fallen by 20 years to only 33 as the result of a preventable virus.
- Imagine a situation where every child in Britain has lost their parents because they don't have access to life-prolonging treatment.

The AIDS crisis:

Today's young people have inherited a lethal legacy that is killing them and their friends, their brothers, sisters, parents, teachers and role models. There are 42 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS. That's one in every 150 people.



What needs to be done?

Saving lives through prevention and treatment will not require new breakthroughs in technology, but rather breakthroughs in political will. A global response to AIDS requires effective prevention, treatment and community support.

What are we doing? – The role of Stop AIDS Societies

As a member of a Stop AIDS Society (and as part of the Stop AIDS Campaign) you will be working with other student and young people's organisations to raise awareness of this crisis and campaign for change.

To learn more about the AIDS crisis, please see the SPW Campaigns webpage and the Stop AIDS Campaign website at www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk

What is Student Stop AIDS?

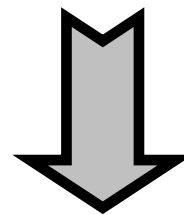
Student Stop AIDS is an initiative of the **Stop AIDS Campaign**. It aims to educate and inform young people in order to mobilise their energy and commitment to stop AIDS. **Student Stop AIDS** launched at 13 universities in September 2003 and seeks to build a new social movement of young people as the key agents of change.

How does it all fit together?

UK CONSORTIUM ON AIDS & INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Consortium represents international development NGOs, academic institutions, and government agencies. Within the consortium they work together to understand and mitigate the impact of AIDS in developing countries.

For the Student Stop AIDS campaign, the consortium provides invaluable expertise because each agency brings its experience & knowledge to help all members improve their response to the epidemic.



STOP AIDS CAMPAIGN

Working with such highly recognised organisations adds credibility to the Student Stop AIDS Campaign and gives us a powerful voice to achieve much more.

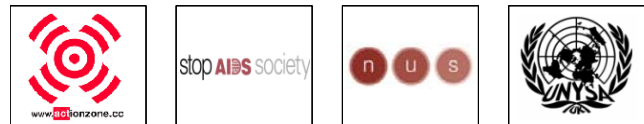
The Stop AIDS Campaign is an initiative of the UK Consortium on AIDS & International Development, bringing together over 70 of the UK's leading HIV/AIDS and development

groups. It works to raise awareness in the UK about the global HIV/AIDS epidemic and to campaign for urgently scaled up international action.

STUDENT STOP AIDS CAMPAIGN

The Student Stop AIDS Campaign is an initiative of the Stop AIDS Campaign, using young people as the key agents of change through all our member groups.

Student Stop AIDS educates and empowers young people in order to make the most of their energy & commitment to stop AIDS. Each member organisation brings its own individual campaigning style & together we constitute an awesome force!



What do Student Stop AIDS Societies do?

SAS will undertake awareness raising activities on campus working alongside other student groups such as **MEDSIN, UNYSA, National Union of Students, ActionZone** and **People & Planet**. Societies will be responsible for mobilising students to engage in the fight against HIV/AIDS through talks, events, student media, etc.

An important additional message of the campaign will encourage students to be aware of their own behaviour and where to seek help should they need it.

SAS will also look for opportunities in their local community to engage in voluntary work. This may involve supporting sex education lessons in schools or volunteering for local HIV related organisations.

Who coordinates the action of Stop AIDS Societies?

To ensure sustainability of the campaign and to enable coordination of SAS, a support unit for the campaign will be housed at Students Partnership Worldwide (SPW). SPW UK will train representatives, provide materials and guidance and organise national level events. SPW will work with a national committee of Stop AIDS Society representatives.

Do students have a say in the running of Stop AIDS Societies?

YES! At each university, there will be a SAS representative who will be supported by a committee. Many Student Unions provide guidance about how to set up a society and how to access union funding for your activities. Whilst some events will be organised at a 'nationwide' level, the majority of events will be campus based and organised. The current Stop AIDS Societies are all different and have developed their own materials, plans for activities and ways of working.

2 - Basics – What Makes A Good Group?

It's important to think about how to make your group as effective as possible and to find a balance between getting things done and not being overloaded with jobs! You could use one of your first meetings to have a think about each of these words and to discuss amongst yourselves what **YOU** think makes a good group!

