



"Somewhere in the lives you lead, there has to be time carved out to shout from the rooftops... tell the world and its governments, especially the governments of the west, that an apocalypse has unfolded, and it has to be stopped in its tracks before it engulfs us all. If morality is found wanting in the actions of governments, let it be rediscovered in the advocacy of individuals."

-Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy, HIV/AIDS in Africa, 11th Conf. on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, Feb. 8, 2004, San Francisco, CA

Dedicated to eliminating barriers to global access to affordable life-sustaining medicines for people living with HIV/AIDS.

December 2004

Dear friends,

For people like you and me—people who are concerned with social justice and peace—2004 has been a difficult year.

And as the quote above makes clear, HIV/AIDS continues as the worst health scourge the world has ever known. The horrifying numbers— 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS—reflect our collective failures during the first two decades of the AIDS epidemic.

But rather than emphasize these failures, I want to share with you my conviction: We are definitely making progress in mobilizing the resources we need to bring the AIDS epidemic under control.

I am asking for your support to help us to continue this progress.

Six years ago, when Health GAP (Global Access Project) began advocating for access to affordable HIV treatment for all those who need it, many dismissed our demands as utopian. But, by coordinating our work with similar groups throughout the world, Health GAP led a creative, compelling and ultimately successful campaign in the United States to change key aspects of U.S. trade policy -- laws that kept the price of AIDS drugs artificially high and blocked the introduction of cheaper generics in poor countries.

Throughout this work, we not only helped create—and fight to defend—good policy, but also helped make the global AIDS catastrophe a moral issue for the people and policymakers of the United States.

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(Over please)

This was the first and most fundamental step in bringing AIDS under control in our lifetime. You can help keep that momentum going. And your timely donation before the end of 2004 will be fully tax-deductible on your 2004 tax return.

As you might imagine, 2004 was an especially difficult year. Despite the Bush administration's rhetoric of conservative compassion, it has escalated its efforts to institutionalize its ideology-based rather than science-based policies. These abstinence-only policies have been proven to put people at greater risk for HIV infection. True compassion would look very different.

This administration is also so beholden to the big pharmaceutical companies, that they continue to malign respected international bodies' efforts to get cheaper generic AIDS drugs to those who need them while extravagantly wasting your tax dollars on expensive brand name drugs—treating only a small percentage of the people that could be treated with much less expensive generic drugs. How can this be called compassion?

At the same time it is undermining developing countries' sovereign rights to health by continuing to negotiate so-called free trade agreements around the world that will force those countries to put protecting pharmaceutical patent rights ahead of the right to affordable medicines for their people. There is no compassion here.

These are just some of the issues we are fighting against in the halls of Congress, in meetings of major international organizations such as UNAIDS, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, at international AIDS conferences and in the streets of cities and towns around the world.

Your generous financial support will help us continue to defend the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide.

But even in the difficult political environment of 2004, we had significant victories. Here are some highlights of our progress this year:

- During 2004, Health GAP played a leading role in successfully injecting an ambitious platform of global AIDS demands into the political agenda, achieving key commitments from the high profile politicians, including promises to double current global AIDS funding pledges.
- These election year efforts also enabled Health GAP and its partners to get debt relief for AIDS on the U.S. agenda with new committed grassroots groups.

- Health GAP helped create a groundbreaking international coalition to pressure donor countries to launch—and fully fund—the 5th Round of grants for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- At the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Health GAP brought international support to our allies in Southeast Asia ensuring that the truth about the epidemic there, and the barriers to treatment scale up faced by Southeast Asians, were broadcast to the world.

These are just a few of the fronts we are fighting on.

But in order to succeed in turning the tide on the epidemic, we must continue to broaden and strengthen our relationships with allies and grassroots AIDS groups all over the world. These are the courageous people on the front line of the fight against HIV/AIDS in their respective countries. They mobilize in their communities and bring pressure on their governments to prioritize prevention and treatment.

Your support with a tax-deductible contribution today will mean that we can strengthen our work with these vital groups and transform conditions in the countries most heavily impacted by the AIDS epidemic.

This remains the challenge for you and for me: to move the world from rhetoric to action. We will devote all our energies to moving forward in 2005, but we cannot do it without your support. Please send a tax-deductible donation payable to “**Mobilization Against AIDS International**” today. You may also donate to Health GAP with your credit card online at www.healthgap.org. You can make a difference.

We are definitely making progress in mobilizing the resources we need to bring the AIDS epidemic under control. Please help us to continue to win this fight.

In solidarity,

Alan Berkman, MD
Founder, Health GAP

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Yes! I want to support Health GAP in securing treatment access for all



Please find enclosed my contribution for :

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100

___ \$200 ___ \$500 ___ \$1000

___ other amount

___ I donated online at www.healthgap.org



Any amount will help us keep the pressure on and the public informed. We appreciate your solidarity in this struggle for life and health for all people with HIV /AIDS across the globe.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

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