



JOINT UN PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

UNAIDS INFO  
№ 42  
Minsk, Belarus

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**THE THEME GROUP ON HIV/AIDS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS  
ANNOUNCES THE ESSAY COMPETITION AMONG CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH “THE PROBLEM OF HIV/AIDS BY THE EYES OF THE  
CHILDREN”**

**Minsk 28 November 2002.** From 1<sup>st</sup> December to 1 February 2003 there will be an essay competition among children and youth “The problem of HIV/AIDS by the eyes of the children”. This event is implemented through the joint project of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Office of the Christian Children’s Fund (CCF) in Belarus “Follow-up to the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS”, which was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in June 2001.

The competition will be conducted in two nominations:

1. A friend living with HIV is still my friend.
2. I am responsible for what I do in the world where there is HIV.

The main aim of the competition is to give the real chance to children to express their aspirations and desires which should be considered by the decision and policy makers when elaborating the strategies on HIV/AIDS prevention among children.

Twelve winners of the competition will be awarded by the prizes and diplomas of the United Nations Office in Belarus and Office of the Christian Children’s Fund in Belarus. The winning essays will be included into the illustrated booklet which will be published with the technical support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Belarus.

This Declaration is a new political momentum which provides the world with a basis for effective political action and a yardstick of accountability. At international, regional and national gatherings since the Special Session, the Declaration of Commitment has served to define agendas and create a common platform for action. Within weeks of the Special Session, implementation of the Declaration of Commitment was receiving regional attention – for example, in the Nassau Declaration on Health issued by Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, and in regional action taken in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

*For more information, please contact Feiruz Almaalouf, UNAIDS, UN Office in Belarus, (227 78 22, 227 48 76. You may also visit the UNAIDS Belarus Home Page on the Internet for more information about the programme (<http://www.un.minsk.by/un aids/index.htm>)*