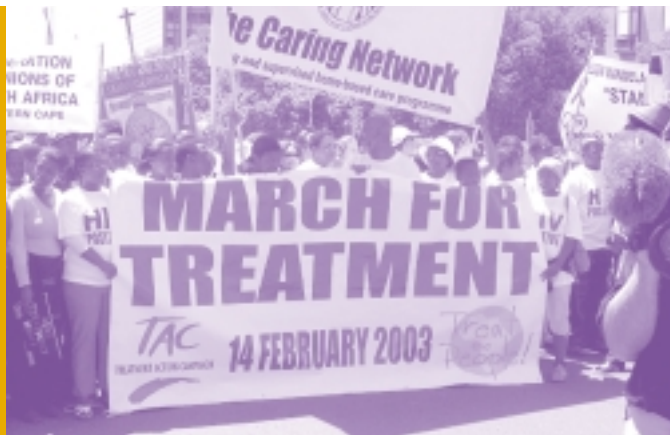


# The Fight to Bring AIDS Treatments to South Africa: Voices from the Frontline



## The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Public Welfare Foundation

Zackie Achmat and Nelson Mandela  
PHOTO BY OBED ZILWA



**Zackie Achmat** and his Treatment Action Campaign colleagues began a campaign in 1998 to persuade the South African government to make drug therapies accessible to South Africans with HIV who rely on public health care.

A longtime anti-apartheid and gay rights activist, Achmat gained worldwide notoriety during this campaign for his refusal on principle to take antiretroviral therapy until the government made those therapies available to others.

This summer the government committed to implementing such a program and Achmat began taking anti-HIV drugs.

**Nonkosi Khumalo**, a member of the African National Congress, has led TAC's campaign to enforce the historic Constitutional Court judgment on the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission. She is currently building TAC programs in Mpumalanga and Limpopo, two of South Africa's poorest and most rural provinces.

Invite you to hear from two of South Africa's leading AIDS activists

### Zackie Achmat

Founder and Chair, Treatment Action Campaign and

### Nonkosi Khumalo

Women's Health Programmes Coordinator, Treatment Action Campaign

**Thursday, November 6, 2003**

**2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

Public Welfare Foundation  
True Reformer Building  
1200 U Street, NW  
Washington, DC

### R S V P

Please let us know if you plan to attend by emailing [tac@highnooncommunications.com](mailto:tac@highnooncommunications.com). Please provide your name, organization and the number of people who will be attending with you.

If you have questions or need more information, please call 202-332-2303.

### Treatment Action Campaign

In South Africa, more than 5 million people are infected with HIV. Six-hundred people die every day. Many of these deaths are preventable or premature due to the inaccessibility of medicines. The Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) views equitable access to treatment as an essential part of the struggle to ensure human rights and social justice.

TAC was founded in 1998 in response to a decision by the Minister of Health to abandon programs that prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. TAC took the government to court for violation of constitutional rights and won. It mobilized the international community to support their efforts to change government policies, compelled drug companies to lower their prices and allow production of generic medicines. TAC has become the most effective AIDS activist organization operating anywhere in the world.

TAC has kept constant pressure on the South Africa government to provide antiretroviral treatment. Recently, the government bowed to pressure and has agreed to develop a plan for treatment. It is essential TAC ensure these promises are kept. They

are continuing a campaign against the profiteering of drug companies and expanding their efforts to provide treatment literacy training.

In October, TAC received the Nelson Mandela Health and Human Rights Award, sponsored by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

### TAC Treatment Project (TAC/TP)

As it will take years before the government is capable of treating all who need it and having lost 100 of their members to AIDS in the last six months, TAC also established its own treatment program in 2003. This program will make antiretroviral treatment available to treatment activists and community members—for every treatment activist treated through the program, a person not connected to TAC in any way will also be treated. In the TAC/TP model, generic drugs are purchased at the best prices available and medicines administered by doctors in the public sector. The goal is to place 1,000 people on treatment by the end of 2004.