

Coalition of Labor Union Women
15th Biennial Convention
Los Angeles, California
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RESOLUTION NO. 4
HIV/AIDS – SPREAD THE WORD

Nationally and globally more women have become infected with HIV since it was first reported in the early 1980s.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that in 2001 there were 101,398 female adults or adolescents living with HIV or AIDS and by 2005 this number had increased to 126,964.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is the virus that causes AIDS and HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death for African American women ages 16 to 34.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, every 9 ½ minutes, someone in the United States is infected with HIV.

While there is no cure yet, CLUW recognizes the need for women to take charge and take care of themselves by knowing their HIV status and the status of their partner or spouse. Education, abstinence, awareness, testing and preventive measures such as using prophylactics are the most effective tools in the prevention of HIV infections.

The spread of new HIV infections is often caused by persons unaware that they are infected. Statistics indicate about one in five persons infected with HIV or AIDS in the United States do not know they have the disease.

Although new medications have been responsible for preserving the quality of life for many persons with HIV/AIDS, one reason AIDS-related illnesses are spreading is that we do not talk about HIV/AIDS as much in the U.S. today as we have in previous years.

Globally, AIDS is a common killer, second only to cancers and heart disease for women.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The goal of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) is to decrease the HIV transmission rate among women and children through education and testing, treatment, and passing legislation that requires all pregnant women be tested for the HIV virus.

Each CLUW chapter is urged to publicize National World AIDS Awareness Day on December 1, and make an ongoing commitment to provide more information about the spread of HIV/AIDS and treatment options to our local union membership, family members and communities. We must not be silent about the spread of HIV/AIDS but speak up to ensure awareness, prevention, testing and treatment about this horrific disease that continues to have a strangle hold on women and girls.