



Faith In Action Towards Universal Access

Christian Churches


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Colombo 2007 "Waves of Change, Waves of Hope"


Bali 2009 "Empowering People, Strengthening Networks"

2011 "No Words Actions Only"




Response in Asia Pacific 2007 Colombo ICAAP Prasada Rao

- Fighting denial & complacency
- Promoting & sustaining continued activism
- Prioritizing resources for reducing new infection
- Universalizing coverage of ART services
- Promoting educational programmes on sex for young men and women
- Orphans & vulnerable children
- Married monogamous women the silent sufferers
- Scale-up your interventions




Two Years Since Colombo (Prasada Rao)

- First steps towards decriminalization (Section 377)
- Commission on AIDS in the Pacific (Report ready in 2 months)
- Increase in harm reduction
- Commission in Aids Asia – Improve understanding of context & drivers of the epidemic
- Cost effectiveness and appropriateness



Lessons Learnt From The Field (Prof Cooper)

- We need to end Stigma & Discrimination



Inter Faith Pre Conference Bali (Sr Mercedes)

- Stigma is like attitude
- Discrimination is action from stigma

Why Interventions Will Never Be Effective




Thus interventions will never be effective unless they are targeted at the power base from which the stigmatizing behaviour is coming: the church congregation, the playground bullies or the bureaucratic administration.

To Be Effective




- To be effective, interventions must either change the hearts of the powerful or (if that fails) forcibly remove from them the ability to wield that power.

Issues of Stigma & Discrimination Have To Be Confronted (UNAIDS 2005)




- 'Not just at the level of church organization and practice, but also by Christian theology itself: at the level of what is taught in seminaries, what academic theologians think and write about, what the faithful believe and do, and what values inform the pastoral formation of clergy and lay people'

Experiences Of The Churches




- One third of all AIDS patients in the world are served under the auspices of the Catholic Church (Headley n.d.)
- Programs such as peer education training, basic HIV & AIDS training, counseling training, VCT training, VCT services, PMTCT, home base care, drop-in centre where PLHIV clients access and on-going counseling etc.
- Anglican Church PNG supports condom distribution

Experience Of The Churches



- FBO Summit 2006 PNG
- Red Ribbon Church Anglican Church PNG
- Full time employment of PLHIV in Anglicare StopAids PNG
- Other churches are also implementing various activities

As Stated Earlier In The Presentation



- For the Christian Churches, the most powerful contribution we can make to combating HIV transmission is the eradication of stigma and discrimination.

QUOTE

- 'I would rather have a church that is filled with sinner's than sick people'
- (Pastor Bill Page, Four Square Gospel Church PNG)

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