

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

Report from the IFHE UN Representatives

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NGO Committee on Children's Rights had their last meeting of the year on December 7th 2006 in Commemoration of World AIDS Day. The topic of discussion was: "**The Impact of HIV and AIDS on Children and Families**".

The meeting was sponsored by the Missions of Thailand and Zambia and of Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), there were five C.O.N.G.O. Committees that cosponsored: NGO Committee on the Family/NY, Aging, HIV/AIDS, Status of Women, and Human Rights.

There were more than a hundred attendees, including representatives from the following Missions: Thailand, Zambia, Ukraine, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Vietnam, Italy, Sweden, Australia, Burkina Faso, Benin, Japan, and the Holy See.

The panel was composed of H.E. LAOHAPHAN of Thailand who spoke of the need to treat the most vulnerable within the framework of the family. H.E. KAPOMA stressed the dire situation in Zambia and how it affects all aspects of life social, and economic. Miriam TEMIN, the policy advisor from UNICEF's HIV/AIDS section, spoke about the magnitude of the numbers of children who are orphaned, defined as having lost one or both parents. These vulnerable children are then more likely to become infected with HIV, for various reasons. Ms. TEMIN distributed material to support her presentation, and additional literature is available from UNICEF. Therese FOLKES PLAIR addressed the need to support activities such as art as therapy for children affected by HIV and AIDS. Dr. Sandra LEWIS, a psychologist from Montclair State University who also works at UMDNJ's Francois Xavier Bagnoud Children's HIV/AIDS Center, described some best practices approaches to treating the mind and body of children affected by HIV and AIDS and the need to involve the whole family. Elizabeth COLLINS, of the Clinton Foundation's HIV/AIDS Initiative, was, until recently, the country coordinator for the organization in Rwanda. The program is a model of efficiency and good results, and she cited good partnerships among donors, treatment personnel and government as the main reason for the successes there. A "holistic approach" was underlined several times as the best way to treat children affected by HIV or AIDS. A young speaker, Shanda OWENS from Covenant House, described her own life after her mother died of AIDS when she was 5 years of age. She also had some advice on how to approach children when talking about AIDS.