

**The Fight to Bring  
AIDS Treatments to South Africa:**

# Voices from the Frontline

HOSTED BY:



**PublicWelfare**  
Foundation

WELCOME

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Larry Kressley  
Executive Director, Public Welfare Foundation

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY VOICES IN  
SOUTH AFRICA

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Michael Sinclair, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President  
Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

INTRODUCTIONS

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Cornelius Baker  
Executive Director, Whitman-Walker Clinic

VOICES FROM THE FRONTLINE

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Zackie Achmat  
Founder and Chair, Treatment Action Campaign

Nonkosi Khumalo  
Women's Health Programmes Coordinator  
Treatment Action Campaign

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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If you would like to support TAC's work in South Africa,  
please visit [www.aidsouthafrica.org](http://www.aidsouthafrica.org) for more information  
on how to make a donation from the U.S.

## 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 ensures 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.