

# **AIDS Community Call to Action: HIV WILL NOT DEFEAT US**

## **Washington, DC \* Thursday, May 20, 2004**

The AIDS crisis is raging in America and around the world. And as the crisis pandemic rages, we face barriers to progress: cuts to AIDS programs despite increasing HIV infection rates in the US, profit-based restrictions limiting the use of US funds to deal with an escalating global epidemic, and attacks on objective scientific research. We must speak out for our lives and communities.

The undersigned groups are issuing this call to mobilize -- publicly and powerfully -- to protest the injustices that threaten the very lives of people living with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends.

People living with HIV and their loved ones took to the streets to fight for prevention, treatment, care, research, housing and a global response to the pandemic. We will not stand for losing what we have won. There is still so much to do, and we all know that the AIDS crisis has yet to be fought on a truly adequate scale. And so we now mobilize once again.

Right now, an unprecedented level of coordination and collaboration has been constructed between policy groups and grassroots groups, individuals and large agencies. It is time to take advantage of this energy and commitment and demonstrate our anger and resolve at a large-scale public rally.

**When: Thursday, May 20, 2004 \* 11:00am**

**Where:** The rally will begin at Folger Park (3<sup>rd</sup> & D SE – Capitol South Metro), move to the Democratic National Headquarters, continue to the Republican National Headquarters and end on the steps of our Capitol. The rally will include a civil disobedience action led by people living with AIDS and HIV and the leaders of community organizations on the front lines of the epidemic.

- The AIDS crisis can end, and it is the responsibility of the President and Congress to lead the way.
- Our presidential candidates have a responsibility to articulate, clearly and often, their plans for addressing the greatest health emergency in human history.
- Congress must appropriate the funds necessary to truly confront this epidemic.
- The next President of the United States must ensure that all people living with HIV receive immediate and high-quality treatment and care and that all people receive the means to prevent HIV.

We are asking you to distribute and respond to this call to action. We ask you to join hundreds of your peers and supporters in this march and rally. And we ask you to consider participating in the historic, nonviolent civil disobedience action. Please contact us for further information and to lend your support.

**THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW! WE WILL NOT BE IGNORED! OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT!**

March and Rally Contact: Michael Kink, Housing Works [kink@housingworks.org](mailto:kink@housingworks.org) 518-449-4207  
Nonviolent Civil Disobedience Contact: Paul Davis, Health GAP [pdavis@healthgap.org](mailto:pdavis@healthgap.org) 215-833-4102

**Original sponsors** (list in formation):

Housing Works \* National Association of People with AIDS \* ACT UP Philadelphia \* Health GAP \* Project Inform \* Being Alive \* Global AIDS Alliance \* Lifelong AIDS Alliance \* American Academy of HIV Medicine \* Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP) \* African Services Committee \* SAVE ADAP \* Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) \* New York City AIDS Housing Network \* ACT UP New York \* American Medical Students Association \* TIICANN \* AIDS Treatment Data Network \* AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (ATAC) \* New Mexico POZ Coalition \* AIDS Survival Project