

# UN IN RUSSIA

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Translating economic growth into sustainable human development with human rights

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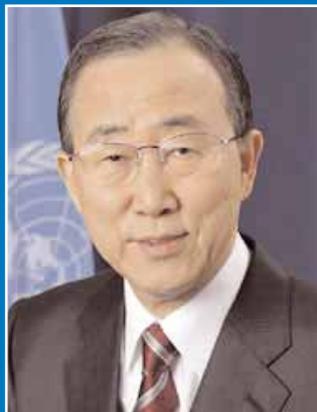
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## UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Message on Human Rights Day, 10 December 2007

On this Human Rights Day, we launch a year-long commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The entire UN family will take part in a campaign to promote the Declaration's ideals and principles of justice and equality for everyone.

The campaign reminds us that in a world still reeling from the horrors of the Second World War, the Declaration was the first global statement of what we now take for granted – the inherent dignity and equality of all human beings.

The extraordinary vision and determination of the drafters produced a document that for the first time set out universal human rights for all people in an individual context. Now available in more than 360 languages, the Declaration is the most translated document in the world – a testament to its universal nature and reach. It has inspired the constitutions of many newly independent States and many new democracies. It has become a yardstick by which we measure



respect for what we know, or should know, as right and wrong.

The Declaration remains as relevant today as it did on the day it was adopted. But the fundamental freedoms enshrined in it are still not a reality for everyone. Too often, Governments lack the political will to implement international norms they have willingly accepted.

This anniversary year is an occasion to build up that will. It is a chance to ensure that these rights are a living reality – that

they are known, understood and enjoyed by everyone, everywhere. It is often those who most need their human rights protected, who also need to be informed that the Declaration exists – and that it exists for them.

May this year reinvigorate us in that mission. Let us make the Universal Declaration of Human Rights an integral part of everyone's life.

**Ban Ki-moon**

Secretary General  
United Nations

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for Human Rights

## Events

# Dignity and Justice for All of Us

On 10 December 2008, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) turns 60. On Human Rights Day 2007, the United Nations launched a year-long UN system-wide advocacy campaign to mark this milestone. The campaign, an initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, will be led by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and supported by UN agencies, departments and funds, and other international and local partners.

The year-long commemoration, culminating on Human Rights Day 2008, aims to further raise awareness about the Declaration and its relevance to people around the world. The campaign aims to engage the wide participation of individuals and institutions – from global organizations to grassroots advocacy groups – to make the Declaration a reality for all. The Declaration opened the door to much progress but there is no room for complacency, as the almost daily litany of human rights violations around the world demonstrates.

The UDHR60 logo comes with words that encapsulate the promise of the Declaration: “Dignity and justice for all of us”. It reinforces the vision of the UDHR as the first international recognition that fundamental rights and freedoms are inalienable and inherent to all human beings, that every one of us is born free and equal. The phrase also serves as a rallying call, for the promise of dignity and justice is far from realized



for everyone. The UDHR is a living document that matters not only in times of conflict and in societies suffering repression, but also in addressing social injustice and achieving human dignity in times of peace in established democracies. Non-discrimination, equality and fairness – key components of justice form the foundation of the UDHR. And no matter where you live, how much money you have, what faith you practice or political views you hold, all the human rights in the Declaration apply to you everywhere and always.

### **The Foremost Statement of Rights and Freedoms of All Human Beings**

The Declaration, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, consists of a preamble and 30 articles, setting out a broad range of fundamental human rights and freedoms to

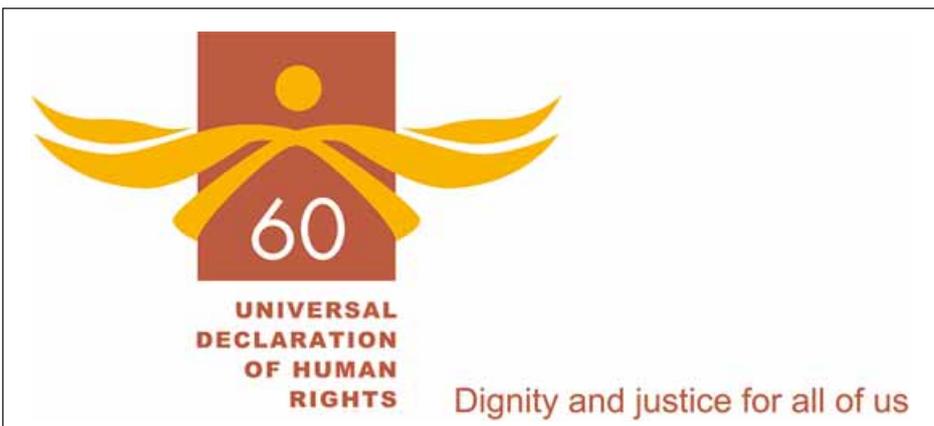
which all men and women everywhere in the world are entitled, without any distinction.

The Declaration was drafted by representatives of all regions and legal traditions. It has over time been accepted as a contract between governments and their peoples. Virtually all states have accepted it. The Declaration has also served as the foundation for an expanding system of human rights protection that today focuses also on vulnerable groups such as disabled persons, indigenous peoples and migrant workers.

### **Human Rights Day**

The UDHR was adopted on 10 December 1948. The date has since served to mark Human Rights Day worldwide. The High Commissioner for Human Rights, as the main UN rights official, and her Office play a major role in coordinating efforts for the yearly observance of Human Rights Day.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), a part of the United Nations Secretariat, is the global authority on human rights. It represents the world's commitment to universal ideals of human dignity and has been given a unique mandate to promote and protect all human rights. Headquartered in





**Statement by High Commissioner Louise Arbour on the occasion of Human Rights Day 10 December 2007**

*As we jointly celebrate today not only Human Rights Day but also launch the year-long campaign leading to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we have cause to celebrate the accomplishments made, since 1948, on the road to ensuring fundamental freedoms for each one of us.*

*The Universal Declaration and its core values- inherent human dignity, justice, non-discrimination, equality, fairness and universality- apply to everyone, everywhere, always.*

*In all parts of the world, individuals, groups, organisations, and Governments have striven to transform into reality the promises contained in the Universal Declaration. Many have died in the pursuit of these ideals.*

*Today is also the day to reflect upon our individual and collective failures to stand up against violence, racism, xenophobia, torture, repression of unpopular views and injustices of all sorts.*

*In today's growing divisions between the rich and the poor; the powerful and the vulnerable, the technologically advanced and the illiterate, the aggressors and the victims, the relevance of the Declaration and the universality of the enshrined rights need to be loudly reaffirmed.*

*In the course of this year; unprecedented efforts must be made to ensure that every person in the world can rely on just laws for his or her protection. In advancing all human rights for all, we will move towards the greatest fulfilment of human potential, a promise which is at the heart of the Universal Declaration.*

Geneva, the Office is also present in some 40 countries. Headed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, a position established by the General Assembly in 1993 to spearhead the United Nations' human rights efforts, OHCHR offers leadership, works objectively, educates and takes action to empower individuals and assist states in upholding human rights.

**A Living Document**

**T**he Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the foundation of international human rights law, the first universal statement on the basic principles of inalienable human rights, and a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. As the UDHR approaches its 60th birthday, it is time to emphasize the living document's enduring relevance, its universality, and that it has everything to do with all of us.

**T**he Declaration represents a contract between governments and their peoples, who have a right to demand that this document be respected. Not all governments have become parties to all human rights treaties. All countries, however, have accepted the UDHR. The Declaration continues to affirm the inherent human dignity and worth of every person in the world, without distinction of any kind.

**T**he Declaration's enduring relevance is more compelling still when we listen to the voices of people at the grassroots level. When the World Bank conducted its Voices of the Poor surveys in the late 1990s, interviewing over 80,000 people in villages and local communities on their values, needs and strongest aspirations, the results read like the list of everyday rights in the UDHR.

**The Foundation of International Human Rights Law**

**I**nitially adopted by countries worldwide as "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations", the Declaration has over time been widely accepted as the fundamental norms of human rights that all should respect. Today, all countries have accepted the UDHR and reaffirmed its commitment to fundamental rights enshrined therein time and again.

**O**ver the years, this commitment has been translated into law through which human rights are defined and guaranteed. Indeed, the UDHR has inspired numerous international human rights treaties and declarations, regional rights treaties and declarations, regional conventions, as well as national constitutions. This rich body of human rights law represents a contract between governments and their peoples.

**I**ndeed, the UDHR has inspired more than 80 international human rights treaties and declarations, a great number of regional human rights conventions, domestic human rights bills, and constitutional provisions, which together constitute a comprehensive legally binding system for the promotion and protection of human rights.

**B**uilding on the achievements of the UDHR, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights entered into force in 1976. The two Covenants developed most of the rights already enshrined in the UDHR, making them effectively binding on States that ratified them. They set forth everyday rights such as the right to life, equality before the law, freedom of expression, the rights to work, social security and education. Together with the UDHR, the Covenants comprise the International Bill of Human Rights.

**T**oday, all United Nations member states have ratified at least one of the nine core international human rights treaties, and 80 percent have ratified four or more, giving concrete expression to the universality of the UDHR and international human rights.

**How Does International Law Protect Human Rights?**

**I**nternational human rights law lays down obligations which States are bound to respect. By becoming parties to international treaties, States assume obligations and duties under international law to respect, to protect and to fulfill human rights. The obligation to respect means that States must refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect requires states to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses. The obligation to fulfill means that states must take posi-

tive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights. Through ratification of international human rights treaties, governments undertake to put into place domestic measures and legislation compatible with their treaty obligations and duties. The domestic legal system, therefore, provides the principal legal protection of human rights guaranteed under international law. Where domestic legal proceedings fail to address human rights abuses, mechanisms and procedures for individual and group complaints are available at the regional and international levels to help ensure that international human rights standards are indeed respected, implemented, and enforced at the local level.

### The World's Most Translated Document

OHCHR has the Guinness World Record as the most translated document in the world. From the six UN official languages -Arabic, Chinese,

English, French, Russian, and Spanish-spoken by billions of people, to Pipil, spoken by some 50 people in El Salvador and Honduras, the UDHR is the most translated document in the world.

During the World Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004) and on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the UDHR, a project to have the Declaration translated in as many languages and dialects as possible was developed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and various governments, academia and international, regional and grass-roots civil society organizations. OHCHR received over 360 translations.

### Global Projects to Celebrate UDHR60

The year-long commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is intended to be as inclusive as possible, highlighting the role of people everywhere as the custodians and beneficiaries of UDHR. The commemoration will encompass the UN family, the public and private sectors, media, schools, artists and other representatives of civil society throughout the world. Below are samples of projects planned for 2008.

#### www.KnowYourRights2008.org

The United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC) in Brussels created a new website, [www.KnowYourRights2008.org](http://www.KnowYourRights2008.org), as a repository of ideas to commemorate the year of human rights. The highly interactive website enables people all over the world to upload and download multimedia files and share their projects and initiatives on the Universal Declaration.

### A Long Way to Declaration

Throughout history conflicts in the form of wars or uprisings have often come as a reaction to inhumane treatment and injustice. The English Bill of Rights in 1689, drafted after the English civil wars, sprang from people's aspiration for democracy. Exactly a century later the French Revolution gave rise to the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizen with its proclamation of equality for all. But the Cyrus Cylinder, issued in 539 B.C. by Cyrus the Great of the Achaemenid Persian Empire (ancient Iran) after his conquest of Babylon, is said by many to be the first human rights document, and the Pact of the Virtuous (Hilf-al-Fudul), concluded by the Arab tribes around 590 AD, is considered one of the first human rights alliances.

After the Second World War and creation of the United Nations, the world leaders decided to complement the UN Charter with a road map to guarantee the rights of every individual everywhere and always.

The document they considered, and which would later become the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was taken up at the first session of the General Assembly in 1946. The Assembly

reviewed this draft Declaration on Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms and transmitted it to the Economic and Social Council "for reference to the Commission on Human Rights for consideration ... in its preparation of an international bill of rights." The Commission, at its first session early in 1947, authorized its members to formulate what it termed "a preliminary draft International Bill of Human Rights". Later



Eleanor Roosevelt with the Declaration the work was taken over by a formal drafting committee, consisting of members of the Commission from eight states selected with due regard for geographical distribution.

The Commission on Human Rights was made up of 18 members from

various political, cultural and religious backgrounds. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of American President Franklin D. Roosevelt, chaired the UDHR drafting committee. With her were René Cassin of France, who composed the first draft of the Declaration, the Committee Rapporteur Charles Malik of Lebanon, Vice-Chairman Peng Chung Chang of China, and John Humphrey of Canada, Director of the United Nations Human Rights Division, who prepared the Declaration's blueprint. But Mrs. Roosevelt was recognized as the driving force for the Declaration's adoption.

The final draft by Cassin was handed to the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. The draft declaration sent out to all UN member states for comments became known as the Geneva draft.

The first draft of the Declaration was proposed in September 1948 with over 50 member states participating in the final drafting. By Resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948, the General Assembly, meeting in Paris, adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with eight nations abstaining from the vote but none dissenting.

www.KnowYourRights2008.org will be launched on 10 December 2007.

### **Internationally Renowned Directors Film Human Rights**

A series of 18 short films on human rights directed by award winning film-makers from different regions will be shown back to back as one medium-length feature in various locations throughout 2008, with the first show at the Rome Film Festival. The films will be distributed as Public Service Announcements (PSAs) in cinemas and television networks worldwide. This is collaboration between OHCHR, NGO Art for the World, Dorje Films, and the European Commission.

### **Cartooning for Human Rights**

The illustrations to the UDHR by 17 artists from Algeria, Belgium, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, France, Iran, Israel, Japan, Palestine, Russia and the United States were exhibited in Rome on 10 December 2007. A collection of thought-provoking cartoons from lead-

ing international cartoonists illustrating UDHR were exhibited at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The exhibition opened on 10 December 2007, Human Rights Day, and will travel to locations around the world throughout 2008. This is a presentation by the Cartoonists and Writers Syndicate (CWS).

### **The 61st Annual NGO Conference – Paris**

Hosted for the first time out of New York at UNESCO headquarters from 3 to 5 September 2008, the conference will be held under the theme “A Celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights”. An initiative from the UN Department of Public Information (DPI).

### **Interactive Dialogues on Human Rights – New York**

A series of interactive dialogues on human rights are organised from October 2007 to December 2008. Speakers will discuss new challenges and approaches to human rights in the

context of improving synergy between the United Nations in New York, the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Members States, UN agencies and civil society. These dialogues are organised by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland in New York in collaboration with OHCHR and the NGO Committee on Human Rights.

### **Public Discussions Organized by the Association of Peace Messenger Cities**

A year-long campaign of public talks about the Declaration in US cities and other activities worldwide is organized by the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities uniting 88 cities from around the world.

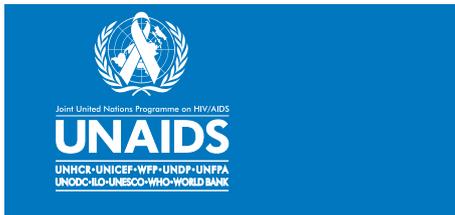
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## Highlights

# Living with HIV in Russia



Today, over 400,000 HIV cases are registered in Russia. HIV growth rate in Russia is one of the highest in Central and Eastern Europe. About 80 percent of HIV positive are young people.

How do HIV positive people live in today's society? What ethical, moral, medical and human rights related problems do they face? This was the topic of the online conference in RIA Novosti with participation of Bertil Lindblad, Regional Director of UN Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Alexandre Goliusov, Head of HIV/AIDS Department of Federal Service of Surveillance Over Customer Rights Protection and Human Well-Being, Svetlana Izambaeva, the winner of a beauty contest for HIV positive women, Miss Positive.

During a two hour online dialogue the guests answered 40 questions out of 93. Such great interest shows

the importance of the topic. Below are some of the questions and answers.

*– Why do country leaders turn a blind eye to the fact that Russia and Ukraine share the first place in the world HIV/AIDS growth rates?! And why are HIV positive babies still not granted the status of disabled from birth like in other countries? (Igor, St. Petersburg)*

#### **Alexandre Goliusov:**

– On the contrary, country leaders have paid a lot of attention to HIV problem, especially recently. The session of the National Council in 2005 was dedicated to this topic. The president raised this issue at the G8 meetings. Since 2006, a national priority project on HIV has been in effect in Russia, and anyone can now receive free of charge the expensive HIV treatment. The project will run till 2010, i.e. for 5 years, so it is not a onetime action.



*Alexandre Goliusov*

*– I am an ordinary manager. Can I be fired if all of a sudden the virus is discovered in my blood? Shall I inform my boss? (Pyotr, Moscow)*

– In compliance with the federal law #39 nobody has a right to fire you. And certainly you do not have to inform anyone of your diagnosis. However, in reality, stigmatization and discrimination of HIV positive people is quite common. If an employer wants to fire an HIV positive employee it will never be done openly. Instead they will do their best to invent a different reason for firing. Thus, it is very difficult to say whether you should inform your boss. Everyone should decide for oneself. You have no obligations in this respect. You need to decide for yourself. Sometimes, if you know that you will receive support, it is better to inform.

– *How long does the virus live outside the body?* (Ekaterina, Moscow)

– The virus is very non-persistent. It cannot survive outside the body. That is why you should not be afraid of contracting it in transport, in a swimming pool, in a toilet or elsewhere in everyday life. One can contract it while having sex, injecting drugs with shared or non-sterile needles or when blood comes into contact with blood.

– *What are the main barriers on the way of people living with HIV to receiving treatment now that the financial issues seem to be resolved?* (Natalia)

– Today, the main barrier to effective ARV therapy is the fact that HIV positive people are not informed and not willing to turn to AIDS Centres to receive this therapy. Another difficulty is the lack of commitment to treatment. It means that those who start receiving treatment should continue taking it, not quit it. Unfortunately, due to a variety of reasons up to 10 percent of patients quit ARV therapy.

– *Who can I turn to for help in case of discrimination on the part of medical professionals?* (Vladimir, St. Petersburg)

– In this case, you should first turn to the head of the organization where you work. If you do not get assistance, you need to assert your rights at the public prosecutor's office and in court seeking to have the guilty party punished and to receive a compensation. This is the only way one can make medical professionals be responsible for what they are supposed to be responsible for. Any medical professional must render the same assistance to HIV positive people as to other patients. As a rule, as soon as you say that you are going to assert your rights, all problems disappear. Do not be afraid to do it.

– *Why such small funds are allocated for prevention? Treatment only eliminates consequences but does not prevent the development of the epidemic.* (Vladimir, St. Petersburg)

– It happens because treatment and diagnostics yield quick and tangible results. On the other hand, prevention is a complicated and long process – the process of behavioural change, where it is difficult to make forecasts and to achieve quick and obvious success. You are absolutely right, financial decision-makers also need to change their mentality and begin reacting to the situation by allocating funds for undisputably important but not so visual and manifestly successful activities such as diagnostics and treatment.

– *HIV problem has existed for a long time and has not been solved yet. What methods do you consider to be the most effective: information campaigns, prevention or intimidating people with consequences?* (Oxana, Krasnoyarsk)

**Betil Lindblad:**

– I would like to point out three very important things: prevention, treatment and provision of medical services. People need to know what HIV is and what AIDS is as it is two different things, and how they can protect themselves from the virus, from infection. HIV is a potential threat to everyone, no matter where one lives and what one's occupation is. We all live in the same world with HIV. It is very important to disseminate information in the framework of various programmes in Russia. All countries have a very good experience of 'hot lines', which came into being 25 years ago, prior to the Internet. From the beginning of the epidemic in America, France and Sweden they have been using 'hot lines', radio- and telecasts, posters, brochures. We also think that it is very important that school students and employees receive accurate information where they study and work. Today, we have antiretroviral medication, which helps; however, there is no vaccine that can cure this disease. That is why the most important in prevention is to slow down the epidemic growth rate. Informing is a cornerstone of prevention. And certainly there should be no intimidation. Sometimes it is hard talk about risks. Overall, HIV infection is mostly transmitted sexually. That is why one needs to talk about sexual life more openly. It is not always easy, but it is important and necessary to have information, accurate infor-

mation. Safe sex, for example, what is it? It is a minimal number of partners and condom usage. A separate issue is drug use. In Russia and CIS very many cases of HIV infection are linked specifically to drug use.

– *Is it necessary to inform children about the ways of transmission and prevention methods and from what age? Do we need to speak about it at schools and what is the best way of doing it?* (Maria, Moscow)



Betil Lindblad

– Certainly! We need to start in the 5-6th and the 7-8th grades. It is necessary to adapt information and to introduce it differently to each age group. But the main thing is that everyone should be informed. And in this context, we need to speak about tolerance, stigma and discrimination.

– *I have heard the expression 'goodwill ambassador' many times. How can one become a goodwill ambassador? Can I in any way contribute to the response to HIV or help those who are already infected?* (Artem, Moscow)

– The term 'goodwill ambassador' in this very context came into being 25 years ago, when the first case of HIV infection was registered in America. People are scared not only of the disease itself but also of talking about it. When celebrities understand the problem and discuss it publicly, this way they participate in solving it, and this helps the whole society. For this reason, well-known actors, sportsmen and singers participate in information campaigns, public events. They talk about HIV infection on TV, radio, from posters. A lot of organizations, including nongovernmental help groups and voluntary unions work in the area of preven-

tion and aid. One can join those to contribute to the cause of responding to HIV and AIDS. I feel deep respect towards everybody who participates in this. They do something big and significant.

– *What about HIV prevention among labour migrants? What the authorities do about it?* (Vyacheslav, Moscow).

– It is a very important issue. That is why we plan to schedule a meeting of the CIS HIV Coordination Council to discuss HIV issue in the context of migration. It will take place approximately in the first decade of February 2008.

– *Svetlana, you are a brave woman. Are you employed? Where? Do your employers know about your diagnosis?* (Natalia, St. Petersburg)

**Svetlana Izambaeva:**

– I am currently on a maternity leave. My daughter is 8 months old. I work at TNT TV channel in the AIDS Emergency programme. In Kazan where I live I manage a mutual help group for women living with HIV. My employers are aware of my diagnosis.

– *You were not afraid to bear a child. And what if the baby had been born HIV positive?* (Sergey, Kostroma)

– I was not afraid to give birth and I was very happy to become a mother. Thanks to



Svetlana Izambaeva

prevention measures, which I observed during pregnancy, I knew that the risk of mother-to-child virus transmission was less than 1%. And I was sure that my baby would be healthy. Until now three tests have been negative. Even if my daughter had been born HIV positive I would have never abandoned her. I would have always been near her so that she would feel mother's love. I myself live with HIV, receive treatment and am sure that I will die only of age.

– *You had a difficult life. How did you cope with knowing that you are infected? Did your friends help you? Were there people*

*that turned away from you because of the fear of contracting the disease? What advice can you give to people living with HIV in order to have faith and keep on fighting?* (Ella, Chelyabinsk)

– Thank you very much for your support! You cannot imagine how important it is for us simply to feel support, to shake somebody's helping hand, to hear kind words. To people living with HIV I would advise to love themselves, love other people and act together not only with people living with HIV but with everyone else too. This way we will be able to respond to the epidemic somehow.

People living with HIV were the first to support me. I came to a training and saw a hundred of very active HIV positive people from all over Russia. I got infected by their enthusiasm. It was a great support to me. I would very much want people to understand that HIV is not a death sentence. With HIV one can live a full life, do quality work and enjoy oneself.

A full text of the online conference is available at <http://www.rian.ru/online/20071210/91717434.html>

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## Neglected by Fate, but Still Looked After...



A disease is always a disaster. It is a double disaster if a person gets sick while far from home. How can one help foreigners who found asylum in Russia to avoid disease and to support those who have already fallen into the trap?

Today, this problem worries people from various organizations, including the non-profit sector. One of them is Magee Womancare International, located in Moscow near Pervomayskaya metro station, a department of the American Magee -Women's Hospital established in 1911, which provides medical services to women. Magee is a long-term partner of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Russia, providing medical assistance to refugees with the agency's financial support. Dr. Nadezhda Platonova kindly agreed to answer the questions of the UN in Russia bulletin. She is dealing with the prevention of a number of diseases, including HIV and AIDS, among the refugees who turn to Magee for help.

– *What is prevention – could you explain what you and your colleagues do in particular?*

– Let me begin with the youngest and therefore, probably, the most vulnerable group. For two years now refugee children have been studying together with local children in several Moscow schools. We have organized Saturday lectures for them, or rather interactive discussions or dialogues, on how diseases spread and how to protect themselves.

– *In what language are the lectures delivered?*

– In Russian. Their studies always begin with Russian language classes; therefore, they speak and understand Russian fairly well. Women of reproductive age are quite a different case, and we invite a female interpreter to talk to them.

– *To translate into...?*

– Dari or Pushtu, as Afghans is the largest group of refugees from non-CIS countries. We have been offering preventive treatment



for five years now. Children, adolescents and adults come to us with various diseases. We have provided assistance in cases of scabies and helminths. As for urogenital infections or HIV, we only touched on these issues lest children are affected.

– *When did you focus your attention on HIV?*

– The Magee/UNHCR joint project started in 2004-2005. Magee delivers lectures in the Refugee Support Centre located near Pervomayskaya metro station. Usually two specialists, a paediatrician and a gynaecologist, provide consultations not only on HIV, but also on sexually transmitted diseases to the audience of 10-12, sometimes 18 teenagers.

– *How many such conversations, or classes, have you delivered by now?*

– Overall, about three hundred: more than 200 for teenagers, over 40 for women of childbearing age and 18 for young mothers. Discussions with women about family planning also include HIV prevention.

Our specialists receive patients in two Moscow clinics and always remind them about personal hygiene essential for preventing infections, including HIV. In this way, we have managed to educate about 1300 patients. We have distributed 1000 brochures on AIDS and 20000 condoms.

– *In the absence of antiviral vaccine preventive measures are, doubtless, imperative for HIV control, aren't they?*

– Absolutely. I would like to emphasize that we specialize in emergency medical assistance and preventive treatment. We do not verify HIV diagnosis or treat HIV – this is the responsibility of special HIV and AIDS centres.

– *Do you have partners? Tell us about your cooperation.*

– Social workers provide essential assistance to us - they deliver food packages to patients. We greatly appreciate the assistance provided by the partner NGO Gratis. For ten years they have helped find solutions for refugees. And, naturally, we receive great support from UNHCR.

– *What is your attitude towards HIV patients?*

– The attitude does not depend on the disease – for any doctor a patient is a patient, irrespective of his/her illness.

– *Would you agree to take this job if you were offered it again, now that you know what it is like?*

– Sure.

*Interviewed by  
Vladimir Sadakov*

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# Business Strategies against Women's Poverty

**B**usiness has no gender, but women's entrepreneurship in Russia has a number of peculiarities. This was the main topic of the conference 'Small and Medium Business Development in Russia: Strategies of Addressing Women's Poverty' held on 4th December in Moscow with the support of the United Nations Development Programme.

**O**ne of these peculiarities is the inevitable and often forced nature of women's entrepreneurship in Russia. Albina Shirobokova, the conference participant from Irkutsk, gave a bright explanation of this phenomena: "In rural areas, 67% of men have drinking problems and women have to find jobs and survive by themselves."

**“W**omen entrepreneurs in the regions mostly organize small and medium businesses that require a lot of physical effort and do not bring immediate profit,” says Alla Chirikova, PhD, Chief Researcher at the Sociology Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

**W**omen entrepreneurs around the world are facing the same problems, including the lack of financial resources, affordable loans on acceptable terms, lack of properly organized information flows and awareness on possible assistance they need so much. A lot of conference partici-



pants said that they are ready to combine (and some of them currently do it) business goals with initiatives in the area of non-governmental social services to vulnerable population groups. Chair of regional non-governmental organization, Women's Business Centre Etoile from Barnaul, Nina Shabalina, a former French teacher, helps servicemen's wives who turn to entrepreneurship when they find themselves in a difficult life situation without any working experience and means to provide for themselves. In the Irkutsk Region, Albina Shirobokova, head of the local Union of Angara Women, supports development of family tourist business through a network of crisis centres and the Women Entrepreneurs Association.

**D**uring the discussion of this socially responsible approach to business in the regions, the conference participants came to a conclusion that these initiatives should be supported by local authorities as they help solve a lot of social issues in the regions.

**I**n view of serious demographic problems, the state relies on women in the area of reproductive work, including care for children, disabled, elderly and sick family members, which, according to Irina Lavrentieva, Professor of the Chelyabinsk branch of Moscow State University of Entrepreneurship, "should be appreciated not less than working for the benefit of the country's economy." Russia has no value estimate of reproductive work, which is not included in the national accounts, while the amount of maternity aid allocated at birth is cut incredibly by the time the child is 5 years old - the time when childcare requires major financial, emotional and physical resources.

**I**t is necessary to review the current system and find new forms of supporting small entrepreneurship considering family roles and responsibilities of women entrepreneurs as mothers; it is necessary to make amendments in the legislation in the area of supporting women's entrepreneurship at the federal and regional levels, both in urban and rural areas; there is a need for an active interregional dialogue in the area of women's entrepreneurship issues, as well as strong media support.

**UNDP** has vast experience in building public consensus through development of the process of citizens' involvement in the public life gained at the international level. Major UNDP goal is to provide effective support to countries in achievement of their national development goals. Reduction of poverty and social tension, enhancement of political and socio-economic human development, in particular women's, improvement of legislation, ICT development for business growth and development of public institutions are among UNDP priority areas.

**E**stablishment of the women's entrepreneurship support system will have a direct influence on strengthening women's position and increasing their independence.

***Snizhana Kolomiets,***  
*UNDP Regional  
Communications Specialist*



*Left to right: Michael Mamuta, President of the Russian Microfinancial Centre, Galina Kalinaeva, UNDP Gender Advisor, Elena Armand, UNDP Programmes Coordinator*

# Festival of Swedish Cinema and Literature for Children in Vladikavkaz



On 4-6 December 2007, the Festival of Swedish Cinema and Literature for Children took place in Vladikavkaz, the capital of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania. This was the second festival of the kind organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic.

The Cinema and Children project started in 2006 with the first festival successfully held in Vladikavkaz and Beslan in November 2006. In 2007, in the framework of this project, a Children's Film Studio was established in the Cinema House in Vladikavkaz on the basis of the children's arts foundation 'Erassik'. The final third festival in Vladikavkaz and the regions of North Ossetia is scheduled for November 2008.

The aim of the project is to help improve the social situation and psychological climate in Beslan, in North Ossetia and the North Caucasus region as a whole through cinema that can have a positive spiritual and intellectual effect, especially on the younger generation. The language of cinematography is the most comprehensible and understandable for children and youth even when discussing very complicated issues. The population of the North Caucasus needs to regain faith in the overriding power of kindness and justice, not the power of evil, as well as in the principles

of tolerance and mutual assistance irrespective of religious beliefs and ethnicity.

A total of 650 children attended the festival. Children from Beslan, the Ardonsky and Prigorodny regions of North Ossetia were invited to participate as special guests. During the two days of the festival three Swedish films for children were shown.

On 4 December, the Festival opening ceremony took place at the Cinema House. The Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, Representative of the UNDP office in the North Caucasus, Head of the United Nations Children's Fund in the North Caucasus, Chairman of the Union of Cinematographers of North Ossetia, Director of the "Erassik" foundation partic-



ipated in the event, which included performance by the musical group Dala-Fandir of the Lyceum of Arts of RNO-Alania and an ensemble of accordionists of Vladikavkaz Musical School #1.

After the opening ceremony the movie 'Percy, Buffalo Bill and I', which was awarded the Grand Prix of the XXIII Moscow International Children Film Festival in 2007, was demonstrated.

It is a story of two friends who spend their summer holidays in the countryside. The only difference from the previous year is their new friend, a girl called Pia, who pointedly shows she likes one of the boys more. Jealousy and unrequited love are possible at any age, but soon it turns out that

real friendship is stronger than a passing infatuation.

On 5 December, the movie 'Tsatsiki, Mum and Policeman' was demonstrated. It is about an eight year old boy who lives with his mother but dreams about finding his father, a Greek fisherman. The boy saw him only on a photo, which is hanging on the wall of his bedroom. He is practicing underwater swimming in a pool, but the dangerous exercise could have cost him life. Fortunately, the last moment he was saved by a policeman. This is how the movie about Tsatsiki started. The film received very good reviews and four Golden Beetle awards, including awards for best director and best scenario.

The movie 'A Witch in the House' shown later on the same day tells a story of an eight year old girl Maria who wants to get read of her younger brother. Suddenly she gets a chance to solve the problem - Maria meets a girl who has a magic crystal ball for making wishes. They do not have to wait long, as soon after making a wish the girls find out that Maria's parents hired a nanny, aunty Gerda. Maria realizes that the mysterious Gerda is a witch who has come to take away her younger brother. Now she no longer wants her wish to come true. In the face of danger, she understands that in reality she loves her brother more than anyone else and is ready to do everything possible to protect him.

During the festival a photo exhibition 'I See the World!' organized by the 'Erassik' foundation and supported by UNICEF was on display in the lobby of the Cinema House, together with UNDP and UNICEF information stands.

On 6 December, Swedish books and educational computer games for children provided by the Swedish Embassy were presented at the Republican Children's Library. UNDP gave sets of books and games to all regional children libraries of RNO-Alania.

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# UN and Corporate Responsibility



To what extent is the market economy able to meet the challenges which, on the face of it, are not market issues? What is meant is, first of all, the goal of fighting poverty and backwardness. Everyone would agree that it is impossible to ignore the issue of inequality between poor and rich countries, as well as among social groups inside them.

Let's take a look at the relationship between the UN and the business community. In terms of areas of their interests, one can clearly see that their essential goals are different. For the United Nations, the primary goal is maintaining international peace and security and reducing the incidence of poverty worldwide. The main goal of the private sector is business expansion and profits increase. These two groups of goals seem to belong to different levels; they are compatible, although not always and only partially.

There is, however, one large area, where the interests of international organizations and business are well compatible and potentially mutually complementary. I mean markets development, regulation of social relations, environment conservation, public health issues and the need to address some social predicaments.

The rapprochement between the UN and the private sector at the beginning of the 21st century allowed the UN to expand its network of relations with business community, gave it access to modern expertise and manifold experience and helped it in many cases to elaborate new standards in the field of sustainable development, fighting corruption, and promotion and protection of human rights. However, the initial hopes of UN leaders that their openness to

cooperation with business will result in a considerable influx of financial resources, have never materialized.

All in all, the "corporate citizenship" of the private sector is a multi-tier issue. This concept is partly shaped by fashion, partly by "life as it is," and it also has some features of the advanced corporate culture. What are the reasons that prompt businessmen to prove their responsibility to others?

To mention just a few aspects that seem to be most relevant in the context of the "transitional economies": reputation management; knowledge of trends in the corporate environment; understanding of social ills; search for competitive advantages; reduction of costs; and access to capital.

At the same time, we should not overlook serious obstacles that restrict the corporate social responsibility (CSR). First, it is difficult to assess the effectiveness of the measures that are being taken; second, convincing examples of benefits that CSR brings about to businesses as they are not so readily available; third, implementation of corporate responsibility principles is not legally obligatory. Last, but not the least, being socially responsible makes businesses more costly.

In transitional economies, social activists and the State perceive the issue of "corporate citizenship" from different perspectives. The former make an emphasis on the responsibility of businessmen from the point of view of values of social solidarity, combating inequality, etc.

The problem, according to social activists, is that Russia has an acute shortage of socially responsible government officials. This partially answers the question as to why the State's social credentials are so unconvincing.

At the same time, it is useless to lambaste the government for disregarding the interests of the society. We also need to be able to take a critical look at the behavior of business itself. Not all entrepreneurs understand the real importance of corporate social responsibility.

However, the conditions for greater social "responsiveness" of business are gradually improving.

Let's look at societal attitudes. According to the WWF-Russia, 54% of Russians prefer to buy goods generating proceeds that are partially channeled to addressing the issues of environment protection. There is another good news: according to public opinion polls, 70% of respondents in Russia agree that there is a demand for information on corporate responsibility.

CSR departments at big companies may have a point in complaining that their target audiences are too small. This only means that they should learn to communicate at different levels, to engage various interlocutors using an appropriate language. In this context, even the existence of a well-functioning public relations department that prepares excellent social reports is not a full-proof guarantee that the image of a specific company is impeccable. True, spin doctors can "put a gloss over an image," but they do need a substantial basis to work on.

The Geneva Declaration, adopted at the UN Global Compact Summit in July 2007, reads: "Through a commitment to corporate citizenship..., companies can continue to create and deliver value in the widest possible terms." These good and high-sounding words need to be translated into the language of purely economic terms for some, and into the ordinary people's language, for others. I would take the liberty to claim that we all have a stake in effective social investments of the business community. In conclusion, I would like to cite Adam Smith, who said once: "The market and the conscience should go together."

**Alexandre Gorelik,**

*Director of the UN Information Centre in Moscow*

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World Health Organization

# Combating Noncommunicable Diseases in Russia

“...we need to ensure that medical care is accessible and of high quality, and we need to revive the traditions of preventive medicine as part of the Russian healthcare system.”

(from the Annual Address of President Vladimir Putin to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on 25 April 2005)

Russia is confronted by a demographic crisis aggravated by low fertility and high mortality rates. The population has suffered from economic hardships and unhealthy lifestyle, as well as environmental pollution resulting in decreases in the average life expectancy of Russian citizens. At birth, this indicator is 65 years, an average of 14 years less than life expectancies in the European Union. For men this gap amounts to 16 years. The level of mortality related to the above-mentioned causes is three times higher in women and five times higher in men compared to mortality rates observed in the European Union.

Another indicator of health, or in our case, unhealthy population, is the number of lost years of a healthy life. What are the critical risk factors affecting this indicator? They are arterial blood pressure, alcohol, smoking, high blood cholesterol, excess body mass, low fruit and vegetable consumption, and physical inactivity.

In addition to the high level of customary risk factors - including smoking, alcohol abuse, and high blood pressure - psycho-social factors have a considerable influence on people's health. Depression has become a widespread issue amongst the population, yet another unhappy Russian characteristic.

It has now been proved that a well-planned prevention programme can substantially influence lifestyles and the prevalence of risk factors. A change in lifestyle and decrease of exposure to risk factors result in a reduction of cardiovascular and other chronic diseases.

As part of a Biennial Collaborative Agreement (2006-2007) the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation have developed a national strategy for

combating noncommunicable diseases in compliance with the European Strategy for Preventing and Combating such diseases. The primary goal of these collaborative efforts is to establish a programme for combating noncommunicable diseases within a framework of an existing healthcare system. This process must be based on current political documents and healthcare programmes. These efforts should also be based on the experience accumulated over more than 20 years of the country's participation in the CINDI (Countrywide Integrated Noncommunicable Diseases Intervention) network.

Currently the conditions are favourable for combating noncommunicable diseases: the political will is there, as are financing and infrastructure. Regional power is increasing, as well as possibilities for them to develop and implement policies and strategies for maintaining and strengthening the health of the population in the regions.



The Health National Project, which contains primary healthcare as an integral component, is now successfully being implemented.

However, the Russian Federation still lacks qualified personnel and a training program in order to develop and implement a strategy of prevention of noncommunicable diseases and trauma. Besides, there are too few researches on the effectiveness assessment of preventive interventions.



This was the background for the second round of international consultation on the development of the Strategy for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the Russian Federation that took place in Moscow on 1-2 November 2007.

Numerous discussions involving representatives from the regions of the Russian Federation were conducted during the consultative meetings. Health professionals from the Chuvash Republic, the Vologda and Chelyabinsk oblasts, and Saint-Petersburg, as well as specialists from Finland, Great Britain, and Canada shared their experience with the colleagues.

The debates participants were of a common opinion that successful implementation of a noncommunicable disease and trauma preventive strategy in Russia requires more work on the regional level where there is the largest capacity for combating noncommunicable diseases, as well as strengthening the educational component of the strategy. A detailed assessment of the strategy conducted by international specialists is needed. The experience of international partners should be taken into account to remove existing barriers to effective prevention of non-infectious diseases in Russia. A clear vision of the concept and strategy problem statement for combating noncommunicable diseases is critical. In addition, a detailed plan of action is needed for developing and implementing the strategy with the WHO support.

# All Against Tuberculosis

## Europe's Concern

Europe is usually considered perhaps the best place in terms of healthcare. Participants of the WHO European Ministerial Forum held on 22 October 2007 in Berlin challenged this view. The meeting was organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the German Federal Ministry of Health.

This influential forum was called to address the rampant spread of tuberculosis in several countries of the WHO European region. Members of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe expressed serious concern for the situation during its 52nd session. In February 2005, WHO Regional Director, Dr. Marc Danzon, issued a special letter to all member governments in WHO/Europe declaring the situation as critical for the entire region. The prevalence of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in WHO/Europe is higher than in other regions. According to estimates, there are approximately 70,000 cases of MDR-TB in WHO/Europe, 95 percent in Eastern European countries. Additional regional issues – such as extensive drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB), increased prevalence of HIV co-infection and migration – further complicate the situation.

These factors were among the main reasons for organizing the forum. A total of 49 representatives from WHO/Europe took part in the meeting, including 22 health ministers and 2 ministers of justice. The UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Stop Tuberculosis and former President of Portugal, H.E. Jorge Sampaio, addressed the participants. Primary WHO

International partners also gave presentations.

Participants emphasized that governments and international organizations must coordinate their efforts, cooperate, and agree on measures to respond to the health threats posed by tuberculosis. Several approaches should be implemented including region-wide measures and measures that can be adapted for specific epidemiological conditions and specific healthcare systems in each country.

The ministerial forum adopted the Berlin Declaration on Tuberculosis. The document calls for required resources and decisions that would allow European countries to achieve the goal of combating tuberculosis formulated in the Millennium Declaration. Ahead of the forum, the text of the Declaration had been agreed upon by all member states of WHO/Europe.

Information on the European Ministerial Forum is included in the

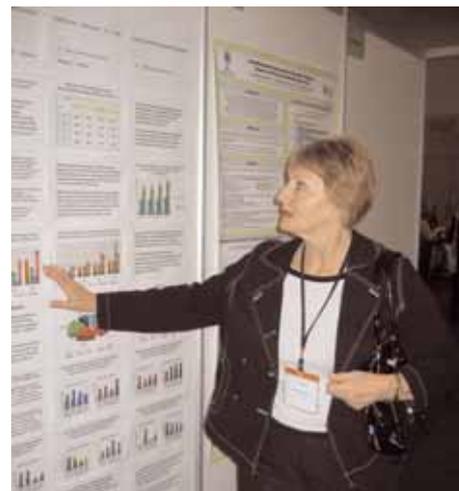


WHO Programme Bulletin on Tuberculosis Control in the Russian Federation, issue #5, November 2007.

Detailed information regarding the European Ministerial Forum can also be found on the WHO/Europe website at <http://www.euro.who.int/tuberculosis>.

## Europeans Are Worried about Global Concerns

On 8-12 November 2007, the 38th World Conference of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease was held in Cape Town, South Africa. Speakers and delegates from over 100 countries gave presentations and participated in discussions.



This year's conference was dedicated to HIV and MDR-TB.

Participants focused on the growth of extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB), which does not respond to treatment in particular and is the matter of concern in the medical community. Issues related to the continuing tuberculosis epidemic combined with HIV co-infection aroused an animated discussion. According to presenters, the development of new pharmaceuticals, diagnostic methods, and resources for resolving these issues were long overdue.

Several critical issues that needed addressing were added to the agenda, expanding the scope of the forum. In addition to presentations, three plenary sessions were conducted: lectures by Robert Koch, 'Strengthening Laboratory Services', and 'Effective Healthcare Systems'. The conference programme included 13 workshops on tuberculosis and HIV, prevention and management of MDR- and XDR-TB, ethical issues of clinical research, and educational work. Topics such as quick tests for determining drug resistance, MDR and XDR-TB and effective treatment of tuberculosis with HIV co-infection were covered in 40 symposia.

Russian participants from Arkhangelsk, Vladimir, Orel, Moscow, and other regions took part in symposium and poster presentations.

Detailed information regarding this conference and other Union events are located on the website [www.iatld.org](http://www.iatld.org).



# To Eliminate Measles in the Russian Federation by 2010

Inspired by the success of global smallpox eradication and eradication of poliomyelitis in European countries, covered by WHO Regional Office for Europe, the Office set a target of eliminating measles by 2010. Elimination of measles virus means interruption of transmission of virus from one person to another. Measles virus is one of the most infectious, so the transmission can be interrupted only if 95% of population is immune to measles.

The criteria of elimination is set at less than 1 case per 1 million population, thus the Russian Federation should have less than 140 cases/year for the entire country to reach the elimination goal. Measles elimination strategies include maintaining high routine coverage with two doses of measles containing vaccine; supplemental immunization targeting susceptible population and strengthening surveillance with investigation and laboratory confirmation of every measles case.

Russia demonstrates high political commitment in the implementation of these strategies: routine coverage is maintained at the 95% level with supplemental immunization for adults under 35 conducted recently.

Russia also hosts WHO Regional Reference Laboratory on Measles and Rubella, which provides support to all CIS countries. High quality laboratory-based surveillance plays a critical role in confirming a clinical diagnosis as rash of



other origin can be mistakenly diagnosed as measles. WHO Regional Office for Europe provides equipment, supplies and training to participating 70 national laboratories-members of the Regional Measles/Rubella Laboratory Network.

On 5-16 November 2007, a workshop for CIS countries was conducted at the Regional Reference Laboratory at the Gabrichevsky Institute in Moscow. The main focus was on ELISA, the 'golden standard' for laboratory diagnosis, and on conventional serum specimens. In addition,

alternative sampling technique with use of dried blood spots on filter paper was presented. This method simplifies the transportation of specimens from a clinic to a designated laboratory.

On 10-12 December, the second meeting of the Russian Federation Measles/Rubella Laboratory Network with participation of ten sub-national measles and rubella laboratories was held at the Gabrichevsky Institute. The aim of the meeting was to assess the progress of the measles elimination programme in general and laboratory-specific challenges faced by laboratories in the Russian Federation. These included relatively simple issues like sample transportation and storage, as well as complex technical issues related to diagnostic kits and molecular characterization of measles and rubella viruses isolated by laboratories.



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# Men as Partners in Maternal Health

United Nations Population Fund



Lilya Dal – 1st place

Every minute another woman dies in childbirth and as result of pregnancy-related complications. Every minute, the loss of a mother threatens the future of a family, especially children.

**UNFPA**, the United Nations Population Fund, supports safe motherhood initiatives around the world. It works with governments and other partners to ensure that every woman has access to at least three reproductive health services that save

women's lives. They include voluntary family planning, skilled attendance at birth, and emergency obstetric care if complications arise during delivery.

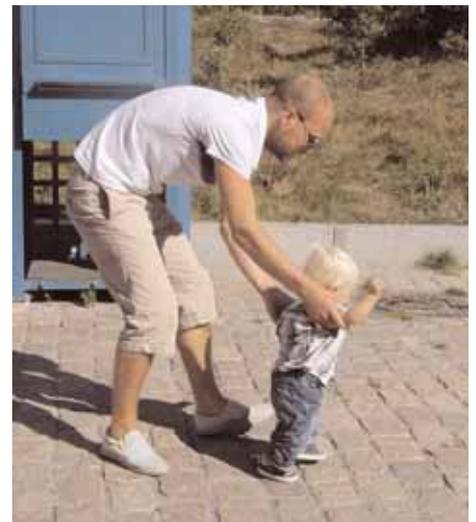
Judging from our experience, involvement and participation of men: fathers, brothers, husbands, community and religious leaders, and decision-makers - in safe motherhood initiatives contributes to improving women's health and promoting their reproductive rights.



Anna Remez – 2d place

'Men as Partners in Maternal Health' was selected as a theme of the World Population Day to draw the attention of countries, political and religious leaders to women's health. Accordingly, the same title was chosen for a photo contest for amateur and professional photographers held by UNFPA in July-September 2007.

During two months UNFPA received 136 photographs. So the Contest Committee members had a lot to discuss and think about. The committee was comprised of Alexander Mordovin (UNFPA), Victoria Zotikova (UNDP), Marina Shirshova (UN Information Centre), and Alexiy Neshin (photo correspondent, the Union of Journalists of Russia). After the heated debates the following winners were named:



Julia Golovizina – 3d place

- 1st – Lilya Dal (Moscow)
- 2d – Anna Remez (St. Petersburg)
- 3d – Julia Golovizina (St. Petersburg)

Incentive prizes were awarded to Zhanna Izatsepina from Electrostal and Anna Tsyrenova from Ulan-Ude.

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World Food Programme

## Regions

# The UN Food Aid in the North Caucasus Photo Exhibition



From 16 to 19 October in Grozny, the United Nations World Food programme organized the photo exhibition 'UN Food Aid in the North Caucasus'. The exhibition was hosted by the Press House located in the centre of the city. It was conducted jointly with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry for National Policy, Information and Press of Chechnya.

Government officials, including heads of the Chechen ministries of education, agriculture, labour and social development and representatives of civil society were invited to the opening ceremony,



which took place on World Food Day. Among them were school directors and students, who participated in the WFP food-for-education programme as well as the winner of a design competition under WFP school-feeding programme.

“This year's, the World Food Day is dedicated to the right for food,” said Inge Breuer, WFP Representative and Country Director in the Russian Federation. “It is an honour for us to mark this day together with our partners from the government and civil society who have helped us consistently in bringing our aid to those most in need.”



The exhibition consisted of 70 images produced by amateur and professional photographers, including Musa Saadulaev, Said Tsarnaev, Alexei Golubtsov and Marina Prusakova. The photos reflected WFP activities in the area of food assistance, as well as FAO activities aimed at providing agriculture based assistance to the most vulnerable people in the republic.

**WFP** food aid to the North Caucasus has been generously supported by the international donor community. Since 2000, over 191 350 metric tons of food valued at US\$ 92.66 million have been mobilized for the benefit of over 360,000 people affected by conflicts in the region.



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UN Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization

## UNESCO and L'Oreal: Cooperation in Science and Education

In 2006, UNESCO and L'Oreal launched five national fellowships for Women in Science to support young Russian women scientists in their professional development in Russia.

Fellowship criteria: the scientific prominence of a candidate, usefulness and feasibility of a project, the prospects for a young candidate to develop her scientific carrier in Russia – encouraged 189 women scientists from 40 cities of Russia to submit their applications.

The Jury, which consisted of leading Russian scientists, analyzed all applications and selected authors of the most outstanding works.

Elena Alkalaeva, Nadezhda Bokach, Sofia Kantorovich, Olga Kiseleva and Anna Lysova were announced winners on 27 November 2007 at the Award Ceremony supported by the UNESCO Moscow Office and the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO. The fellowship will give Elena Alkalaeva an opportunity to continue her research in biosynthesis of albumen among higher organisms; Nadezhda Bokach will continue research in organic synthesis with participation of complexes of transitional metals, Sofia Kantorovich – in theoretical physics of magnetic nanoliquids, Olga Kiseleva – in scanning probing microscopy, and Anna Lysova – in JMR-tomography method in the fields of science of materials, chemical technology and heterogeneous catalysis.



Ms. Liubava Moreva, Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Moscow Office, Mr. Grigory Ordzhonikidze, Secretary General of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, Mr. Pekka Khuttunen, L'Oreal Russia General Director, Mr. George Shishmanov, L'Oreal Russia General Secretary, as well as Russian scientists attended the Award Ceremony.

At the Award Ceremony the organizers announced that the fellowship programme for young Russian women scientists would be continued in 2008. They also expressed their confidence that the fellowships would encourage young Russian women to continue their scientific research.

Another successful example of UNESCO-L'Oreal cooperation is the joint HIV

prevention education Programme 'Hairdressers of the World against AIDS', which is part of L'Oreal and UNESCO global activities dedicated to HIV and AIDS prevention.

“In UNESCO’s opinion, education is key to HIV/AIDS prevention. UNESCO supports various international initiatives in this area”, – said Mr. Dendev Badarch, the UNESCO Moscow Office Director, at the Programme presentation, which took place on 19th December in Moscow.

The goal of the Programme “Hairdressers of the World against AIDS”, launched in 14 countries of the World, is to prevent further spread of the epidemic and promote tolerant attitude towards people living with HIV.

During the training session at L'Oreal Professionel, the hairdressers have received information about HIV/AIDS in a simple and clear form so that they could spread it among their clients and friends and raise awareness of HIV/AIDS issues in Russia.



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# Summary

You can find the full version of the UN in Russia Bulletin in English at [www.undp.ru](http://www.undp.ru) or [www.unrussia.ru](http://www.unrussia.ru) (Documents)

## UN/ Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon message on Human Rights Day, 10 December 2007

Ban Ki-moon announces the beginning of the year dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on 10 December 1948, and speaks about its values.

## UNHCHR/ Statement by High Commissioner Louise Arbour on the occasion of Human Rights Day 10 December 2007

In the statement to commemorate Human Rights Day Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, calls to make every effort to ensure that all people in the world can rely on just laws for their protection.

## UNHCHR/ Dignity and Justice for All of Us

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) turns 60 on 10 December 2008. On Human Rights Day 2007, the United Nations launches a year-long UN system-wide advocacy campaign to mark this important milestone. The campaign, an initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, will be led by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and supported by UN agencies, departments and funds, and other international and local partners.

## UNAIDS/ Living with HIV/AIDS in Russia

On the occasion of the World AIDS Day on 1 December, UN agencies, UNAIDS co-sponsors, conducted an on-line conference at the venue of RIA Novosti information agency. Three speakers, representatives of a relevant government body, the community of people living with HIV, and UNAIDS, strived to answer questions of Internet users under the general topic of 'Living with HIV in Russia'.

## UNHCHR/ Neglected by Fate, but Still Cared for...

Magee Womancare International, a department of the American Magee -Women's Hospital established in 1911 that offers free medical services to women, is a long-term partner of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Russia, providing medical assistance to refugees with the agency's financial support. Dr. Nadezhda Platonova, who works in the area of prevention, answers the questions of the *UN in Russia* bulletin.

## UNDP/ Business Strategies against Women's Poverty

Business has no gender, but women's entrepreneurship in Russia has a number of peculiarities. This was the main topic of the conference 'Small and Medium Business Development in Russia: Strategies of Addressing Women's Poverty' held on 4th December in Moscow with the support of the United Nations Development Programme.

## UNDP/ UNDP Supports Festival of Swedish Cinema and Literature for Children in Vladikavkaz

On 4-6 December 2007, the Festival of Swedish Cinema and Literature for Children took place in Vladikavkaz, the capital of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania. This was the second festival of the kind organized by UNDP in cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden and the United Nations Children's Fund and with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the republic.

## UNIC/ UN and Corporate Social Responsibility

An article by Alexandre Gorelik, UNIC Director in Moscow, based on his speech at the International Media Forum on corporate social responsibility in Kiev in July 2007, focuses on relations of the United Nations with business community.

## WHO/ Combating Noncommunicable Diseases in Russia

WHO and the Ministry of Health and Social Development have worked on the Countrywide Integrated Noncommunicable Diseases Intervention) programme (CINDI) for Russia on the basis of European practices with the aim to include the programme in the current healthcare system.

## WHO/ All against Tuberculosis

Europe is largely considered best developed in terms of healthcare. However, participants of the European Ministry Forum on TB organized by WHO held on 22 October 2007 in Berlin voiced their concerns about the spread of this disease.

## WHO/ To Eliminate Measles in the Russian Federation by 2010

Measles virus is one of the most infectious, so the transmission can be interrupted only if 95% of population has immunity to measles. Inspired by the success of global smallpox eradication and eradication of poliomyelitis in the WHO European Region, the WHO Regional Office for Europe has set a target of eliminating measles by 2010. Elimination of measles virus means interruption of transmission of virus from one person to another.

## UNFPA/ Men as Partners in Maternal Health

The theme of World Population Day 2007, 'Men as Partners in Maternal Health', draws attention of the society to the fact that men's involvement and participation can make all the difference in women's lives. From July to September 2007, UNFPA conducted a photography contest on this subject with participation of both professional and amateur photographers.

## WFP/ 'The UN Food Aid in the North Caucasus' Photo Exhibition

From 16 to 19 October in Grozny, the United Nations World Food programme organized the exhibition 'UN Food Aid in the North Caucasus'. The exhibition was hosted by the Press House located in the centre of the city. It was conducted jointly with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry for National Policy, Information and Press of Chechnya.

## UNESCO/ UNESCO and L'Oreal: Cooperation in Science and Education

In 2006, UNESCO and L'Oreal launched five national fellowships for Women in Science to support young Russian women scientists in their carrier development in Russia. Another good example of UNESCO and L'Oreal global cooperation is the joint educational campaign 'Hairdressers of the World against AIDS'

*United Nations*



## Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals is a set of specific and measurable targets aimed at reducing poverty and raising living standards, which was adopted by 191 United Nations member-states, including the Russian Federation, at the Millennium Summit in 2000.

These Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be reached by 2015 or earlier, are as follows:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Goal 1</b> | Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger         |
| <b>Goal 2</b> | Achieve universal primary education          |
| <b>Goal 3</b> | Promote gender equality and empower women    |
| <b>Goal 4</b> | Reduce child mortality                       |
| <b>Goal 5</b> | Improve maternal health                      |
| <b>Goal 6</b> | Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases  |
| <b>Goal 7</b> | Ensure environmental sustainability          |
| <b>Goal 8</b> | Develop a global partnership for development |