



22nd March, 2006

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To: Trade Union Bodies in Countries Most Affected HIV/AIDS
c.c. National contact points for ILO, UNAIDS and WHO

From: Alan Leather, Chair, HIV/AIDS Global Unions Steering Committee

Re: **Your HIV-AIDS Letter to G8 Embassies in Your Country**

Dear Colleagues:

On 28th February, Global Unions launched an HIV/AIDS Campaign as part of the 28 April “*International Commemoration Day (ICD) for Dead and Injured Workers*”. This campaign will aim to convince the Heads of State at next July’s G8 Summit in Russia to create a permanent high-level G8 working group on HIV/AIDS. The G8 is composed of governments from the following: *Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States.*

For details see the Global Union statement at:

English only at: http://www.global-unions.org/ohsewpT_8.EN.pdf

I am writing to ask you to help advance this campaign by **mailing or hand-delivering an appropriate version of a draft letter** (see below) **to at least one G8 government embassy in your country** (see table below) **prior to or on 28 April, 2006.**

Our first steps in this campaign have already been taken, as trade union bodies in the G8 and non-G8 industrialised countries are now in the process of delivering their own version of the same letter, which also asks the G8 to establish a permanent working group on HIV/AIDS.

Our next step is to ask you and other trade union bodies from countries seriously suffering from HIV/AIDS to supplement the call by delivering a letter to embassies of the G8 countries.

Your role in this process as a union from a critically-affected country is crucial because you have the moral authority to influence G8 countries. More than others, you know why a permanent working group is necessary to ensure G-8 countries keep their promises to achieve universal access to treatment, and to advance the development of an HIV vaccine. Promises are made all the time, but sadly, they often lack follow-through. A permanent working group is one way to hold the world’s richest nations accountable.

We therefore ask you to deliver a letter to at least one G8 Embassy in your country, **prior to or on 28 April, 2006.** A draft letter is available at:

English: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_7b.EN.rtf

Français: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_7b.FR.rtf

Español: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_7b.SP.rtf

As a minimum, we ask you to formally send this letter through the post office. However, we would like you to also consider organising a more significant public gesture. Now is the time for mobilising your unions on this issue by, for instance:

a) organizing a delegation to deliver your letter (perhaps with other organisations) to your designated G8 embassy and alerting the media to your plans;

b) mailing a slightly modified version of your letter to all or any of the other G8 embassies in your country (whatever you find possible or realistic);

c) issuing a news release or some other public statement about its delivery; and

d) organizing a rally on 28 April, together with allied groups, to spotlight trade union demands including universal access to treatment and the development of an AIDS vaccine.

Prompt delivery of your letters will help us to take the next steps for follow up lobbying by trade unions in other countries and at a number of international meetings in May and June of this year. Your activities and communications will arm trade unions in northern countries with more arguments as to why we must reach our goal

Please locate your country in one of the columns of the table below. The embassy identified for your 28 April action is located on the top of the same column:

Letter delivery from organisations in the following countries:	Embassy Canada	Embassy France	Embassy Germany	Embassy Italy	Embassy Japan	Embassy U. K	Embassy U. S.
	Guinea	Benin	Angola	Belize	Guinea	Barbados	Bahamas
	Haiti	Burkina Faso	Cambodia	Benin	Sudan	Belize	Burundi
	Ivory Coast	Camer-oon	Eritrea	Chad	Suriname	Botswana	Lesotho
	Liberia	Central African Rep.	Nigeria	Dominican Republic	Swazi-land	Gambia	Malawi
	Madagascar	Chad	Rwanda	Ethiopia	Thailand	Ghana	Myanmar
	Mali	Congo DR	South Africa	Guatemala	Uganda	Guyana	Namibia
	Niger	Congo Rep.	Tanzania	Honduras	Zambia	Jamaica	Zimbabwe
	Togo	Djibouti		Mozambique		Kenya	
	Ukraine	Gabon					

* Please note that the G8 Country of Russia has been left out of this process for important strategic reasons

Your activity, combined with those of others throughout the world, will have a decisive effect on the outcomes we seek.

After we hear from you and other trade unions in industrialised countries, we will issue a short News Release that you might in turn post as a follow-up, or distribute to your own

trade union affiliates. **It is also very important that you let us know that you agree to carry out this task by contacting Winston Gereluk at [winstong@athabascau.ca] as soon as possible.**

Looking forward to a successful campaign, I remain,

Yours in solidarity,

Alan Leather
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www.global-unions.org

For information on HIV/AIDS in your and all countries,
see the trade union country profiles at:

English: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_4a.EN.pdf

Français: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_4a.FR.pdf

Español: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_4a.SP.pdf