

SAFE SCHOOLS: THE CROSS-CUTTING CHALLENGE OF SCHOOL-RELATED VIOLENCE

Panel and Discussion
Thursday, 22nd July, 14:45 - 16:00
Global Village: Women's Networking Zone
XVIII International AIDS Conference
Vienna, Austria

Sponsored by: Advocates for Youth, Global Action for Children, and
Global AIDS Alliance

If every child received a complete primary education, 700,000 new cases of HIV could be averted each year. Yet, every day around the world, children and adolescents face violence on the way to/from school and/or on school grounds. School-related violence (SRV) undermines efforts to achieve gender parity and universal primary education, to eliminate discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, and to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. SRV itself increases vulnerability to HIV, and is often cited as a leading cause of school drop-out. Though SRV affects millions of children, especially girls, worldwide each year, comprehensive programs to counter, prevent, and respond to such violence are largely absent from both national education plans and the international community's funding priorities. HIV/AIDS, violence, and lack of educational opportunities are part of a vicious cycle.

The goal of this session is to share best practices, lessons learned, and advocacy strategies to ensure that children feel safe on their way to/from and while at school.

Structure:

Various stakeholders will share testimonies of SRV and programs designed to respond to school related violence.

We will engage in a strategic planning dialogue.

Highly interactive - participants encouraged to share questions, best practices, etc.

Speakers:

Ken Odumbe, ActionAid Kenya

Tina Musuya, Executive Director, Center for Domestic Violence Prevention

Jaevion Nelson, Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN)

