



APPG Newsletter

The All Party Parliamentary Group on HIV and AIDS exists to raise the profile of HIV and AIDS within the UK Parliament

APPG Chair:

Pamela Nash MP

Vice Chairs:

Pauline Latham MP

Lord Fowler

Baroness Masham of Ilton

Simon Kirby MP

Russell Brown MP

Jenny Willott MP

WINTER 2011/2012

MPs lead by example and take HIV tests in Parliament to mark World AIDS day

Pauline Latham MP, Simon Kirby MP, and Mike Weatherly MP all took HIV tests on World AIDS day in support of the "Halve it" campaign to halve the rate of late and undiagnosed HIV in the UK by 2015. APPG Vice-Chair

Simon Kirby said: "It is frightening to hear that in 2011, 30 years after the

discovery of the virus, a quarter of people living with HIV in the UK do not know that they have it. I hope by taking HIV tests here in Parliament on World



AIDS day we can help to encourage other people to go out and get tested." APPG Chair Pamela Nash was filmed having a HIV test, a move which she hopes will tackle the stigma surrounding the virus.



Making sure that HIV is prioritised in the new NHS: The Public Health Outcomes Framework

Following the publication of the Public Health White Paper, the Department of Health has produced its draft Public Health Outcomes Framework. This proposes a set of indicators which Local Authorities and their partners will be

measured against when they take over responsibilities for Public Health from April 2013. In order to secure the resources that we need to tackle the challenge of late and undiagnosed HIV in the UK, it is crucial that the

final list of outcome indicators includes the indicator for late HIV diagnosis. MPs and Peers have been raising this issue with ministers and we are keeping our fingers crossed for a positive response in the New Year!

House of Lords report that current policies to tackle HIV are “woefully inadequate”

After a 9 month detailed inquiry, The House of Lord’s Select Committee on HIV in the UK Chaired by APPG Vice-Chair Lord Fowler concluded that current policies to tackle HIV in the UK are “woefully inadequate.”

The report recommended that much greater efforts should be placed on HIV

prevention, highlighting that the UK Government currently spends over **£792** million on HIV treatment and only **£3** million on HIV prevention. The Government has accepted some of the report’s recommendations, and has promised to review the legalisation of home

HIV testing kits, but has not committed to spending any more on HIV prevention at a national level.

This year the Department of Health will publish its long awaited **Sexual Health Policy Framework**, which will be informed by the recommendations of the Lord’s Committee.

New evidence shows that HIV treatment can be 96% effective in preventing the transmission of the virus.

Foundation established to honour David Cairns MP

Following the tragic and untimely death of APPG Chair David Cairns, The David Cairns Foundation has been set up in his honour, and held its first annual dinner on the 23rd November. The event raised a staggering £30,000,

with some donations going towards the campaign against sexual minorities in Uganda, a cause which David campaigned on extensively. The APPG is planning to hold its first memorial lecture



to commemorate David’s passion for defending human rights in spring 2012.

AIDS Support– Where is the money going?

Last year the APPG campaigned for money allocated towards HIV-related social care to be ring-fenced. In this financial year, 2011-12, whilst over **£25.5 million** has been allocated to local

authorities, HIV support groups and Social Workers have been contacting their MPs and the APPG to express concern that this money is being siphoned away from HIV-related social

care. With budgets for next year currently being set APPG members will be asking questions to make sure that this money is going to be spent on valued services for people living with HIV.

New evidence brings prospect of bringing an end to AIDS much closer

The results of a remarkable clinical trial in June proved that HIV treatment can be **96%** effective in preventing the transmission of HIV.

UNAIDS has also produced a new model called the Investment Framework, which highlights how implementation of evidence based interventions can save **7 million lives** and avert **12 million new**

infections by 2020.

Modelling shows how cost effective these interventions are, with the investments more than paying for itself in 10 years. In November US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that the intentions of the US Government to lead global efforts to defeat the HIV and AIDS pandemic, saying that "The Goal of an **AIDS-free**

generation is ambitious. But it is possible, with the knowledge and the interventions that we have now."

Addressing APPG members and supporters on World AIDS day, DFID Minister Alan Duncan said that that "Never before have we been in a realistic position to seriously articulate and work towards this ambition of getting towards Zero new HIV infections, Zero discrimination, and Zero Deaths."

Against this backdrop of hope, however, came the news that international funding to tackle HIV and AIDS has fallen dramatically.

Crisis at the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria as no new money available for HIV drugs until 2014

The world's largest financier of HIV medication, which has saved over 6 million lives since it was founded in 2002 is under threat as donors fail to fulfil their pledges in the wake of the global economic crisis. The UK Government has been paying its contributions to the Global Fund on time, but we need other

donors to play their part and pay up on time to ensure that the 9million people around the world are able to access the living saving medicines that they need. As Secretary of State Andrew Mitchell has said, "We should not balance our books on the backs of the World's poor."



APPG Chair Pamela Nash MP and Vernon Coker MP pledge their support to the Global Fund

First Pharmaceutical company joins the Medicines Patent Pool.. but others fail to follow suit

In July 2011, Gilead became the first Pharmaceutical company to join the Medicines Patent Pool, signing a licence agreement which has real potential to speed up the availability of Anti-Retroviral drugs in the developing world.

Several other companies are in negotiation with the Patent Pool, although Johnson and Johnson has announced that it will not be entering into a formal licensing agreement with the Pool, a move which has been criticised by access to medicines campaigners, and which APPG Chair Pamela Nash MP described as "very disappointing."

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Parliamentarians from Around the World pledge to tackle HIV-TB co-infection



The APPG partnered with the All Party Group on Global Tuberculosis, RESULTS UK and the CPA to host a half day summit to raise awareness about the challenge of HIV-TB co-infection in the developing world. **TB remains the leading cause of death for people living with HIV**, and it has been

estimated that we could save **a million lives** each year around the world if we scale up TB screening and access to integrated healthcare services.

- 34 MPs attended the summit representing 15 countries from across the Commonwealth, which came shortly after the news about the cancellation of Round 11 funding to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. Members were keen to establish an International Parliamentary task-force to tackle HIV-TB co-infection, with several MPs already expressing an interest in Chairing the group.

The Facts: HIV In the UK

- **There will be an estimated 100,000 people living with HIV in the UK in 2012**
- **1 in 4 young people did not learn about HIV at school**
- **Each HIV infection costs the public purse up to £360,000 in direct life-time health costs**
- **A quarter of all people living with HIV in the UK are unaware of their status, and half of all HIV is diagnosed late.**

The Facts: Global HIV infections

- **There are over 33 million people living with HIV worldwide**
- **HIV remains the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age**
- **Globally, new HIV infections have fallen by 21% in the last decade**
- **The Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria provides half of all anti-retroviral medicines**
- **9 million people are waiting for HIV treatment across the world**



Teaching Young People the Facts about HIV

The APPG has been highlighting the importance of comprehensive sex and relationships education and the importance of teaching young people about HIV in schools. School Minister Nick Gibb admitted during his evidence session to the House of Lord's Select Committee that the fact that 1 in 4 young people did not learn anything about HIV in schools is **"unforgivable."**

Speaking in a Westminster Hall debate on Sex and Relationships education, Pamela Nash said: **"Young people simply are not learning the facts about HIV and AIDS, and that has to change if we are to make any headway in reversing the number of new infections."**

What's happening in Parliament?

Full details of all **Parliamentary Debates** and **Oral Questions** raised in both Houses of Parliament which discuss HIV and AIDS can be found on our website in the

"In Parliament" section:

<http://www.appghivaid.org.uk/parliament/debate.html>

*Here you can read about how concerns were raised during the 2nd reading of the **Health and Social Care Bill** in the **House of Lords** about the impact of the **NHS Reforms** on people living with HIV, how MPs questioned **DFID Secretary of State Andrew Mitchell** on the current crisis in the **Global Fund** and see the full text of the **2 Parliamentary Debates** which were held in the week of **World AIDS day 2011**. You can also track the progress of the **Welfare Reform Bill**.*

Parliamentarians inspired by HIV positive Speakers

Three HIV positive speakers brought their powerful and inspirational stories of how living with HIV has impacted upon their lives to APPG members and supporters. Mohammad from the Gambia spoke about the inequalities in access to treatment, highlighting that there are currently more than 9 million people around the globe who do not have access to HIV treatment, and urged pharmaceutical companies to join the



Medicines Patent Pool. Victor from Nigeria talked about the challenges of living as a gay HIV positive man in Nigeria, where he could be sent to prison for

being open about his sexuality.

Leasuwan from Bedford gave a moving account of overcoming the stigma and discrimination that she encountered as she began to tell her family and friends about her HIV status.