

## SCALING UP EFFORTS TO COMBAT HIV AND AIDS IN AFRICA

Point 7 poses huge challenges. Do we expect the schooling systems to do this? Schools are increasingly asked to act as social welfare agencies and teachers are seldom equipped to do so where do the church, cultural associations and community based organisations really fit in here. How do we work with young people given that they live in a world of technology fueled by the sense of instant gratification and a notion of entitlement along with the culture of bravado of drugs alcohol and the related issues of depression and fatalism? How do we create in young people a sense of pride (despite the way the international media always seems to wish to portray Africa) and how do we create a sense of a vibrant future surrounded by poverty and disadvantage.

Young people are unlikely to seek responsible health behaviour as a natural good of itself we need to get them to see how this can develop their social identities. We also are battling with the clash of values and with the old vs. the new! As far as HIV and AIDS are concerned I think it lies in the education of desire. In the ways we have of working with young people to recognise themselves as sexual beings with needs, wants and desires and to find ways to get them to understand their behaviour and how to channel these needs.

For too long, we have couched what we want to say to young people through prohibition and denial. the ease to talk about their needs and desires. We have alienated them through such programmes as the ABC campaigns with all its prevarications and indeed to be frank I think that we have literally bored them to death. How have we tried to engage with them? Do we give them a sense of leadership and citizenship? How do we engage with them to be critical thinkers who are able to challenge important things?

Finally how do we deal with the on going issues of globalisation and new forms of religious and economic imperialism along with the donor forms of post colonialism that are so difficult to challenge. The solution does not lie in calls for ns of culture that cannot operate as they did in the new world order.

What Africa is facing is a New Scramble for Africa through donor influence, through the ways various programmes and policies are supported or funded and the ways in which the East seems to be more neutral than the West. The ways what we need to do is to refine very carefully the strategic path that best serves the health and social need of all populations without compromising through calls for tradition, new colonialism or isolation.

Finally, it seems that all too often we are too a(y)1(s vETBTF1 12Tf1 01 0.2t5-10e)-36si)4(n)-0j)6t)-0