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# Global AIDS Crisis

An Annotated Bibliography

Click [HERE](#) for more resources on the various interrelated issues affecting the global AIDS crisis.

## Web Links

*Advocacy Network for Africa* <<http://adna.africafocus.org/index.php>>

*Advocacy Network for Africa* is a progressive non-partisan network of more than 200 US-based organizations, which focus on Africa or U.S.-Africa relations in their work. Their initiatives address issues of peace and security; human, civil, political and women's rights; environmentally and economically sustainable development for poverty eradication; social justice, popular participation and good governance and humanitarian and crisis relief.

*Africa Action* <<http://www.africaaction.org>>

*Africa Action* is the oldest organization in the U.S. working on African affairs. In partnership with activists and civil society organizations throughout the United States and in Africa, *Africa Action* works to change U.S. foreign policy and the policies of international institutions in order to support African struggles for peace and development.

*Africa Faith and Justice Network* <<http://www.afjn.org/>>

*The Africa Faith and Justice Network* (AFJN) strives to be a meaningful voice for Africa in U.S. public policy. AFJN stresses issues of human rights and social justice that tie directly into Catholic social teaching. AFJN works closely with Catholic missionary congregations and numerous Africa-focused coalitions of all persuasions to advocate for U.S. economic and political policies that will benefit Africa's poor majority, facilitate an end to armed conflict, establish equitable trade and investment with Africa and promote ecologically sound development.

*AIDS in Africa* <<http://www.aidsin africa.net/>>

This interactive website provides visitors with free and current information on HIV/AIDS in Africa. The site uses visual aids, such as dynamic maps, charts, and photography to make challenging content, including statistics, easier to understand and more engaging for the general public.

*Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance* <[http://www.e-alliance.ch/hiv\\_resources.jsp](http://www.e-alliance.ch/hiv_resources.jsp)>

Excellent site for AIDS resources, prayers liturgies and reflections.

*Global AIDS Alliance* <<http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/>>

*Global AIDS Alliance* (GAA) mobilizes the political will and financial resources needed to slow and ultimately stop the global AIDS crisis, and reduce its impacts on poor countries that have been hardest hit by the pandemic. GAA combines media outreach and public education with coalition-building and grassroots mobilization in order to raise awareness and inspire activism.

*Stop Global AIDS* <<http://www.stopglobalaids.org/>>

The Campaign to Stop Global AIDS is about telling political leaders to donate the dollars, treat the people, and drop the debt. This means providing more money to fight the disease; making sure there's reliable access to affordable medication for all those living with AIDS; and providing deeper, fairer debt cancellation for impoverished countries so they can address the problems.

UNAIDS <[www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)>

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, is the main advocate for global action on the epidemic. It leads, strengthens and supports an expanded response aimed at preventing transmission of HIV, providing care and support, reducing the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV/AIDS, and alleviating the impact of the epidemic.

## **Books**

Stuart C. Bate (Ed.), *Responsibility in a Time of AIDS: A Pastoral Response by Catholic Theologians and AIDS Activists in Southern Africa* (South Africa: Cluster Publications, 2003).

This book provides a theological perspective on the pandemic.

Maria Cimperman, *When God's People Have AIDS: An Approach to Ethics* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2005).

A unique treatment of moral theology and HIV/AIDS prevention that explores how the Christian virtues can provide a vital and hopeful resource during this time of suffering. A constructive theological ethic.

Deborah Ellis, *Our Stories, Our Songs: African Children Talk About AIDS* (Allston, MA: FitzHenry and Whiteside, 2005).

Deborah Ellis spent time in Africa collecting the experiences of children for *Our Stories, Our Songs: African Children Talk about AIDS*. The book is geared to a young audience, giving youth in Africa a chance to share their lives with their peers in the developed world. It provides a good introduction for kids who want to know more about AIDS and about how their lives might compare to those of children elsewhere in the world. A Curriculum study guide for Grades 6-8 is available at

<[http://www.accessola.com/osla/bethechange/pdf/ji\\_from%20fact%20to%20fiction.pdf](http://www.accessola.com/osla/bethechange/pdf/ji_from%20fact%20to%20fiction.pdf).>

Deborah Ellis, *The Heaven Shop* (Oxford University Press, 2004).

*The Heaven Shop* is a poignant story of a child caught up in the AIDS pandemic in southern Africa. Ellis, who has written about children in crisis in Afghanistan, Israel, and Palestine, and visited Malawi, creates a vivid sense of the place and characters that are angry, kind, brave, and real. The facts about AIDS--the statistics, denial, discrimination, and ignorance--drive the story. Proceeds from book sales go to UNICEF. A teacher's guide available for use with this book is available at

<<http://www.unicef.ca/portal/Secure/Community/502/WCM/EDUCATION/assets/pdf/TheHeavenShop.TeachersGuide%5B1%5D.pdf>.>

Paul Farmer, *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1999).

For Farmer, the causes of tuberculosis and AIDS, the two epidemics this book addresses, have as much to do with social inequality as they do with microorganisms. Using data mostly from Haiti, where he has worked since 1983, in addition to data from the United States and Peru, Farmer argues that social and economic inequalities "have powerfully sculpted not only the distribution of infectious diseases but also the course of health outcomes among the afflicted," what he calls "the pathogenic agency of inequality."

James Keenan (Ed.) *Catholic Ethicists on HIV/AIDS Prevention* (New York: Continuum, 2000).

An excellent collection of articles by moral theologians on the critical moral issues at the heart of the AIDS pandemic.

Jim Wooten, *We Are All the Same: A Story of a Boy's Courage and a Mother's Love* (New York: Penguin, 2004).

The author, an award-winning senior correspondent for ABC News, has written an extraordinarily moving account of a courageous South African boy's battle with AIDS that is also a scathing indictment of South African leaders who have failed to confront the AIDS epidemic in their country. This powerful account puts a human face on a catastrophic epidemic that grows worse daily.

## **Articles/Papers**

Rev. Gerald D. Coleman, "Condoms as a Lesser Evil," *The San Francisco Chronicle*, 26 April 2006, <<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2006/04/26/EDGNSGUCAB1.DTL>>

The Rev. Gerald D. Coleman, a professor of moral theology, discusses Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini's statement that "Catholics could be justified in using condoms to prevent the spread of AIDS."

Daniel Graver, "The Church's Global War," *The Georgetown Public Policy Review*, 11:1, Winter 2005-06, <[http://www.ncan.org/news/Vitillo\\_Georgetown\\_interview.pdf](http://www.ncan.org/news/Vitillo_Georgetown_interview.pdf)>

Interview with Reverend Robert J. Vitillo, the Special Advisor on HIV and AIDS for Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development and social service organizations working in over 200 countries and territories. Vitillo holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from Rutgers University, serves as President of the National Catholic AIDS Board of Directors, and has fought against poverty and the AIDS epidemic since the 1980s. Daniel Graver interviewed Vitillo for *The Georgetown Public Policy Review* following Vitillo's address at Georgetown University.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Called to Compassion and Responsibility: A Response to the HIV/AIDS Crisis" *USCCB*, 1989 <<http://www.nccbuscc.org/sdwp/international/ctoresp.shtml>>

In this document, five calls are issued in reference to people with AIDS: to compassion, to integrity, to responsibility, to social justice and to prayer and conversion.

Peter Piot, "Why AIDS is Exceptional" *Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS*, 8 February 2005, <[http://data.unaids.org/Media/Speeches02/SP\\_Piot\\_LSE\\_08Feb05\\_en.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/Media/Speeches02/SP_Piot_LSE_08Feb05_en.pdf)>

Speech given by the UNAIDS Executive Director at the London School of Economics.

## **Audio/Visual/Interactive Resources**

*The Age of AIDS*. PBS Frontline, 2006

After a quarter century of political denial and social stigma, of stunning scientific breakthroughs, bitter policy battles and inadequate prevention campaigns, HIV/AIDS continues to spread rapidly throughout much of the world, particularly in developing nations. To date, some 30 million people worldwide have already died of AIDS. Through interviews with AIDS researchers, world leaders, activists and patients, FRONTLINE investigates the science, politics and human cost of the disease.

*Angels in America*. DVD. HBO, 2003

This made for TV version of Tony Kushner's epic, 5-hour play, is a jaw-dropping film adaptation of what was a defining artistic statement documenting the political and social upheaval that HIV/AIDS brought to America's gay community and to the wider America around it.

*Can Condoms Kill?* DVD and VHS. Bullfrog Films, 2005

Showing both sides of this controversial debate, the film takes a serious look at condom use and AIDS. It asks whether the Vatican can continue its stance against condom use while they are so widely believed to be the best recourse available in stemming the spread of AIDS.

*A Closer Walk* DVD. Prod. Worldwide Documentaries, 2003

<[http://www.acloserwalk.org/about\\_the\\_film/](http://www.acloserwalk.org/about_the_film/)>

*A Closer Walk* was the first film to depict humankind's confrontation with the global AIDS epidemic. More than 50 people were interviewed or profiled from Uganda, South Africa, Haiti, Switzerland, India, Nepal, Ukraine, Cambodia and various locations in the United States. The film focuses on the underlying causes of AIDS; the relationship between health, dignity and human rights; and the universal need for action, compassion and commitment to counter what has become the worst plague in human history.

*Coming to Say Goodbye: Stories of AIDS in Africa*. VHS. Maryknoll, 2005

<[http://olddogdocumentaries.com/vid\\_ctsg.html](http://olddogdocumentaries.com/vid_ctsg.html)>

This documentary is about courageous people living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya and Tanzania. Their stories are a personalized journal of the spread of this modern plague. Included are commentaries by church workers, medical professionals, social workers, and educators who stand by those suffering, especially those thousands of children orphaned by AIDS. The video leads us to reflect on the personal and structural aspects of the AIDS pandemic in Africa: poverty, lack of access to treatment, and the extraordinary social cost. Viewers are challenged to take up the role as global advocates in combating this devastating disease.

*Pandemic: Facing AIDS*. VHS. Prod. Moxie Firecracker Films, 2003

Narrated by Danny Glover, this theatrical version of the five-part HBO series goes beyond the statistics to tell five remarkable stories from across the globe, revealing the heartaches and triumphs of real people coping with the stigma and effects of this devastating epidemic.

*Out of Control: AIDS in Black America*. ABC Primetime, 2006

As the world marked the 25th anniversary of the first reported cases of AIDS, one important story was mostly ignored: AIDS is an epidemic in the African American community and it's spreading fast. Shortly before his cancer diagnosis, Peter Jennings started work on this one-hour documentary devoted solely to the issue of AIDS in Black America.

*Out of Hiding, Into the World: Thembi's AIDS Diary*. NPR's "All Things Considered," 19 April 2006

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5311801>

Thembi Ngubane was 19 when she first met radio producer Joe Richman in Khayelitsha, outside Cape Town. She was among a group of South African teenagers he interviewed about AIDS in 2004. He gave her a tape recorder, and for a year, she recorded this intimate audio diary that brings listeners into her home, among her family, to witness her daily struggles and triumphs.

*Philadelphia*. DVD and VHS. 1993

Andrew Beckett (played by Tom Hanks) is a gay lawyer who is unjustly fired by his firm because he has AIDS. Denzel Washington is another lawyer who reluctantly takes Beckett's case and learns to overcome his misconceptions about the disease, about those who contract it, and about gay people in general.

*Their Brothers' Keepers*. Bullfrog Films, 2005

*Their Brothers' Keepers* goes inside Chazanga Compound, a shantytown in Zambia and follows the day-to-day struggles of two child-headed families. We see how Benny, Dorris and Paul cope with a lack of food, water, health care and schooling. They scramble for piecework to buy food for their younger siblings. Local aid and community workers give support but lack the necessary resources. Foreign aid is too thin to trickle down. The film alternates between the broader view and the personal detail, between tragedy and hope.

*The Value of Life: AIDS in Africa Revisited*. Prod. Bullfrog Films, 2004

Thirty million Africans have HIV/AIDS. In the summer of 2003, United Nations' HIV/AIDS envoy Stephen Lewis returned to Africa and documented his incredible personal journey that has led from hope to despair to hope again.

*Where Have All the Parents Gone?* Prod. CNN, 2006

This documentary, narrated by Christiane Amanpour, focuses on AIDS orphans and the people who care for them.

*Yesterday*. Prod. Videovision, 2005

As beautiful as it is heartbreaking, the Oscar-nominated drama *Yesterday* brings an intimate human perspective to the AIDS crisis in Africa. On the surface, it's a harsh and devastating story about bad things happening to good people, but such a limited description robs the film of its warmth and tender compassion. This moving and heartfelt portrait of a young, devoted mother named Yesterday who learns that she is HIV positive, and remains determined to stay alive until her young daughter Beauty is old enough to go off to school. Her husband is also stricken with AIDS and Yesterday cares for him even as they are ostracized by fearful neighbors in their tiny Zulu village. *Yesterday* puts a human face on a global crisis that's too often viewed in impersonal terms.