

Africa *woman*

Never mind the G8. Here's the W8
**EIGHT WOMEN WHO
COULD CHANGE THE
FACE OF AFRICA**



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Africa**woman**

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This special edition has been written by Scottish and African women journalists. Its aim is to explore the people and projects that link Scotland and Africa ahead of the G8 summit at Gleneagles where Africa will top the agenda

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Africawoman is produced by 80 women journalists from Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Nigeria who meet in a virtual newsroom once a month. The information produced is then linked to community radios throughout Africa to reach grassroot women.

Let the *real* experts heal Africa

If the world leaders at Gleneagles want inspiring practical examples of what can be achieved against all odds, they will not hear it from one another. Or – probably – from the African leaders to be shipped in under wraps halfway through their deliberations.

The real change agents are absent from the official proceedings. As usual.

That's why the women who could change Africa are present on our front page.

The W8 are representative of the hundreds of women activists praised by leaders but rarely backed with big cash programmes. To demand that this changes is not special pleading for women. It's a special plea – this time – to back the people who produce results.

● Like **Graca Machel (Page 11)**. She married Nelson Mandela on his 80th birthday. Before that she lived in Mozambique, married to its President Samora Machel who was killed in a plane crash. She was the Minister of Education who persuaded the government to devote 12% of the national budget to education, a rare feat in Africa. Within five years she cut illiteracy by 22% and increased the school-going population from 400 000 to 1.6 million. Result.

● Like Nobel Peace Prize Winner **Professor Wangari Maathai** from Kenya (Page 4). She started the Green Belt Movement planting seven trees in her garden in 1997. Since

then 30 million trees have been planted – mostly by women - in 30 countries across Africa.

Every tree earns the planter 2p. 700 trees pay for a beehive, a pottery or an oven. That's 43 thousand small businesses created by helping the environment. Result.

● Like **Lornah Kiplagat (Page 5)** – Kenya's superb long distance runner who had no support to become a world record holder but now ploughs her winnings back into her High Altitude Training Centre. Her New York marathon winning colleague Tecla Lorupe from Kenya founded the Peace Run movement to unite communities in conflict. Tecla's peace run began with 150 warriors from the Pokot and Marakwet communities in Kenya – this month she runs to war-torn southern Sudan.

● Like **Hauwa Ibrahim (Page 12)**, the first female lawyer in her part of Northern Nigeria who secured the release of Amina Lawal, sentenced to death by stoning for adultery by a Sharia court in 2003. Hauwa has worked pro bono on 10 similar cases with sentences of stoning or flogging and several cases of boys sentenced to amputation for stealing. No woman has yet lost her life. Result.

● **Alivera Kiiza (Page 14)** leads a coffee co-operative in Tanzania – women make up 80% of African farmers but less than 8% of farmers leaders. Inspired by a Cafédirect funded trip to London – she was the first woman from her community to leave Tanzania – Alivera encourages women to join co-ops in

their names not their husbands and to become co-op leaders.

● **Winnie Byanyima (Page 12)**, a former MP and wife of the exiled opposition leader in Uganda intends to stand as a candidate for the Presidency next year. Now working for the African Union, she has faced harassment and threats, and understands other women may feel unable to support her. But still she dares to try.

● **Anna Tibaijuka (Page 11)** is head of the UN Habitat Agency and has used her position as an Africa Commissioner to warn the world about the flight to cities created by starvation and crop failure in the African countryside.

● And our own *Africawoman* writer **Grace Githigia (Page 3)** is the new President of AMARC, the World Association of Community Broadcasters. While state radio is often "monitored" by government, AMARC has backed local people to set up more than a 100 stations reaching a possible 250 million listeners. A fantastic resource in a continent where 70% of women and 50% of men are illiterate.

If money is ever to follow merit, the G8 could break from tradition, read the evidence in this paper and spend the equivalent of their drinks budget on a committee composed of these women. Then use their recommendations as a guide for spending at least half the enlarged aid budget

There is an old African saying; Heal a woman – you heal a village. It's time the G8 let the women heal Africa.

Being married should not be a death sentence for African women

By Linda Wamboka, Uganda ; Bimbo Oloyede, Nigeria and Abigail Wild, Scotland

There is a popular saying in Uganda that you cannot refuse a man, meaning a woman can never say "no" to a man's sexual advances. Local legislators have extended this argument to the legal realm: they say that when women say "I do" they consent to sex any time, any place and any how. Consequently, there is no such thing as marital rape.

Yet a report based on interviews with 56 women and 120 local, religious and government leaders has found Uganda's much praised fight against HIV/Aids is being fatally undermined by its failure to protect women from domestic violence.

The survey, conducted by Kenyan researcher, Lisa Karanja at Human Rights Watch included Harriet Abwoli, who is HIV-positive. "My husband would beat and slap me when I refused sex. I never used a condom with him.... When I got pregnant, I went for a medical check-up. When I gave birth, the child passed away, they told me I was HIV-positive. I cried. The doctor told me: 'wipe your tears, the world is sick'."

According to Karanja, many women contract HIV as a result of domestic violence "Most women see violence as innate to marriage and view sex with their husbands as a marital obligation. Traditional attitudes that make women the physical property of their husbands deprive them of any authority over marital sexual relations. "In many cases, abandonment or eviction from home holds even greater terror for economically dependent women who, confronted by a hostile social environment, ignore their husbands' adultery and acquiesce to his demands for unprotected sex."

Campaigners are renewing calls for laws to protect the rights of married women. But life for widows is even worse. In many

countries, traditional customary law means a widow can be inherited by the eldest brother of her dead husband – along with physical property like the house. If she doesn't comply with the brother's wishes sexually or perform labour for the household she and her children can be thrown onto the streets.

Within Islam, according to a 2004 UN Convention Report in Nigeria, men may have up to four wives and fathers have the exclusive right to arrange the marriage of daughters irrespective of their consent or age. According to research on East African communities, there is no doubt that marriages contracted under customary laws offer less defence for young girls who are sometimes married out underage with all the ensuing problems. The widespread condition of Fistula is caused by men having sex with young girls. The subsequent pain, leaking and incontinence the girls experience can lead to isolation and early death.

Conflict situations have also resulted in increased sexual attack. According to the Human Rights Watch World Report of 1999, ethnic crises in Africa led to many cases of sexual violence including the rape of 2000 women in one Congolese village, and the rape of Burundian women by other refugees and Tanzanian police officers.

Both the Tanzanian government and the office of the UNHCR failed to investigate instances of sexual violence because officials didn't know domestic violence was a crime and referred victims to counsellors instead of the courts.

Can women protect themselves by using condoms or avoiding sex as churches and birth control charities advise? It was an encouraging sign in Ghana when a government sexual health campaign saw condom sales trebling in a year. The "Stop AIDS Love Life" campaign won awards for one poster showing a penis in a condom and bearing the slogan: If It's Not On, It's Not In. But just two years later the number of new HIV

infections was up by 50 per cent.

Two years ago Patrick Young founded Theatre for Change, a charity based in Ghana, that focusses on helping people to change their behaviour patterns, rather than merely preaching hard facts and sobering thoughts. "Of course people need to know the facts about how HIV is transmitted, what the difference between HIV and Aids is, and how it can be prevented, but that takes an hour and a half," says Young. "The process of behaviour change takes months or years.

The 2000 campaign was part of an ABC program - promoting abstinence, fidelity, and, finally, wearing a condom. "All three methods have their place, and certainly for 13 and 14 year olds, abstinence is not a bad idea. But how does a young girl say to an older guy, "no thanks"? How, in the bedroom, does a woman approach asking her boyfriend to wear a condom? It is fine to advise people to be faithful, but the reality of relationships is that sometimes we are not," he says.

Patrick gets round the human rights debate by presenting to mixed audiences the idea of balance being a desirable thing for humans – in the context of relationships or anywhere else.

"The great thing about it is that it isn't an imposition. We just like balance as human beings, and it's something men and women can agree on, so there's no sense of having to persuade men that women deserve human rights.

One of the advantages of Theatre For Change's strategy is that is transferable to other cultures. In August, a representative will attend the World Youth Congress in Edinburgh – and may recommend that Ghana's Sexual Health Education strategy is adopted in Scotland too. In April this year research was published by Developing Patient Partnerships, a health education charity, indicating that half of Scottish young people were too embarrassed to seek help for sexual health problems, and would be uncomfortable speaking to a GP or nurse about them.

Young women the world over feel awkward negotiating what's safe in sex. The big difference in Africa is that getting it wrong is often fatal.



The typical UK mobile phone user mutters about five minute train delays But in Africa mobile phones are creating e-money, getting mums with difficult births to antibiotics and making elections fairer. **Grace Githigia** – the only woman to get within miles of Gleneagles – tells how the mobile has already transformed Kenya

The mobile revolution

Mobile phones revolutionise a continent struggling with poor state systems

YOU have the power to sack useless workers. Exercise your right now by voting...'

Imagine the impact of receiving such a message several times a day from friends, colleagues and relatives. That was the impact of the mobile phone in 2002 – a special election year for Kenyans because the long term President Moi had completed his final term. Excitement was high as Kenyans campaigned and made guesses about who would be the next President. But a new campaign tool was suddenly at hand—the CELL PHONE! And it changed the face of the election result!

Apart from the text messages being forwarded, the phone allowed people to take part in election phone-ins. Especially on community and commercial radio people were able to say exactly what they thought of Moi's appointed successor.

And on polling day the cell was useful as an anti-rigging strategy. Advance parties would be sent out to monitor security concerns in volatile areas and would give feedback if it was safe for a candidate to proceed to the area.

One of the cell phone providers 'Safaricom' established a news service where people could dial 411 to get the latest information on the results.

Even ring-tones brought a political and cultural perspective to the election. Some people had a 'cock crowing' as their ring tone. That let you know automatically that those people are supporters of the former government – the cockerel was KANU's party symbol.

People were phoning relatives in remote areas reading out chunks of newspaper information and election analysis over the phone. In the past they would have had to wait several days to read a paper due to transport problems.

The Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) was also conscious of the cell phone and decided to announce election results at the polling stations, instead of having them sent in to the ECK HQ which would delay results sometimes a day. In 2002, as soon as counting of the ballots was complete at any polling station, and even before the media could get the results, word would go round instantaneously on who had won—courtesy of the cell phone!

Finally, the cell phone was used to mobilize people to get out and vote on the day – and the result?



GRACE calls her mum in rural Kenya after sending her e-money African style

A surprising change of leader and ruling party in Kenya.

Three years after those elections, the cell phone still remains the greatest 'revolution' due to its availability and interactive nature – and not just for politicians.

Traditional problems of how to pass information to relatives for example on death and funerals have been resolved. Even more than that, people living in cities like myself are buying phones for their relatives in rural areas, and using them to transfer phone credit.

In effect we are creating e-moey with the cell phone!

How does it work?

There are two ways:

I can buy a scratch card here in Nairobi, then text my mum the pin number upon which she will use it to re-load her credit wherever she is. Or, I can buy a scratch card, then text the pin number to a service provider like Safaricom, insert the hush command (#) found on every phone, and the phone number for my mother. She will then receive an update of the top up credit on her phone with my number or the number of the person who has updated her credit.

This is a minor revolution considering Western Union charges 12% to

move cash and banks charge to transfer between accounts – and most people like my mum don't have bank accounts anyway.

In fact, my mum can use the phone credit as a form of barter – so many people want to use the phone, minutes of talk time are like a currency.

But there are problems.

Affordability and recharging

For those who cannot afford hand-sets there is 'Simu ya jamii' (commu-

nity telephone). This is a public service that allows people to call cell phones at low prices. It's cheaper than the state landline service and means no queue for telephone booths. It used to be very frustrating wanting to call only to find that the booth has been vandalized.

The community cell phone does not require lines to be laid down. It is a phenomenon found even in very remote villages. It also allows for people to be called back by their rela-

tives in the cities at a very minimal fee. It uses solar power and car batteries in remote areas.

There is no village in Kenya where you will not find at least one person is the proud owner of a cell phone. It may be the teacher or the chief. In this case, the phone becomes the centre of action – if relatives in the city send a money order, the information is communicated to the chief or the teacher who in-turn delivers the information.

Prices for the hand-sets have gone down and one can acquire a set for as little as US\$ 25. But in a country where clean water is a priority, US\$ 25 can still be difficult to get.

The issue of charging the gadget presents its own challenges in areas where there is no electricity, and majority of rural folks in Kenya have no electricity. There are places where charging is done communally for example if there is a car battery several people use it to charge their phones. Some guys ride motor bikes from village to village to let folks charge up!

Others have to wait for someone going from the village to a town where there is electricity and the person will be sent with the phones to go and charge.

The challenge would be for manufacturers to be creative and come up with sets that can probably use kerosene since it is readily available in rural areas, or use normal batteries or solar cells.

The cell phone is a revolution for Africa. And women are at the forefront – (how else do you think the deadlines on this paper finally happened – ed!)

Africa — the fastest growing mobile phone market in the world

MORE than 70% of all phone lines in Africa (75% in poorest countries) are mobile because handset production costs dropped, corrupt and inefficient state provision concealed the true demand for telecoms services and pay as you go phones arrived.

The number of phones per head of population in Africa now exceeds the figure for South East Asia.

UK users make 1 mobile call per 5 text messages sent — African users make 5 mobile calls for every text sent. Where literacy levels are low, voice is supreme.

Mobile phone benefits according to DFID research are reducing the need to travel, access to health and emergency services, improving personal relationships, getting

business information including market prices for crops, shopping around to get lower prices for travel and postage

Is Mobile phone banking next? Africans working abroad send \$12 billion back home every year – more than the total value of world aid to Africa. But companies like Thomas Cook and Western Union charge 12% commission – even on small amounts. That means every year Africans pay \$1.5 billion a year in charges. Mobile phone operators think they could process credit transfers for 4%. The Africa Commission wants the introduction of local electronic payment systems.

www.sendmoneyhome.org for cheap transfer advice

Wangari Maathai is the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Her Green Belt Movement encourages people to plant trees – and challenges African leaders to stop betraying their people

Nobel Prize challenge to African leaders



Environmental activist Wangari Maathai speaks on the phone as she is congratulated in Ihururu, Kenya, after she won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work as leader of the Green Belt. PICTURE: KAREL PRINSLOO/AP

WHEN we got independence, leaders failed to see the lifestyle the colonial administrators were living was exploitative, undemocratic and brought conflicts. In many African countries we talk of the change of guards. But there was not a change of thinking. We changed guards and continued with the lifestyle. That lifestyle can only survive if you don't have democratic governance and if you don't share resources equitably. Quite often what happens is that those in power get in business with outsiders and benefit at the expense of the majority.

It is only the African leaders who

can change that. If they do not shift their consciousness, if they cannot see that that is intolerable for a few of them to live so comfortably and the rest of their people to live in such poverty – then it is very difficult to ask outsiders to come and change that system for them.

Wars that never end

It's very important for citizens to understand that, even in Western democracies, those who were in power did not give that power freely. Citizens sometimes have to come to terms with the fact they cannot tolerate misgovernance. And they cannot

be engaged in wars that never end.

The developed countries know very well what Africa needs. There has been so much debate about it. We all know that their excuses have been corruption, misgovernance and money being used for weapons. Excuses, but to a certain extent legitimate. Nobody's going to pour money into a corrupt government – meant for development and then used for buying weapons. Nobody's going to pour money into a country impoverishing itself by destroying its environmental base.

What would be the excuse if we really ensured resources go to the purposes for which they are intended? What would be their reason not to give, not to raise their contributions? It would be interesting! We would be talking about a different era altogether. We would be saying, "OK, what you give, it's used for what is intended. There is no corruption (in Africa) any more. There is no misgovernance." Then the developed countries would be challenged to meet their commitments.

We know better

The African people have been so trusting of their leaders. So many of the leaders are like me. They have come to the West. They have studied in the West. We gained skills and knowledge and we were expected to go back and help our people. But many of us went back and took advantage of their confidence in us believing that we knew better than them.

We were coming to deliver them! Well, we didn't. We took advantage of them and we used them.

Because they trusted us, it took a long time for them to believe that we truly betrayed them. We now need to tell them we are sorry we betrayed them.

Development to me is like an African stool with three legs. On those legs balances a basin. One of those three legs is peace. Another is good governance. And the other is

good management of our resources. The basin that sits on the stool is development. It may be very small, it may be very wide but if it is not resting on the three legs it will collapse.

Will the governments in the industrialized countries address these issues at the G8? I hope so. Will African governments address this

challenge? If they do, then we will have changed the way we think. We will have reached a new level of consciousness.

Reproduced with thanks to African Renewal published by the UN

www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec

How the GreenBelt Movement works

Planting trees protects the environment, provides wood, stops soils erosion, and pays planters 2p per tree to buy equipment and start small businesses. 700 trees pays for a beehive, a pottery or an oven to make cakes. The scheme combats HIV because women can earn a living without resorting to prostitution. The tree nurseries are used to teach people how to grow local crops – protection from world price changes in coffee or maize and a safety net for communities during bad harvests.

Maathai, a professor of veterinary medicine at the University of Nairobi, started Green Belt by planting seven trees in her backyard in 1997. Since that time, an estimated 30 million have been planted by the movement in 30 countries across Africa. In Kenya alone, there are now some 6,000 GBM nurseries.

The professor's grassroots movement was seen as a challenge to the authorities – under the rule of former Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi, she was arrested several times, and on the eve of her 60th birthday knocked unconscious by police while planting trees in Nairobi. Maathai was finally elected to parliament in December 2002, and appointed to the environment ministry

edinburgh
2 July 2005

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

As the leaders of the world's richest countries gather in Scotland for the G8 summit, join tens of thousands of others in Edinburgh on Saturday 2 July to demand trade justice, debt cancellation, and more and better aid for the world's poorest countries.

Make history in 2005. Make your voice heard.

For more information on how to take part visit www.makepovertyhistory.org

The Big Lottery Fund
...supporting the work of African communities in Scotland

Our programmes have helped to deliver services, supported cultural projects and enabled groups to prevent or tackle discrimination.

Through our International Grants Programme we have supported Scottish charities working in Africa to combat poverty and disadvantage.

To find out more about the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland and how it might support your work, visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

or phone 0870 240 2391

Glasgow 10k run winner funds girls' training

Lornah Kiplagat won the recent Britannic Glasgow 10k run for the sixth consecutive time, she's world record holder at ten miles and 20 kilometres, and has her heart set on Olympic gold for Holland. But success for Lornah also means a chance for other young women to shine – Lornah and husband Pieter fund the High Altitude training camp so Kenyan women can match the achievements of male long distance legends like Kip Kano

Did anyone ever try to stop you running?

Not really ... no. My mother, my father always supported me, but the only thing is that we had a kind of – not a fight – but we could not agree with each other after my high school because they didn't believe in running. They didn't know that I could make a profession or career in running. So they wanted me to go for further studies. And I had got a scholarship to go to India to study medicine ... they were telling me I have to study, but I wanted to run.

So you were lucky enough to have parents who didn't want to marry you off immediately.

My father is not that way. And my mother is also not that way, and my sisters got married pretty late. My place was on a farm. Most of our athletes come from the farm. It's not in a city. It's not in a village. You are in the middle of nowhere, and no roads come there, and you have no transport. Nobody from my family was bringing me to compete – and I was still young. I had to travel by myself by public means for 350 kilometers to Nairobi. And it's a big city – it's a huge city, it's our capital city – and I really didn't know anywhere to go. The race was the next day and it was late and there was no place to sleep. For men, it was not a problem. For men, the army guards have their own team, and they build tents around the place where the race will be and you can sleep wherever you want. But there is no place for women so it was very difficult.

So where did you stay?

Well, I spent a night in a toilet. A restroom.

How did you do the next day?

Um, made the team for Kenya world cross-country. I was number six. And I had no breakfast! I don't want that to happen anymore. Not to anybody that I know. I was really grateful for [my husband] Pieter because he really supported the idea of a training camp for women. If he were somebody else,

he would tell me, "What? You're crazy. Why would you spend the money for other people?" But I appreciate every moment that we are together because he is supporting my dream.

Now I want to reach the top as high as possible. Because I have done for the people in my mother country and now I want to do for myself. Win a gold medal in the Olympics. Then I would have it all.

Why is there a need for a women's camp? Why is that a priority?

Women have no place to train in a normal way, where they do not have to deal with jobs at home. Kenya is run by women; that means planting maize, planting wheat, milking the cows, getting the milk sold to cooperatives – at 5am they wake up make sure the dishes are clean, the house is clean, take care of the cows, the food – when it's planting time, they



ANOTHER winning Lornah finish in Glasgow this May

plant. When it's harvesting time, they harvest. Maybe the man of the house will help with one thing, help in the fields for an hour. And we, the women are working for seven hours. So, it's not a man thing. Everything is women. You see a lot of men sitting along the road and just talking, talking, talking. Just having a good time – men together. You never see a woman sitting along the road with other women and talking. The money from the farm goes to educating the children. So without the hard work of the women, there are no school fees. Without school fees there is no education for the children. Without education for children, there are no graduates. Without graduates, no people running the government.

Do mixed training camps work?

We have several camps around [Iten]. Most of the girls who are in there, they're not running well. Or even if they're running well, they are still women. And still they are under men. So most of the time, the men use them as the cooks, to make them wash their clothes, to make them wash their shoes. And this was one of the really upsetting things.

Did a male athlete ever say to you, "Lornah, please clean my shoes"?

Absolutely. But my father would always split the jobs between girls and boys. And he would tell us, "If I see you doing something like washing clothes for your brother, I will break your hands." I really didn't understand how it came that my father was like that. He died two years ago and he was 81 already. My father – he wouldn't allow my mother to overwork.

Still in Kenya and most parts of Africa, many women are still being circumcised. And my Dad didn't want that. My dad was the oldest guy around, and the girls that had to be circumcised are often of older parents. But he never did that to us. He said, "It's your choice. You want it, you can do it. But if you don't want to, you don't have to." And we were so



LORNAH kicks out male athletes who ask female runners to clean their shoes!

happy.

So I had this idea, why should I do for someone else what my father didn't demand and what I don't even do for my brothers? When I went to Europe I stayed in a camp where a manager had athletes from Kenya. There were men and girls. The men tried to get me to clean for them ... but they really had no chance. I never did that for anybody.

What would happen if you find that in your camp?

There's no option. They can leave the camp. Just stay away from us. He either washes his shoes or he stays away from us. We had quite a few cases like that. And the girls come and say, "Oh, he's telling me to wash his shoes." And we ask him, we just confirm, "Did you do that?" And he says, "Yes, I did." And we say, "OK, find your own place."

Do you think coming to your camp not only improved the girls' running, but also gave them confidence as human beings?

We really don't care if there is an Olympic champion there or if there is a girl coming from the village – we treat everyone the same. And there is no "You are so-and-so, you are treated differently." We try to educate them. They're always very shy. They can't look you in the eyes. By the time they leave, they're asking a lot of questions.

Is it unusual for husbands to support a woman running?

It's very unusual. It often happens that a lot of them get married and just stop. They've just been stopped because the man don't want to see their women running with running kits – you know, with bare legs. They think they are naked.

Who supports the camp?

My husband and I support the camp. We don't get support from the government or from any company. And it is still going very well because, of course, I'm running well. But the moment that I'm not running well, then it might be a bit of a problem.

But we are trying to make it self-sufficient. We're trying to set up a fund to get alternative energy, like solar or wind energy because we end up spending a lot of money on electricity.

We have to buy a farm ... so that we can plant all the vegetables, all the food that we need so that we don't have to buy these things. If there are no financial strings, then it will always run. In a hundred years, I expect that not only Iten, but all over the country, people will have the same ideas, the same goals. And then what we wanted will have been fulfilled.

This interview is reproduced with thanks to Frontline – a full version is available on their website

Drugs giant and Africa policy

Pharmaceutical companies have been attacked for not giving free or cheap drugs to Africa. **Jack Watters**, a senior executive at Pfizer, the world's largest drugs company, answered critics at the Scottish Executive's conference on Africa at Holyrood in May

TAKING part in the recent Commission for Africa summit at the Scottish Parliament building in Edinburgh was one of the highlights of my life. As I took my place in the impressive new debating chamber, I wondered what my old Mum would have made of it. Sadly she died six years ago, but I know that she too would have been incredibly proud.

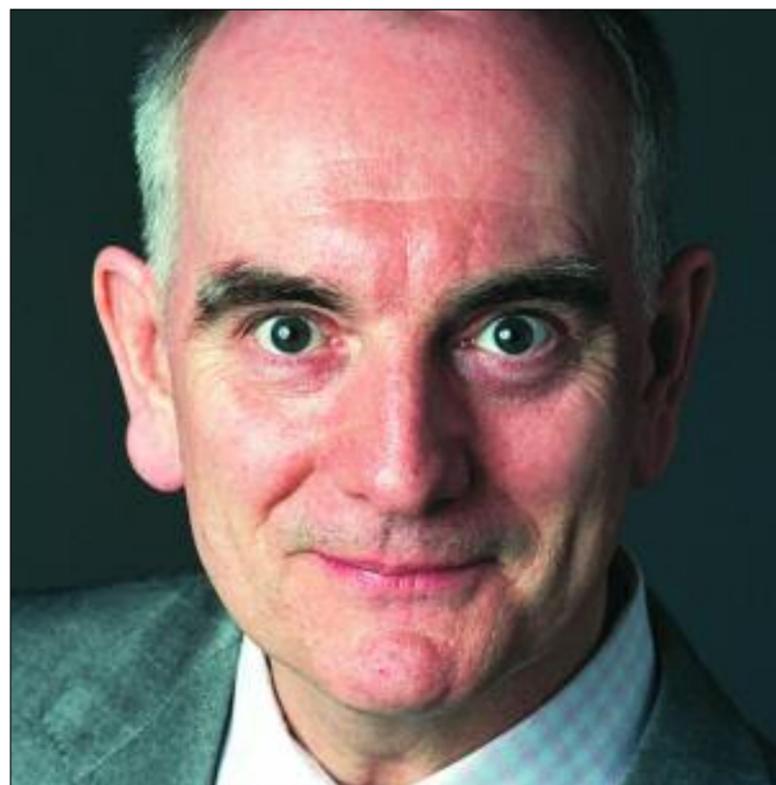
I was born and brought up in Crieff, and studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh before joining the pharmaceutical industry to help drive the development of the new medicines that now offer hope to many millions of people.

As Vice President of Medical and Regulatory Affairs at Pfizer, I am in charge of all our clinical operations in Europe, Canada, the Middle East and Africa. As a Scot, I was enormously encouraged to see how my compatriots are responding

to the considerable health challenges that are affecting so much of the rest of the world.

Listening to Sir Bob Geldof, First Minister Jack McConnell, and a host of other Scots debating the issues with representatives of the African countries that are engaged in the day-to-day battle against killer diseases was inspiring. It proved to me that the people I know who are involved in the frontline fight are not working alone. Indeed, they cannot. If we are to relieve the terrible burden of illness and death that is devastating the under-developed world, we have to do it together.

Although I am based in New York, I spend a great deal of my time in Africa, helping to devise ways of preventing disease and treating its consequences. I make sure that the research that needs to be done gets done, and that the result-



JACK WATTERS: "Throwing drugs at the AIDS problem won't solve it."

ing medicines actually make it to those who need them most.

I know I am making a difference when I walk into a hospital in Uganda, and a patient who previously couldn't open his eyes because of the headaches caused by meningitis greets me with a hug because one of our medicines has relieved him of his pain.

HIV and AIDS is a notorious scourge in Africa, but there are other diseases that kill even more people each year – deaths from malaria, tuberculosis and respiratory infections outnumber AIDS fatalities many times over. Although the conditions may differ, the approaches to tackling them are broadly the same.

Let's look at AIDS. Right now, it is affecting around 25 million people in sub-Saharan Africa alone. It is devastating families and wiping out whole communities, and unless we do something to control the spread, it is estimated that a further 89 million will be infected by 2025. Simply throwing drug treatments at the problem will not solve it. Instead, such an unco-ordinated approach could actually make things worse.

It is critical that people who start taking these powerful medicines keep taking them, or else the virus that causes AIDS becomes drug-resistant and mutates into even more deadly forms. But how do you ensure that someone who lives hundreds of miles away from any healthcare, in a region without roads, has access to proper treatment?

The global pharmaceutical industry, in partnership with governments and international agencies such as the World Health Organisation and the United Nations, is working hard to address the question, but it can be a huge sticking point. My particular interest is in education and prevention, where I believe many of the solutions lie and real progress can be made.

In some African countries one of the biggest risk factors to HIV infection is being a woman: there, women often have limited rights and cannot ask what their husbands are doing when they are not at home; they cannot insist on their partner using a condom – and that's assuming that they know about them in the first place. By educating and empowering these women we can do a great deal to protect them from contracting disease.

Pfizer trains counsellors who work in the

community, and they are making an incredible difference. Africa's poorest people often cannot read, and they need dedicated support to improve their prospects. Trained counsellors can talk to people at a very special level: to explain why safe sex is important, or to work with an HIV positive mother to tell her what she can do to prevent transmission of the disease to her children. We are starting to see tangible benefit from this work, which is a vital part of the campaign to limit the spread of disease.

We have also recognised the need for bricks and mortar, and have built an infectious diseases hospital in Uganda where we train doctors and nurses from all over Africa how to treat patients with AIDS and the other big killer diseases. These health professionals are educated to the highest standards, and then go home to pass that information on.

They are taught about the value of strong public health strategies and can communicate the very clear steps that have to be taken to promote prevention. Of course they also learn about the medicines that are available, and how to administer the treatments that can save so many lives.

For instance people with AIDS often die of opportunistic infections, such as meningitis, which causes potentially-fatal brain inflammation. Pfizer makes a medicine called Diflucan to treat that, which prolongs life as long as it is taken indefinitely. In the year 2000 we started working with the South African Ministry of Health to provide Diflucan to patients, and now we give that medicine free-of-charge to everyone who needs it, when they need it, for as long as they need it, in 35 countries around the world.

No pharmaceutical company can do that alone, and it is vital that we work in partnership with local public sector organisations to develop effective distribution channels. We supply the medicines, the training and the vital patient information that ensures the treatment is used to best effect. In turn, the national agencies ensure the programme is fully integrated in their health system, and that the benefit actually reaches those who need it.

Many people in the affluent world, faced by the challenges of relieving death and disease in under-developed countries, may be tempted to throw up their hands and say 'nothing can be done'. Together, we are proving that is not the case.

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Nigerians compare their First Lady's attitude with past military wives accused of being co-dictators with their husbands. Now Stella Obasanjo has jailed a publisher, and the Kenyan First Lady attacked a cameraman on the eve of World Press Freedom Day. Do the charitable works of the First Ladies excuse their bad behaviour? **Lesley Riddoch**, Scotland, and **Ada Agina-Ude**, Nigeria, report

The First Lady Syndrome . . .

First Lady Stella Obasanjo is on the warpath – not because 70% of Nigerians are still poor in the world's seventh largest oil exporter. But because a journalist described her as "Greedy Stella" and failed to apologise even when she had him arrested.

Midwest Herald publisher, Orobosa Omo-Ojo, was jailed on the orders of First Lady Stella Obasanjo when security forces burst into his office and occupied it for an hour before taking him to prison.

On the same night – May 2nd – hundreds of miles away in Kenya, First Lady Lucy Kibaki went on the warpath, too. She entered the premises of the Nation, Kenya's largest press group, with six bodyguards and the Nairobi police chief. She spent five hours complaining about "unfair" press reports, had the journalists' cameras, notebooks and mobile phones confiscated and slapped a Kenya TV cameraman filming the scene. Earlier, several newspapers had reported she tried to stop a farewell party because of noise.

Pressure group, Reporters Without Borders said, "We are stunned that presidents' wives went so far just to seek personal revenge. We therefore call on Lucy Kibaki to apologise to the cameraman she hit and we call on Stella Obasanjo to have the Midwest Herald's publisher released from prison immediately, as



KENYA'S Lucy Kibaki: Slapped photographer

such meddling harms the image of their countries."

KTV cameraman Clifford Derrick Otieno told the BBC's Swahili service he wanted Kenya's first lady taken to court to deter others from assaulting journalists. "I waited for a week, hoping for at least an apology from state house – in vain," he said.

Meanwhile, in Nigeria, Orobosa Omo-Ojo was freed after 12 days in jail without being formally charged, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange reports. The Midwest Herald publisher said 42 people were kept in a small room meant for 4 people "in perpetual darkness, the toilet facilities were bad with human waste oozing from the system."

Omo-Ojo said he was offered con-



NIGERIA'S Stella Osasanjo: Had publisher arrested.

ditional release if he agreed to turn in the writer whose byline accompanied the "Greedy Stella" story. It alleged the First Lady was involved in under-valuing government-owned property to be sold to her relatives. Omo-Ojo rejected the offer. Later President Obasanjo said, "I feel personally embarrassed that almost all members of my wife's family are on that (housing) list," and he sacked the housing minister, Mobolaji Osomo.

The President was re-elected in 2003 on a "beat corruption" ticket.

This has not been Stella Obasanjo's first brush with the law.

Two years ago, lawyer Chinonye Obiagwu raised an action against her and the wives of the country's

vice-president and 22 state governors: "Public funds have remained unaccounted for by these first ladies. We estimate 10-billion naira (£42m) is tied into these first ladies' projects across Nigeria and there is no transparent management."

There is no evidence the case has yet come to trial. But when it was announced, Stella ordered wives of governors to stop calling themselves first ladies on the grounds that there is only one.

Her edict was interpreted as a dangerous signal of a potential slide into civilian dictatorship.

Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka described Stella Obasanjo as arrogant, and sarcastically referred to her as "Imperial Majesty". And writing in the News, a weekly magazine a columnist said: "Mrs Obasanjo clearly has an ego bigger than ... Imelda Marcos ... and Marie Antoinette, wife of the last French Monarch."

The position of First Lady has been controversial in Nigeria since 1985, when Mrs Babangida created an office for herself, launching the Better Life for Rural Women Project. Public money went into the project but accounts were never published.

Her successor Mrs Abacha dumped that for the Family Economic Advancement Programme. Mrs Abubakar dumped that, setting up the Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative.

When Obasanjo was elected President in 1999, he said his wife would not be known as first lady. But a year later, Stella set up the Child Care Trust Foundation and wives of governors followed suit. One has been particularly successful – Mrs Igbinedion set up a scheme to stop girls being smuggled to Europe for prostitution.

According to African feminist writer Amina Mama, the world of powerful First Ladies is a femocracy: "an anti-democratic female power structure, which claims to advance ordinary women, but cannot because it is dominated by a clique of women authoritative through marriage to powerful men, rather than actions or ideas of their own."

Africa's main First Lady success story appears to be Rwanda's Jeanette Kagame who has led a high profile Aids campaign, roping in other First Ladies – successful perhaps because she's working with Rwanda's new parliament where 48% of MPs are female.

Next month though, First Ladies have the chance to be truly life-changing when they meet experts in HIV and girls education in Africa during the Gleneagles summit.

Will they use personal influence to demand their husbands put ordinary women in Africa first for a change?

We eagerly await such a demonstration of real First Lady power.

Scotland supports Africawoman.

"30,000 children across the world are dying needlessly from preventable diseases each day because of poverty.

I urge Scots to be part of the global movement to make poverty history."

Rt Hon Jack McConnell MSP
First Minister of Scotland

16 May 2005

African boffins hatch U8 plan for Gleneagles

University leaders from Africa are set to deliver a 'blueprint' for expansion to world leaders at the G8 summit in July. While the political leaders will stay in the fortified surroundings of Gleneagles, the "U8" African and UK academic leaders will meet 30 miles away at Dundee's Abertay University where senior staff from 60 African universities have completed development programmes in recent years. It's expected the group will devise a blueprint to spend the extra investment in higher education called for by Tony Blair's Commission for Africa in March. The Commission's proposals for developing universities and research centres have been widely welcomed in Africa as essential to

economic growth and social development. But there is less consensus among UK aid agencies about whether university funding should be top priority and whether investing in higher education leads directly to poverty relief. Two pioneering projects in Zimbabwe and South Africa are leading the way in giving higher education to poor students. The Women's University of Africa near Harare recruits 70% female, mature students, working at nights and weekends – Taddy Blecher's CIDA campus in Jo'burg aims to deliver the first self sufficient university offering degrees at zero cost. Will they be on the U8's development map?

Students, land, but no cash!

The Women's University in Zimbabwe is battling 500% inflation, temporary premises and no cash for books. Will the U8 blueprint help them?

By Lifaqane Nare
lifaqane@yahoo.com

GOOD farmland lying unused is not a new story in Zimbabwe. But the 300 hectares on Marirangwe farm east of the capital Harare, also represents a wasted educational opportunity for the women of Africa.

The Women's University project was gifted the land some years ago. But though the founders have students and degree courses – Dr Fay Chung, a former Education Minister and Dr Hope Sadza, University Vice-Chancellor have no money to build.

According to Dr Sadza, "When I thought of a women's university I thought of my personal situation where I obtained my doctoral degree as a mature student at the University of Zimbabwe whilst holding a full time top-level post in the government of Zimbabwe. It inspired me to help other women facing the same problems. Holding a demanding job, running a family, attending to several boards made me aware of the problems faced by other women who wanted to go back and get an education they missed in earlier life. Fay

Chung and I dreamed up a user-friendly University, where mature women could inter-mingle at their own levels, attend classes at different times – weekends, evening, holiday etc. A University that would give active women a second chance."

"My other motivation was to see women studying agriculture, management and entrepreneurial studies, gender and Sociology and Reproductive Health. These courses are the most critical if Africa is to come out of its poverty."

Despite Zimbabwe's high literacy levels, most women remain uneducated and across Sub-Saharan Africa only 2.8 percent of women accessed higher education in 1997.

Mainstream universities have tried positive action programmes with little success. The WUA tries to enrol 70 percent women – an aim that may raise eyebrows in male circles but a decisive step for a continent that must rely on women for its economic development. The first intake saw 145 students enrol in September 2002 – this year the figure is almost 400 – well short of WUA's targeted enrolment of 1100 by next year.

As a private University with no public funds like State Grants, the problem of adequate resources remains a perennial problem



Dr Fay Chung, co-founder of the Women's University.

"Women's University in Africa faces challenges in several areas. One is of women not believing in themselves, and not believing that they are capable of efficiently running a University. Looking for resources and creating a University for women, run by a Board and Council made up of professional women and only few men is a challenge. The other challenge is gaining credibility in a male dominated field of tertiary education. "As a private University with no



Dr Hope Sadza, Vice Chancellor, WUA

public funds like State Grants, the problem of adequate resources remains a perennial problem," said Dr Sadza.

The university is using temporary premises of 30 offices and lecture rooms in Harare, which are being rented from the Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture. It's cramped, and not sustainable.

WUA has had the misfortune of being born at a time when Zimbabwe's economy was at an all time low and it

is still going down. With high levels of inflation, projections of working capital have been futile with inflation making nonsense of projections and financial plans.

This has led to lack of equipment, dependency on donors, high staff turn over and low staff and student morale as women make do without the right levels of sustenance.

Having come this far, however, it is unlikely that the women behind WUA will be fazed by the challenges they face.

"My vision as founder of WUA is to see it grow in admissions to about 2000 in the next five years. I hope to see other critical faculties like Science and technology being taught at WUA. I envisage a critical mass of first-degree students attaining Masters Degrees in 10 years and some women getting doctoral degrees.

"Right now we are proud to have the Vice President of Zimbabwe Joice Mujuru as a Management degree student. I hope to see more politicians, more young women attaining higher degrees and being ambassadors in the African continent from the first Women's University," said Dr Sadza.

With Information by
David Dickson of SciDev.Net
www.scidev.net

Scottish students do part-time work and leave with massive debt. Students at CIDA campus in Jo'burg grow vegetables, cook, clean, administer their own courses and teach what they've learned back home. Could South Africa be on the verge of developing the sustainable free degree? **Sheila Robinson** reports

A degree for free

Even Virgin boss Richard Branson is a convert. He's to open a Technology Centre at CIDA Campus in October. But for its founder, success is creating a cash-free degree

TADDY BLECHER is already delivering degrees for £2,800 per four year course at CIDA City Campus in Johannesburg. He's got a big social incentive.

There's no shortage of employment or opportunity in South Africa today – if you are qualified. The 40% unemployed don't have training, and only 4% of black South Africans have a post-secondary education qualification. The demand Taddy is trying to meet is huge on a local level and gigantic in the context of Africa.

Five years ago Taddy Blecher was employed by one of the world's most prestigious consulting companies, poised to pursue a stellar business career (he had 6 job offers to choose from on three continents, and the USA beckoned strongly).

Just two weeks before he was due to leave Johannesburg, however, and with his life already packed into 43 boxes in his mother's basement, he changed his mind. He went to see his boss and said he wasn't leaving – instead, he was going to work in the townships, educating kids.

He joined Richard Peycke (another CIDA founder and director), already working in education for 20 years. Their efforts increased pass rates by 25% across 9,000 students in primary and secondary schools.

No resources

But they realised that graduating from high school wasn't enough. The students couldn't get jobs because they weren't trained, had no experience and no money to study. CIDA decided the only solution was a university to provide business training.

Initially all they had was an overdraft and no resources. Then Investec, an international bank, gave them their £9m former head office building in Johannesburg (as well as contributing nearly £300,000 per annum).

Four years and one graduation later, over 1,000 students are enrolled, with nearly 100 graduates out in the workforce.

Getting a degree from CIDA is no soft option. Sponsored places mean a lot of work. Not just the study, but students help with cooking, cleaning and administration.

This really is a university for the students, run by the students. Extending that logic Taddy now wants funding to create a vegetable garden so costs can be reduced even further –

this is how the degree might be eventually be 'free,' with enough external support and a lot of direct physical and administrative work from the students. Each student makes another commitment – they have to teach what they learn in their own communities. In this way CIDA education has reached 500,000 Africans who wouldn't have heard that same message delivered by a conventional teacher.

Uniquely African?

Taddy believes he is creating a uniquely African delivery of education. Communities are engaged in the way their own students are learning: a whole village may save up to sponsor a student and grandparents show up at college review sessions to check on progress.

So is this a lesson for the West? Would 'free' education work in Scotland? After all it might be better to learn about running your own college than serving burgers. Would western students give up their time to work on

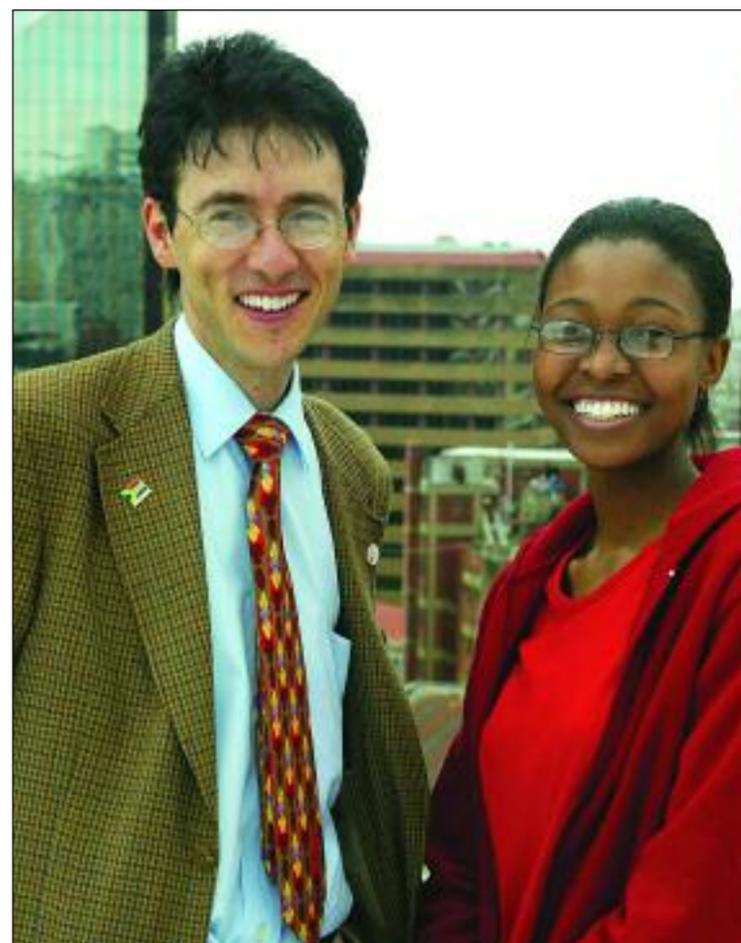
the campus a few hours a week? They wouldn't see the cash but they would see the benefit in cheaper education. Critics say students are being asked to get more involved in the university than they want.

There is less freedom and independence, more focus on the college and its world.

And how would students here handle the commitment to teach in their own communities during holidays when schools might be on holidays at that time?

There is evidence, though, that the approach works in Africa. A secondary school in Botswana needed pupils to build the school before education could begin; now half of the present government are graduates of that school. It's the same self-sufficient, community-engaged approach that is working for CIDA.

It might just be that it's working because of the African hunger for education – kids have already hitchhiked from Kenya on the off chance a place



TCIDA Campus founder Taddy Blecher with student Grace Gadise.

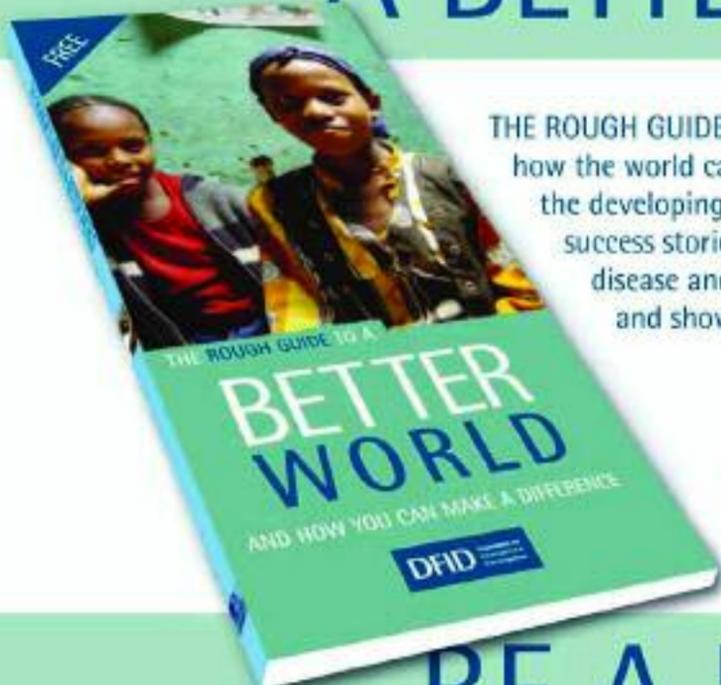
might be available in the only college system they might be able to afford. It might not transfer to the West – it might not even be offering 'perfect' education – but its graduates get jobs. Moving into a 30-60,000 rand a year job guarantees the village will see its sponsorship back, the student will be able to buy a car and build their parents a new house. That's not bad pay-back by any economic standards.

More importantly for the future the students who have 'created their own

college' have learned a lot about empowerment. The African business leaders of the future may understand cost effectiveness and sustainability in a way we have never seen before.

For more information about CIDA City Campus, please call Nadia Ammar, Development Director or CIDA's UK charity, CIDA Foundation UK, on +44 (0) 1865 736 207 or email nadia.ammar@cidafoundationuk.org

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Africawoman's favourite men

(actually there are quite a few.....)

Pius Ncube, Archbishop

The recipient of the Robert Burns International Humanitarian Award for 2005 is Archbishop Pius Ncube. Pius collected the award at a Gala Concert at Culzean Castle in Scotland in May.

The Robert Burns Humanitarian Award is Scotland's only true international award. It is not sponsored or supported by any business or corporate entity. The winner receives 1759 guineas, a sum which signifies the year of the bard's birth and the coinage then in circulation, as well as a specially commissioned hand-made book, with a soft leather cover inscribed with the Burns poem "A Man's a Man for a' That".

Archbishop Pius Ncube says, "I feel from the bottom of my heart that I

don't deserve this award but I accept it on behalf of those in Zimbabwe whose suffering is unabated and whose struggle continues."

Pius – the Catholic Archbishop of Bulawayo – is one of the most vocal figures in Zimbabwe's civil rights movement. Before this year's elections he criticised government officials for using food aid as a political weapon and called for South Africa to cut off electricity supplies to Zimbabwe to make Mugabe hold talks with the opposition. In criticising Mugabe, Ncube has consistently risked his life, and both he and his mother have been threatened with death by the Zimbabwean security service. He has helped to mobilise a multi-denominational church coalition in Zimbabwe.



Archbishop Pius Ncube: Vocal critic in Zimbabwe.

Stephen Lewis, UN envoy

Stephen Lewis, UN special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, gave a bold speech on African women's health to American politicians in April. This is an extract.

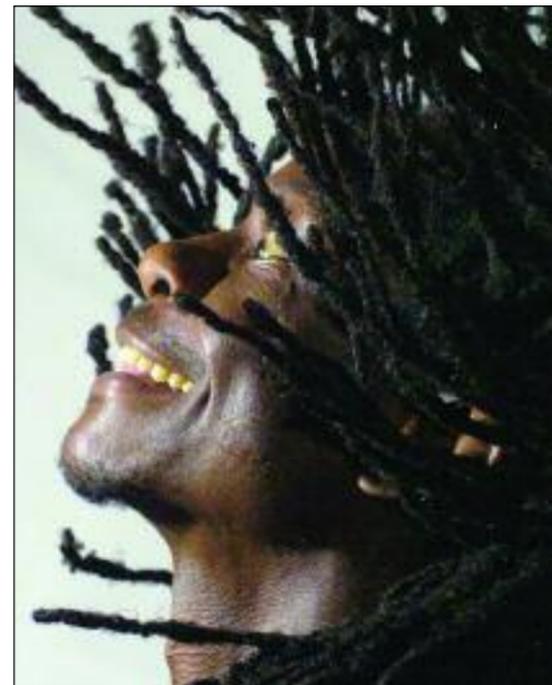
"Let me be clear: with HIV/AIDS what we have is the most ferocious assault ever made by a communicable

disease on women's health, and there is just no concerted coalition of forces to go to the barricades on women's behalf.

I see the evidence month after month, week after week, day after day, in the unremitting carnage of women and AIDS – God it tears the heart from the body ... I just don't know how to convey it ... these young young women, who crave so desperately to live, who suddenly face a scourge which tears their life from them before they have a life ... who can't even get treatment because the men are first in line, or the treatment rolls out at such a paralytic snail's pace ... who are part of the 90% of pregnant women whose infants are born positive ... who carry the entire burden of care even while they're sick, tending to the family, carrying the water, tilling the fields, looking after the orphans ... the women who lose their property, and have no inheritance rights, and no legal or jurisprudential infrastructure which will guarantee those rights ... no criminal code which will stop the violence ... because I have observed all of that, and have observed it for four years, and am driven to distraction by the recognition that it will continue, I want a kind of revolution in the world's response, not another stab at institutional reform, but a virtual revolution.

Let me, therefore, put before you two pragmatic responses which will make a world of difference to women. The Kingdom of Swaziland recently made history when it received from the Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, money to pay a modest stipend to 10,000 caregivers, looking after orphans, the vast majority being women. Every nation in the African Union should follow suit.

I would also recommend, with every fibre of my being, the International Partnership on Microbicides – a gel or cream or ring, which will prevent infection, while permitting conception. Partners need not know of its presence — microbicides can save the lives of millions of women and may be only three to four years off. That's almost miraculous. What's needed is science and money. World



Jerry Boweh: Escaped from Liberia.

leaders can help with both. "

Jerry Boweh, Musician

Jerry Boweh came to Glasgow in 1992 via Cote d'Ivoire and the USA after Scottish friends arranged for him to leave Liberia during the civil war. He had been a part-time youth worker at a school in a suburb of Monrovia, which involved running music, drama and sport programmes, and as rebels encroached the campus became trapped. Boweh eventually escaped after six months.

Now he's set up the African Youth Development Action Project (AY-DAP), an exchange programme for young Scottish and Liberian people. Its aim is rehabilitation of young offenders from Glasgow and ex-soldiers from Liberia, through annual three-week projects.

"Young people from Scotland will go there and understand why we had to leave our homes," he says. "It's not because we didn't have dreams or goals but because we didn't have an option."

Boweh hopes that the first group of volunteers from Glasgow will fly out in January next year. The first two weeks will involve working on a project, for instance building a school, on the mainland under the supervision of skilled volunteers and the final week will be a festival week on Providence Island, linked by a bridge to Monrovia.

The festival will involve cross-cultural arts and sports events which will be open to all Liberian youths and open debates on local and development issues.

"Scottish people didn't know me or Liberia but they looked after me as if I were family," he says.

"I wish I could take every Scottish person I know to Liberia. Being patriotic is not just about standing for your country but sharing it with other people."

– Beth Pearson

Tony Sutton, Publisher

Tony Sutton is an award-winning publisher and newspaper and web designer who prefers NOT to layout *Africawoman* on his laptop in airport lounges ... but has made our copy look great for five long years.

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African city slums are doubling every year because migrants are running away from starvation in country areas. Executive Director UN Habitat, **Prof. Anna Tibaijuka** – a member of Tony Blair's Africa Commission – gave her message to the 'Get on Board' bus campaign team – a team of five Africans travelling by bus through seven African countries collecting views of poor people on what they want the G8 to discuss at Gleneagles. By **Helen Archer**

Special delivery for Gleneagles

Get on board – the bus with messages for G8 leaders

The 'Get on Board' bus campaign began four months ago in Johannesburg, South Africa – since then the brightly decorated matatu – a 16 seater African bus – has travelled through Mozambique and Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda before departing from Mombasa by boat to Europe, driving north, crossing the Channel and finally arriving at Gleneagles in early July.

Their mission – to ensure the G8 leaders hear the voices of the men, women and children they encountered on the way.

"The aim of the campaign is to get away from the usual statistics and reports that are used by the big nations to fund poor countries," said Rose Mushi of Actionaid International Tanzania.

Launching the bus on its way in Tanzania, Prof Anna Tibaijuka – also a member of Tony Blair's Africa Commission – outlined what her message to the G8 summit would be.

"Over 8,000 children die everyday in Africa because of waterborne diseases. About the same number of Africans will die today because of HIV/AIDs. They will die today, they will die tomorrow and they died yesterday.

"The G8 will be judged by the way it treats the weakest. My message really is first of all to thank the G8 for their efforts, but to tell them that they are not doing enough and they must act quickly, because we are talking about a tragedy. There is no need to doubt a man of the status of Mr Blair in campaigning about Africa. He's staking his own integrity and honor on the African Commission. He will be judged in 5 years or 10 years time – history will judge him on whether he is serious.

"I have been telling my fellow Africans we need friends. I quote my Grandmother – it is a foolish person who turns away from an extended hand before you know it is empty."

Ivy Maina – a 26 year old ActionAid worker travelling on the bus – has meant plenty of people living on hope. Having studied international relations and journalism, in her home country of Kenya, she is daunted by the task ahead of her, "We have real problems in Kenya in terms of job opportunities, you can be very educated but to get a job is really, really difficult. So this was a great opportunity for me to have a different experience, to see the world, like I've always wanted to. I had cold feet, yes, but when I was with the rest of the team who have never done anything like this, it makes you feel a little less scared and nervous."

Ivy speaks admiringly of Graca Machel, the wife of Nelson Mandela, who she met in South Africa – "very quiet, very warm, very beautiful. Very humble and very human. And that is very rare to find in a leader. I was glad to meet somebody so wonderful who really took to heart the lives of the poor. We never get to hear so much of what she does. I'm hoping for more people to listen to or to emulate a leader like Graca, because she was an inspiration. And she is truly a true leader and true woman. For Africa."

Ivy tells of one woman who was trying for a



Official launch of the Action Aid "Get on Board" Bus in Johannesburg, South Africa, three months ago



Anna Tibaijuka, Afcom commission member, Tanzania.



Graca Machel: "Very humble, very human".



The South African bus sets off on a 3,500 kms journey.



G8 leaders will get some very blunt messages.

family, and eventually managed to get pregnant, but her child became ill, and was diagnosed with HIV. The woman herself then found out she, too, was HIV positive. Her husband was tested and was found to be negative. "So the minute she lost her son, her first child, her husband told her to leave because he could not be with someone who was HIV positive. And when she was telling her story, and you could really feel her pain. But even in that moment of despair, she still knows that she has rights, she still knows that she's entitled to something and that was uplifting. So sad, but uplifting."

Ivy speaks of another woman, from Malawi, who was HIV positive. "She kept saying 'I live positively, I must live positively. I may have HIV,

but there's no difference between you and me. The only difference is our blood. My blood is dirty.' And that was so simple and yet so beautiful. What she wants from the leaders is just food.

As part of the project, ActionAid is getting the people of Africa to write down simple messages on pieces of white paper. "Most of the people are saying they need food," says Ivy. "They want nutrition, they want basic health care. They want basic education. They want access to markets for farm produce. They want farming incentives, like fertilizers. They want a proper infrastructure and electricity to be more developed.

"I'm hoping to get those messages to the summit – these people are asking for straightforward and very simple things that can be done.

Ivy is looking forward to the following day, her 'rest day'. The team have already driven 5,390 kilometres, and she's exhausted. "We're working all the time.

"We try as much as possible not to travel at night. Night time is the time to do the reports and to have briefings about the day, and the sharing of the experience and understanding of the particular issues we encountered.

We have cushions and most of the time we sleep on the bus during the day because we're really, really, really tired. We listen to some music – we have some nice African music. Plus the scenery is just so, so beautiful. It's the journey of a lifetime."

www.actionaid.org for latest on bus location

A young woman lawyer who won Amina Lawal's reprieve from stoning to death for adultery in Nigeria two years ago. **Hauwa Ibrahim**, the first local female lawyer in Northern Nigeria persuaded judges the case was not proven under Sharia Law. Now she's in Edinburgh to speak to Scots about human rights for African women

Nigerian lawyer tackles stoning sentence – and wins

“ I am married with two sons and I've worked pro bono on 10 cases of women accused of adultery — some sentenced to be stoned to death, some sentenced to flogging — and several cases of boys sentenced to amputation for offences like stealing cattle. I was born and brought up a Muslim. My father was ... one of the mullahs who call for prayers. It was not allowed for girls to go beyond the elementary schools (in my village). At the age of 12, 13, you should be ready for marriage. I refused to get married because I thought, “I want to get more education.” I picked up a newspaper on the road, and I saw a university graduate with a four-square cap. And I thought, “I must be like that person.” I funded by schooling by picking roots to hawk. I was hawking anything that is hawkable — food items, vegetables, peanuts.

Flogging and amputation

I practiced law in the northern part of Nigeria, and it exposed me to the entire 19 states of the federation.

That's into the hinterland, some of the places you can't go by bicycle or motorbike. I had to use camels or donkeys to get to the villages. But I was determined to go out to do the work. We have 11 cases for amputation that I am handling. They are in Sokoto prison, nine of them are under the age of 18. In Sokoto, we have handled four cases of ladies that were supposed to be stoned to death, including Safiya (Amina Lawa). In Zamfara state, we had one sentenced to be flogged. And she was flogged publicly 180 (times). It was supposed to be 100, but the man that she alleged had raped her said another man raped her instead. She was charged for Kazaf, telling lies — and she (had added) 80 lashes.

I do feel uncomfortable, at times fearful. When it comes to the issue of death, the moment you stone the first woman, there may be no stopping of it. And I cannot live with that. Because of that, I fight it. I fight my fear. Almost all those women ... are from a very poor background, the same

background that I came from. I feel that I'm returning back to humanity what I was given in terms of education and skills.

Adultery and Sharia

The bedrock is fairness, justice and equity. That is what is embodied in Sharia. For proof of adultery there must be an appearance of pregnancy. Second a confession. And third, there must be four witnesses. Those four witnesses must be men, they must be adult, they must be in their right mind, sane, and they must be people reputable in the society. Not women, men. They must have seen the two coupled in the act at the same time. Not, “Well, I saw the semblance of it.” You must have seen the two coupled together in the act. Otherwise, the evidence that you give cannot be accepted. These are the ways I have succeeded in defending women like Safiya — within the terms of the Sharia Law.

Amina Lawal's background



HAUWA IBRAHIM — the Nigerian lawyer who saved Amina Lawal from stoning, will speak on womens rights at an Africawoman conference on June 23rd in Edinburgh. Sambaza ticket details on back page.

Amina is from a village around Kurami. Her village is bigger than my village, and she didn't have the life that I had. She was not a hawker. She was learned, she knows the Koran. Yesterday we were reciting together, and she does it quite well. She also has a very deep belief, a sincere belief in Allah.

She doesn't talk much. All our discussion is: God is almighty, God will see us through, God will protect us, God will ensure nothing bad will happen to us. She doesn't know how to

read or write, and she has no access to newspapers at all. There is no electric power where she comes from, no light. She has no access to television. She has no access to radio. She's just from her own world. I imagine Amina could be a uniting factor for this country. That in our diversity, we'll find something common to stand by and do what is right. ”

From <http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/nigeria/voice02.html>

Winnie to challenge for Uganda presidency

Winnie Byanyima has changed her life many times. In 1982 she left behind a degree in aeronautical engineering and the prestigious Ameila Earhart Research fellowship to join the National Resistance Army that finally toppled the dictatorial Ugandan President Milton Obote in 1986 — himself the man who toppled the brutal Idi Amin. She was Ugandan Ambassador in London and Paris and an MP for 10 years. Now Winnie is deciding whether to oppose the man she once supported, President Museveni. And just to complicate things — her husband stood against him last time, failed and fled the country claiming harassment. Can Winnie win — why does she want to stand?

On life in the Ugandan Resistance Army

After my first degree, I joined Yoweri Museveni in London; at that time, he was building the political movement that would lead to the armed struggle. I assisted him for six months as he held meetings with several exiled Ugandan groups and raised funds for the armed struggle, which he had already launched. When it was time for him to return to the bush, he claimed conditions were unsafe for women. We had a major debate over this. I did not understand how a woman could hope to be an equal participant in this Uganda that he was trying to build, if she could be told “you cannot participate in the struggle at this stage because it's too rough”.

I was 22, and had been exposed to some feminist ideas as a university student, reading books like Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*. I couldn't accept his position. If we were going to be equals in the Uganda of the fu-



Winnie Byanyima

ture, we had to be prepared to struggle side-by-side with men at every stage. Some women were sent to locate enemy positions and to determine their strength. They also went behind enemy lines to look for food, and some were involved in political organising. When soldiers were in-

jured, they needed to be hidden with families, treated, and taken to hospital for surgery, and women did those tasks. I was involved in the peace process negotiations. The diplomatic work was not simple, because Museveni was perceived as a communist.

On Uganda's current leadership

When we took the capital, Kampala — that was a big achievement. But 18 years later, I'm at a point where I feel that those who died did so in vain. Politicians do not respect people's rights. They oppress and cheat the poor. Poor people are still powerless, poverty is deepening, and armed conflict is still raging on in parts of the country. So now I find it hard to look at the fall of Kampala on 25 January 1986 as a success. I see it as an adventure that I was involved in as a young and idealistic girl. I feel that those who led us, if they once had true aspirations to liberate and empower all Ugandans, they have long since aban-

doned them. In the first few years after that war, peace and stability was restored by putting the army back in the barracks. There was also some economic recovery but these gains are being threatened by growing militarism, runaway corruption and civil strife.

We need leaders who are able to say, “I'm going to push the envelope as far as I can. It may cost me personally, but if there is a gain for the continent, then that's fine.” Instead, we have people who want to consolidate their own personal power. But women's lives drive us to question and to develop feminist consciousness, which can lead us to offer powerful alternatives.

From an interview with Amina Mama carried in full at: www.feministafrica.org

Winnie Byanyima is currently Gender Director at the African Union in Addis Ababa

If you have e-mail, the chances are you'll have received spam from 'wealthy' Africans wanting to move massive sums of money into your bank account. **Nicola Barry** has been averaging two a day. She decided to track them down

Nigeria = e-mail scams. Why?

YOU'LL recognise the scam straight away. The grammar is bad, the syntax tortured, the choice of words odd. But the main message is always clear – they want to use you as a conduit for their millions. In return, they promise you a substantial cut of the total amount.

If you are stupid enough to agree, they then ask for your bank details, ostensibly to pay or bribe tax officials over the transaction. These advance fees can be anything from hundreds of dollars to thousands, small beer compared to the millions coming your way.

However, instead of receiving a fortune, you will soon discover your bank account has been looted.

The scam is known as a 419 after the Nigerian penal code for this kind of fraud. It is hardly surprising that the people who perpetrate 419s refer to their victims as "mugu" – mugs for want of a better word.

Marks and grafters

The Nigerian scam demands a victim, known as the 'mark', and, at least one conman, the 'grafter' who proposes the deal, known as the 'bait'.

All this sets the stage for an elaborate con or confidence trick.

Everything hinges on the 'mark' sending his or her bank account details. Without those, no fraudulent transfer can take place.

The main problem for victims, who, once conned, can plough a lonely furrow, is that, since the scams play on gullibility and greed, many are too ashamed to come forward and seek help. There is not a lot of help available anyway.

A typical 419 sounds like this one from a Henry Collins.

"We humbly wish to introduce ourselves as the All People Revolution United Front of Mali. We are please to write you concerning our new arrangement to turn the aforementioned organisation into a full registered political party. In respect to this we wish to inform you that the organisation has about 7000 kg (7tones) of gold in stock and 285,513 carat of rough diamonds. We want a reliable person or company to assist the organisation in marketing the goods. Our organisation shall give you a total of 10% of any gold or diamond sold by you.
Henry Collins
Gen Sec.

I replied to ask for more information. Mr Collins replied: "Our transaction goes like this. The buyer will come to Senegal for a face to face meeting with the seller. The gold will be tested by the buyer and after first assay, the price will be concluded."

The 419 spam: what to do

- 1. DO NOT RESPOND TO THE 419 SOLICITATION**
- 2. If you are at all suspicious, simply hit the delete button.**
- 3. If the contact is via email: write to the provider at their "abuse" address (abuse@yahoo.com, abuse@onebox.com etc.) and include the message with its headers, complain about it and ask that the account be shut down.**

Victims apart, the scams have done immense damage to the image of Nigeria, casting a shadow of suspicion over all business dealing with that country, legitimate or otherwise.

Even though Mr Collins email supposedly hailed from Mali, the truth is 419 scams are perpetrated by a tiny percentage of Nigerians.

The Metropolitan police claim some 200 Britons were stung last year alone, to the tune of £9 million. But the police fear the amount reported to them is just a fraction of the real losses sustained by people tempted by "get rich quick" proposals who are often too embarrassed to admit they've been conned.

The Nigerian email scam surfaced mid-80's when the oil price collapsed and left professionals without jobs

The phenomenon of the e-mail promising mythical millions has also worried Scottish law enforcement agencies.

Intelligence reports indicate that Scotland has become a prized market for the scammers after the Metropolitan Police managed to crack down on fraud emanating from London.

Dramatic increase

A spokeswoman for Strathclyde Police said all UK forces had experienced a dramatic increase in the number of unsolicited correspondence to professionals and corporate bodies.

She added, "The e-mails often allege that a large sum of money remains unclaimed in an offshore account. The victim is asked for personal details in return for a substantial reward.

"It is known that a large number of individuals in the UK, who have responded in pursuit of a reward, have ended up in financial ruin. There is very little they can do to put things right."

The Nigerian Government has been under pressure for some time to tackle the scourge of 419s, yet has done very little.

Worse still, many reports state the Government is in on the scam since 419s currently qualify as Nigeria's third largest industry.

est to spot. They are random. Why would someone approach you to sell gold? It doesn't make any sense. The trouble is people want to believe they can get rich quick, without doing anything. The conmen only need to get five or six replies out of millions and they're making money."

Forget losing money, these scams can be extremely risky. Some 'marks' have been invited out to Nigeria or other places to meet the 'grafter'. Since 1995, there have been numerous reports of people who have been murdered after travelling to Africa in

pursuit of their fortune. Others have been beaten, made bankrupt or committed suicide in despair.

The Nigerian e-mail scam first surfaced in the mid Eighties when world oil prices collapsed. The dramatic loss of income and employment caused many highly educated professional people to turn to a life of crime.

If Nigeria is serious about stopping the scammers, then it must pursue them aggressively and relentlessly. Otherwise vulnerable, desperate people the world over will continue to suffer as a result.

Dr Aydin Kurt-Elli, Chief Executive of business ISP Lumison says 419s are no different from any other scam. "The Nigerian e-mails are the easi-

"Knowledge is like a garden: if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested"
african proverb

THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MAGAZINE

To subscribe to the FREE quarterly magazine, please go to www.developments.org.uk

Forget the old days when Scots bought Fairtrade because it was politically correct – not because it tasted great. Cafédirect and other Fairtrade brands are winning awards for the quality of their teas, coffees and chocolate – and creating successful community enterprises that should attract the attention of any passing G8 politician

Growing confidence and coffee

CAFÉ DIRECT was created at the height of the 'coffee crisis' in 1991 to buy direct from coffee growers and sell the pick of their crops to western consumers. Fourteen years its the UK's largest Fairtrade hot drinks company bought by over 1.5 million households.

Greater market share means less poverty – Oxfam estimates that if Africa could increase its share of world trade by just 1% it would generate five times more income than it currently receives in aid and debt relief.

But developing countries face tariffs, which prevent them from trading freely in the West whose farmers still receive large subsidies. Fairtrade breaks that cycle by giving growers a decent income for their crop while ensuring consumers enjoy great quality products.

Cafédirect have re-invested profits in tailor made schemes to train African growers. Fourteen years later, this work has seen 250,000 growers set up in business – and Cafédirect turnover up by 27%.

But expansion can't happen without fairness for all involved – especial-

ly women.

It took 10 years for men in the Karagwe District Co-operative Union (KDCU) to take the radical and non-traditional step of making their wives owners of trees. And it took a lot of patient work from the trainers of Café Direct.

Karagwe is in the remote area of north-western Tanzania – the Union represents 67 individual co-ops with over 17,500 coffee farmers.

Cafédirect started trading with KDCU a decade ago, and for years was the only direct buyer. After training the export manager and introducing him to other buyers sales grew from 2 containers a year in 2000 to 18 containers in 2004/5.

Business realities

The next big barrier to better sales was communication between the co-op management and farmer members on everything from market information to coffee quality. Members were ignorant of the business realities facing the co-op, and could be unrealistic and suspicious of management arguments. Equally, management was ig-



Drying the coffee. Even in co-ops women are often farmers but not owners.

PICTURE: KAREN ROBINSON

norant of the issues facing members. Rumour dominated over fact, and self-interest of individuals over the collective interests of the membership as a whole.

Members were each asked to send three women and three men to Cafédirect Producer Partnership workshops. The officials tended to be men. The ordinary members tended to be women but this was their first chance to talk to other women about their organisation.

The women soon spoke out.

Although women do much of the work in the farm, the coffee crop traditionally belongs to the man. Women often do not benefit directly from coffee sales. One woman told how she was beaten by her husband when she asked what had happened to the money he got from selling the coffee.

As the coffee is owned by the man, the woman does not have the right to join the co-operative, since she has no coffee. Most women members were widows. Women were very rarely elected to the primary co-operative committee, and almost never as delegates to the union AGM or committee.

Out of 67 co-op societies only one had a woman chair.

Women now own trees

There was a great deal of debate between the men and women – but three resolutions were agreed:

Men should give their wives some of the coffee trees, so that the women can join the primary society in their own names and benefit directly from the sale of the coffee they work to produce.

There should be two places reserved for women on the committee, both at each primary society and at the union.

Women should put themselves forward for election more boldly than in the past.

The challenge then was to make these resolutions happen. In Karagwe Café Direct staff spotted a young woman in the KDCU coffee procurement department, Alivera Kiiza, as someone with strong views on women's empowerment.

Alivera agreed to help facilitate the workshops, and she was then chosen to attend a Fairtrade conference in

London. This made a huge impact on her authority within the co-operative. Here is what Alivera wrote when she returned to Karagwe.

"I am the first woman from my community here in Tanzania to go to the UK, to go very far from my place. No woman has gone from here representing the women of Karagwe until me. As a result women coffee farmers are joining their co-operative societies. I tell them it is the women in UK who buy Fairtrade products – I have seen this with my own eyes.

I will encourage women to sell the coffee they have in their own names instead of the names of their husbands. They will become leaders of their co-operative societies ... They will be able solve their problems at home without asking their husbands every time.

They will become more educated by going to seminars and workshops when they are coffee owners themselves and members of their co-operatives. They will be able to buy what they want themselves, they will have power, they will have a say.

www.cafedirect.co.uk

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www.cafedirect.co.uk

Africa**woman**

Scottish Projects Database: Part 2

So you thought Africa was a distant continent – not for the Scots who run these projects – get reading and get involved

Malawi Millennium Project

The University of Strathclyde's collaboration with the College and University of Malawi began in 1999. Malawi Millennium Project aims to educate teachers, nurses and other professionals, who can, in turn, train future generations to help Malawi gain a skilled workforce in order to advance socially and economically.

www.strath.ac.uk/projects/malawi/

Mary Slessor Foundation

Inspired by the work of the famous Scottish missionary, the Dundee-based Mary Slessor Foundation aims to help the people of Akpap Okoyong. A medical centre has already been built along with a staff accommodation house. Instructors and VSO teach locals tailoring, carpentry, cabinet making, welding & mechanical skills.

www.maryslessor.org

Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals provide around 20,000 children in Malawi with a meal when they go to school. The campaign, which is funded by Scottish International Relief also operates in Liberia, Democratic of Congo and Uganda. It has proven to be an effective way of encouraging children to go to school. The meals are funded by public donations and served by volunteers.

www.sircharity.org

Mercy Ships

Mercy Ships is a global charity which has been converting old car ferries into floating hospitals for the developing world since 1978. The hospitals' crews of medical staff perform thousands of operations and support the training of local doctors and nurses.

www.mercyships.org

Mercy Corps Scotland

Parent Teacher Partnership Programme in Eritrea works with Parent Teacher Associations on projects like new classrooms, desks, books and blackboards. Programme reached over 40,000 beneficiaries esp girl students.

Afa'bet Veterinary Outreach Network, Eritrea improves vet networks through training and better equipment. This should lead to better herd survival rates and an increase in milk production to benefit vulnerable rural communities.

upunjabi@uk.mercycorps.org www.mercycorps.org.uk

One World Shops

One World Shop in Edinburgh is Scotland's biggest fairtrade outlet. Tea, coffee, chocolate and crafts from Africa. One World Shop now open in Glasgow's Byres Road.

www.oneworldshop.co.uk

Pax Warrior

James Gillespie's High School in Edinburgh has been piloting a new media educational tool that simulates the Rwandan genocide of 1994. "Pax Warrior" is the computer simulation that puts 16-year-old pupils in the role of a United Nations military commander who



VSO teachers at this Malawi school help educate 9,500 kids.

has to make difficult decisions that affect the outcome of the genocide. The purpose is to confront young people with tough choices involving moral judgements.

www.paxwarrior.com

Phelophepa Health Train

This customised train travels through rural areas of South Africa, providing health care. 'Phelophepa' means 'good clean health' and the 16 carriages and staff of nurses, dentists, opticians, counsellors and medical students, travel for nine months of the year, spending a week at each stop. More than 50,000 people have received treatment since it began in 1993. 'Edu-clinics' also operate at each stop, where 25 community volunteers are selected to be trained in health care, meaning that expertise is left behind, to be built up in rural areas. ACTSA Scotland are Scottish contacts

www.mhc.org.za
www.actsasscotland.org.uk

SciDev.Net

SciDev.Net runs a free-access website offering authoritative info on science and technology and their impact on development in Sub-Saharan Africa. Launched in 2002 by Scot Kirsty Cockburn, SciDev.Net also builds networks of individuals and institutions, and organises capacity-building workshops in Africa.

www.scidev.net

Signpost

There are around 30,000 child headed households in Rwanda as a result of the 1994 genocide and HIV/AIDS continues to add to this number. Signpost International recently completed a community village for 40 child headed households in Rwanda. Due to the success of this village Signpost hope to fund similar projects across Rwanda. They have also funded civil society programmes to inte-

grate these children back into Rwandan society.

www.signpost-international.org

Scottish Borders Africa AIDS Group

The Scottish Borders Africa AIDS Group aims to increase the understanding of the effects of HIV/AIDS in Africa and is chaired by Dr Dorothy Logie. Dorothy lost her husband Sandy to AIDS in 2001 after he was accidentally infected while performing an operation in Zambia. Fundraises and works in Zambian hospitals with Lothian Health.

delogie@aol.com

Scottish Zimbabwe Group

Scottish Zimbabwe Group fundraises to support non-governmental projects in Zimbabwe. These projects include an HIV scheme in the Manicaland region & youth theatre in Bulawayo. Also social centre for the growing Zimbabwean community in Scotland including visiting Zimbabwean asylum seekers held in Dungavel.

joanweir@yahoo.com

Street Child Africa

Father Patrick Shanahan established Street Child Africa six years ago. They reject the notion of street children off to places with which they have no association. Instead, an African adult is selected to be accessible to the children. They are prepared to learn the streets, earn respect and give respect, so that further steps can be taken in providing children with advice, healthcare and education. They also support NGOs which look after the needs of street girls who fall pregnant, and their babies.

www.streetchildafrica.org.uk

Theatre Festival Ya Basta

Theatre Festival Ya Basta (Enough Already) aims to raise Scottish concerns about global issues through political theatre. Morven

Gregor, the artistic director of the theatre company Birds of Paradise is behind the festival which includes performances across Scotland. Venues and theatre companies participating in the festival include Globalise This! 7:84 Theatre Company, Citizens Theatre and The Arches.

For full details on dates, shows and tickets see www.yabasta.org.uk

VETAID

VETAID's projects are designed to provide 'food security'. Working in countries such as Tanzania, Mozambique, Somalia and Kenya, the charity seeks to help local communities provide their own food. In Kenya VETAID support a group of widows growing produce to feed 40 orphaned families. While in Tanzania the charity supplies flocks of chickens to families affected by HIV/AIDS. VETAID also visit schools in Scotland to educate on interdependency and are part of the MakePovertyHistory campaign.

www.vetaid.org

VSO

We have volunteers from all over Scotland working alongside local communities in several African countries - currently Uganda, Nigeria, Malawi, Eritrea, Ghana, Cameroon, Zambia and Namibia. The volunteers are experienced professionals and are sharing their skills in areas such as agriculture, engineering, maths, science and English teaching and teacher training, special education, education management, social work, speech therapy, accountancy, HIV/AIDS, and nurse training.

Key contact Kate O'Brien (Scottish Representative)

Kate.O'Brien@vso.org.uk www.vso.org.uk

Women's University of Africa

The Women's University of Africa was founded in 2002 and currently has 500 students primarily from Zimbabwe. The University is privately funded and offers vocational courses in subjects as diverse as information technology and horticulture. The university, like many others in Africa, is very short of computers. Jeremy Schmid is working with BESO from Dundee to develop a cost effective computing system.

World Swim For Malaria, 3rd Dec 2005

In December this year a million swimmers from across the world are being encouraged to take part in World Swim for Malaria. We are raising money to buy mosquito nets to help protect people from malaria, which currently kills over 1.5 million each year. 70% of the deaths are children under 5. \$5 buys a mosquito net that can save a life. 100% of the money we all raise buys nets.

www.WorldSwimForMalaria.com

Compiled by Nicola Carfrae and Lynsey Bews

The complete database is available at www.nidos.org.uk

Thanks to NIDOS for their help

TIME TO TALK

• PROGRAMME OF EVENTS • EDINBURGH • JUNE /JULY 2005 •



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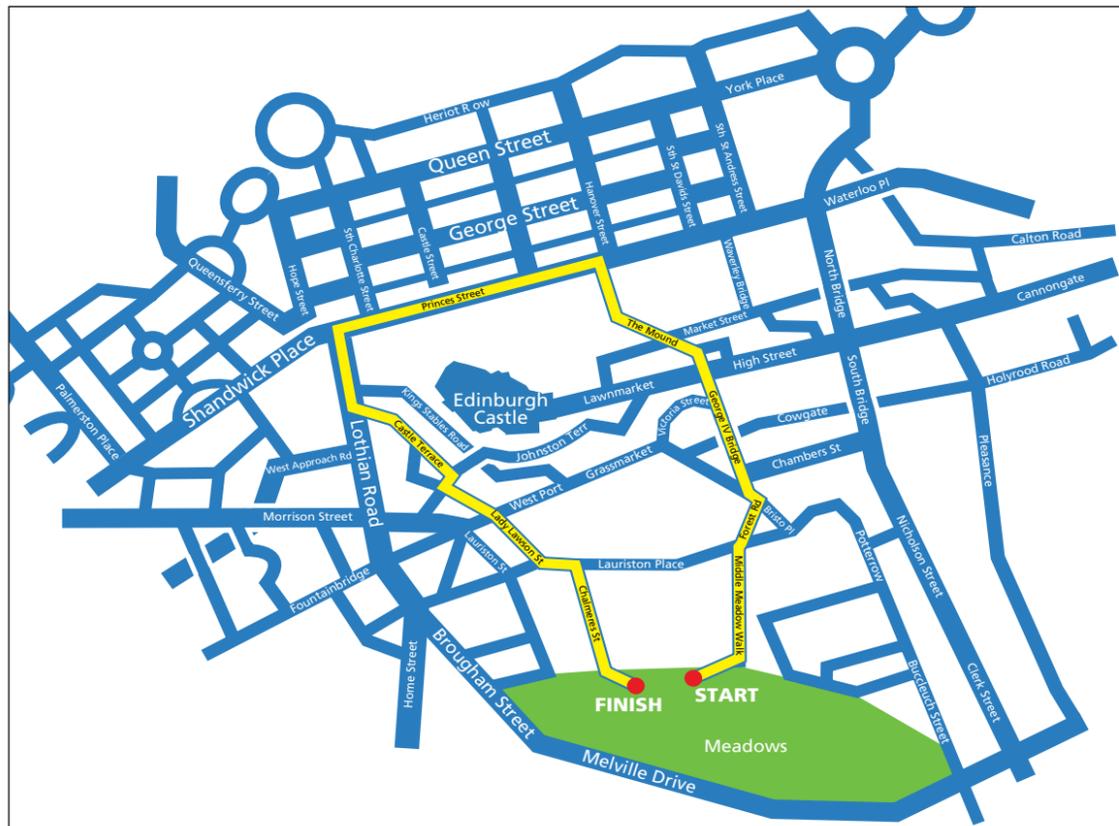
Making Poverty History – and a G8 for all

The G8 Summit will be held behind closed doors at Gleneagles. Edinburgh Council, Make Poverty History (www.makepovertyhistory.org) LiveAid and Africawoman believe the agenda deserves wider debate. The men behind LiveAid – Midge Ure and Bob Geldof — are planning televised gigs in cities of the G8 countries on July 2 TV links will let millions watch. The message this time, according to Bob — “We don’t want your money, we want your support.” And that’s all kinds of support to press G8 leaders to double Africa’s aid budget.

There are plans for a flotilla from Europe to Leith headed by Scots world record breaker yachtswoman Ellen MacArthur and Midge is planning a final eve of Summit gig on Wednesday 6 at Murrayfield in Edinburgh – headline acts currently being finalised. There’s talk of a Long Walk for Justice to Gleneagles – all these have to be checked with police to make sure large numbers of people don’t swamp safety arrangements but do let people power have a chance.

Live8 will be gigging in Rome, Philadelphia, Berlin, Paris, London – so Scots can watch on wide-screen after the MPH march in Edinburgh which starts at noon, July 2nd. What a day!

And thanks to many organisers including Edinburgh Council – what a three weeks before that day too! Edinburgh is hosting a programme of G8 events to talk about Africa and encourage public involvement, particularly by young people. The full programme and latest details are available at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/G8Summit and in programmes distributed throughout the city.



The Make Poverty History March route starts at the Meadows 12 noon July 2nd – be there!

Sambaza –Women in Africa

Africawoman and Edinburgh Council are holding a one day conference focusing on the issues, needs and solutions of women in Africa. Journalist and broadcaster Lesley Riddoch will chair. Keynote speakers include Hauwa Ibrahim – lawyer who successfully defended Amina Lawal in Nigeria and prevented her from being stoned to death. Grace Githigia of Kenya and the World Association of Community Broadcasters. *Sambaza is Swahili for sharing. The Hub, 23 June, 10am – 4.30pm Limited number of public tickets available via Sambaza@blueyonder.co.uk*

The Edinburgh Africa Conversations

Edinburgh Council with Africawoman have arranged a series of public lectures on G8 issues by Ladies Detective Agency writer and Zimbabwean, Alexander McCall-Smith, **‘Finding a place for orphans’**. National Museum of Scotland, 15 June, 7.30-8.30pm Curator Museum of African Art, New York, Laurie Anne Farrell & artist Zenib Sedira; **‘Looking Both Ways’** City Arts Centre, 2 Market Street, 18 June, 12.30 – 1.30pm. Nigerian Human Rights Lawyer Hauwa Ibrahim **‘Women and Human Rights in Africa’** The Traverse, 21 June, 7.30-8.30pm

Author, Jonathan Falla - **‘Out of control in Darfur’**. The Traverse, 29 June, 7.30 -8.30pm

‘The Forgotten Women’. In 2001 Fiona Lloyd Davies (Guardian Films) went to the Eastern Congo (DCR). She found a town haunted by war where 2000 women had been raped as they looked for food. In 2005 she went back to find what happened next. St Giles Cathedral, 25 June-30 June **Get the latest on the gigs and marches from www.makepovertyhistory.org**

Africa: my home, my hope, my future. A seminar for young people. Delivered by young people from Rwanda and South Africa. Includes theatre production ‘Rising from the Ashes’ — story of the Genocide through the eyes of a child & debate, use of theatre in reconciliation process and ‘Ten years of Democracy’ with young people fm South Africa Traverse Theatre, Mon 20 June Time 1.00pm – 3.30pm Schools only Time 7pm - 9.30pm Gen Public

Fairtrade Gathering and World Music Concert: A Fair Trade contribution to the Make Poverty History Campaign. The event will have speakers including Bianca Jagger talking about justice and fair trade. Musicians from around the world include fourteen strong Cuban band Candido Fabre and many more. Usher Hall, 1 July, 6pm

Black Sun Over Genoa: play about anti-G8 demonstrations in Genoa 2001. Based on documentary accounts, it portrays the hope of protestors and the tragedy of a young man who died for his belief in a better world. This community production includes a mass choir, haunting film footage and a huge cast of people from all ages and backgrounds. Festival Theatre, Edinburgh 30 June, 1 & 2 July, 7.30pm Tramway, Glasgow, 5 July, 7.30pm

Making Connections: An evening of vibrant music, poetry and visual art. Pupils at Drummond Community High School accompanied by young people from Rwanda and South Africa along with *Kakatsisi* acclaimed drumming and dancing group from Ghana. Drummond Community High School 21 June, 7.30-9.30pm

Putting Poverty in the Past – Politicians or protesters Edinburgh’s Active Citizenship Group public debates to make sense of the events taking place on our doorstep. Speakers include journalist Joyce McMillan, Eurig Scandrett FOE, Angela O’Hagan, Oxfam and Morag Gillespie, Scottish Poverty Information Unit. City Chambers, 22 June & 20 July 7-9pm

J8 Summit. Two winning teams from

each of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland will attend the Junior 8 Summit in Edinburgh. Young people will attend from each of the other G8 states and from African countries. A J8 Communiqué, agreed by all participating schools, will be sent to the G8 leaders. Pollock Halls, 3 – 5 July

Secondary Schools Child Soldiers Project. Schools will work with materials provided by UNICEF, Save the Children and others to study child soldiers and the rights of the child. Children will bring in toy weapons and work with an artist to create a tree of weapons. The resultant works will be displayed publicly. Venue tbc, May - June

‘Looking Both Ways’. Museum of African Art in New York exhibition exploring the African Diaspora. Includes recent work contrasting subjects’ backgrounds and new environments using video, sculpture, performance art, painting & photography. City Arts Centre, 18 June – 10 Sept Time tbc

Visual arts workshops for schools. Primary and secondary school pupils will work with an artist to create new art work based on the theme of the exhibition. The resultant works will be displayed at the City Arts Centre. City Arts Centre, 20 – 25 June

‘Diversecity’. An evening of Dance, music, drama and media presentations celebrating African / Scottish cultural Diversity involving young people from Edinburgh, Rwanda and South Africa. James Gillespie’s High School. 23 June, 7.30-9.30pm

Filmweek: Special screening of films and documentaries at the Edinburgh Filmhouse, as part of a G8 week, supported by Q & A sessions with key speakers. The Filmhouse, 3 – 9 July

Multi Faith and Spiritual Forum on the Millennium Development Goals Can spirituality help to eradicate poverty and hunger? St Georges West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, 30 June - 7pm

Globaleyes: Presented by Chickenshed Theatre Company Dance, theatre and music — *Globaleyes* weaves a story of unerring passion for the beauty of life against the cheapening value society can put on it through crisis, poverty and war. Production sponsored by Gordon and Anita Roddick, supporters of Trade Justice. Royal Lyceum Theatre, 22 June – 2 July, 7.30pm. Matinee, Saturday 25 June at 2.30pm (audio-described)