

# HIV and Health Education e-Newsletter



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **World AIDS Day 2015: Getting to Zero. Starting with Education!**
- **UNESCO Director-General's message**
- **World AIDS Day Commemoration at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris (France)**
- **First regional HIV testing campaign in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**
- **ICASA – ESA Commitment: the Conference where it all began**
- **Gender-Based Violence: What Education can do**

## SPOTLIGHT

**Teachers Matter: Addressing school bullying, violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression in Asia-Pacific**

A trusted teacher can be a lifeline of support for a young learner subjected to bullying or exclusion at school.

Teachers also lead by example. They have the potential to transform harmful attitudes and practices and serve as role models in the

## WORLD AIDS DAY 2015

### Getting to Zero. Starting with Education!

**World AIDS Day** – 1 December is the opportunity to raise awareness and demonstrate solidarity. **World AIDS Day 2015** is an opportune moment to take stock of progress on Millennium Development goal 6 on HIV and other diseases, and to recognize the unfinished business that must be taken forward into the post-2015 development agenda. One area of unfinished business is that adolescents and young people are all too often being left behind in the HIV response. We need to support them to increase their knowledge, develop their skills and enable them to access youth friendly services so that they can protect themselves and others.

This edition of the e-Newsletter highlights examples of projects being implemented by UNESCO offices around the world.

Please visit the [UNESCO World AIDS Day 2015 webpage](#) for additional information.

## Director-General's Message

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova highlights that "As a UNAIDS cosponsor, **UNESCO** is fully committed to the new UNAIDS Strategy 2016-2021, which places an enhanced emphasis on education and sets out a bold vision for a world where *'young people, regardless of where they live, their sexual orientation or their gender identity, have the knowledge, skills, services, rights and power to protect themselves from HIV.'*"



Full message available [here](#)

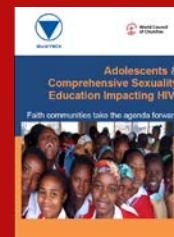
## ALSO OF INTEREST

### **Community Mobilization: Faith-based organizations for a Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

UNESCO participated in a side event during the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board that was held in October in Geneva. The event focussed on faith-based organizations (FBOs) in the HIV response.



It was recognised that after the momentum that Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) has gained from such efforts as the Eastern and Southern African (ESA) Ministerial Commitment there is increased political commitment and increased space for engagement with FBOs. This is particularly evident concerning adolescents and CSE.



Their message is clear: faith communities will take the comprehensive sexuality education agenda forward!

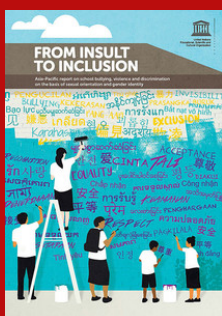
effort to create more positive and accepting learning environments.

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On World Teachers' Day, UNESCO Bangkok, with the Being LGBTI in Asia initiative, released a [new video](#) that illustrates this potential. It features heartwarming stories that demonstrate how teachers successfully create safe spaces in which all learners can thrive.

A report released by UNESCO Bangkok finds that in Asia-Pacific, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) youth are disproportionately at risk of school bullying, discrimination and violence. For them, a supportive teacher can transform their entire outlook on school and, with it, their learning outcomes and their future.



"From Insult to Inclusion: Asia-Pacific report on school bullying, violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity" is the first comprehensive regional review.

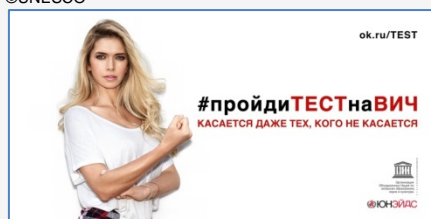
## World Aids Day 2015 Commemoration at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris (France)

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, UNESCO is cordially inviting members of the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO to a World AIDS Day commemoration titled "*Accomplishment, Success and Unfinished Business: Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030 with Education*". UNESCO speakers will review accomplishments and describe the Education Sector's contributions for ending the AIDS epidemic. The meeting will address prevention, treatment and health literacy, and stigma and discrimination. It will also feature Professor Luc Montagnier, Nobel Prize winner in Physiology or Medicine and President of the World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention.

There has been much success and many accomplishments in the global AIDS response. Since 2000, new HIV infections have fallen by 35%. In that same period the number of people on treatment has increased 20 fold to 15 million persons. And, 68 countries report non-discrimination laws for key populations. Together, these and other efforts have averted 7.8 million AIDS-related deaths since 2000. But as indicated below, there is unfinished business that must be taken forward into the post-2015 era. UNESCO is uniquely positioned to continue its leadership in this area.

## First regional HIV Testing Campaign in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

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The UNESCO Regional HIV and Health Education Programme, national governments, institutions and UN agencies in Eastern European and Central Asian (EECA) countries started in November 2015, the first regional HIV testing campaign. Supported by the UNAIDS Regional Support Team, the HIV testing campaign aims to raise public awareness about HIV and particularly about the importance of testing and its benefits. It encourages young people and adults to learn about their status. Currently in the region, it is

## International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa 2015

The biggest AIDS Conference in Africa; the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA), is being held in Harare, Zimbabwe from 29 November to 4 December. More than 10,000 delegates are expected to attend.



The convening of ICASA 2015 represents a great opportunity to highlight the diverse nature of the African region's HIV epidemic and the unique response to it particularly in the post 2015 era.

It will also be a tremendous opportunity for the education sector to reflect on their contribution towards the challenges that lie ahead for making an AIDS-free Africa a reality. In addition, the conference offers an opportunity for the education sector to share the latest innovations and curriculum reforms to provide learners with age-appropriate, scientifically accurate and culturally relevant information on sexuality education and draw on public health approaches to adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

## HIV, Life Skills and Sexuality Education in Zimbabwe Schools

This years' World AIDS Day 2015 commemoration in Zimbabwe falls during the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) 2015 and will be observed with a special session.



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## The #PurpleMySchool Campaign



#PurpleMySchool campaign making education safer for LGBTI students – Being LGBTI in Asia  
23 September 2015

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Launched in June 2015, the #PurpleMySchool is a joint initiative of UNESCO, UNDP and 'Being LGBTI in Asia'. It has quickly made an impact on the lives of young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) students across the Asia-Pacific region. Click [here](#) for further information.

## JUST PUBLISHED

### Young Key Population Briefs

UNESCO contributed to the Interagency Working Group on Key Populations to create this series of information briefs that address four young key populations. It is intended for policy-makers, donors, service-planners, service-providers and community-led organizations



[HIV and young people who inject drugs](#)



[HIV and young men who have sex with men](#)



[HIV and young transgender people](#)



[HIV and young people who sell sex](#)

estimated that one in two-three people living with HIV in EECA is unaware of their status, which has serious implications for HIV prevention and treatment. Ensuring universal access to HIV testing is a crucial step to save lives and reduce HIV transmission. The campaign also contributes to decreasing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV by disseminating solidarity messages as part of its outreach.

## ICASA – ESA Commitment: the Conference Where It All Began

Only two years ago at ICASA 2013 Ministers of Education and Health came together for the first time to affirm and endorse the landmark Eastern and Southern African (ESA) Ministerial Commitment. This year, the conference provides an opportunity to reaffirm commitments, discuss progress, and prioritize actions to implement the commitment. With the end of year approaching, countries are finalizing their reporting on important key commitment targets for 2015.

UNESCO, in partnership with UNAIDS and UNFPA, will host two sessions at ICASA 2015 on the importance of civil society and young people as key players in implementation and accountability.

To follow these sessions, please follow the Young People Today on social media: @yptcampaign or go to [www.youngpeopletoday.net](http://www.youngpeopletoday.net)

### Useful links:

Young People Today. Time to Act now [Video](#)  
Young People Today. Time to Act Now [Report](#)

## Gender-Based Violence: What Education Can Do



UNESCO, in marking the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women!, education is the theme of this year's campaign and UNESCO is proud to be participating in raising awareness to stop school-related gender-based violence and violence against women. See our news article [here](#).

The session aims to:

i) ensure an understanding of how the education system is responding to the sexual and reproductive health needs of young people; ii) share ideas for positioning and implementing sexuality education within the new curriculum; and iii) create a platform for dialogue with other sectors on how to strengthen the implementation of the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Commitment in Zimbabwe.

## Education Sector Responses to Substance Use among Children and Young People

The International Expert Meeting on Education Sector Responses to Substance Use among Children and Young People (29 September – 2 October 2015) held in Istanbul brought together experts from ministries of education and health, drug control authorities, non-governmental and civil society organizations, academics and young people from 23 countries representing several regions, and concerned UN agencies.



The participants shared evidence and deliberated practical responses that could be used by the Education Sector. A consensus on the quality of substance use prevention education was made. The contributions of the meeting participants will be incorporated into a joint UNESCO-UNODC-WHO publication to be part of the UNESCO series Good Policy and Practice in Health Education, which will be launched in April 2016 during the UN General Assembly Special Session on World Drug Problems.

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