

Films and publications

World actress joins fight against HIV/AIDS



Emma Thompson, the well known international actress, appears in a new film on HIV/AIDS made by the World Young Womens' Christian Association (YWCA).

Along with Dr Musimbi Kanyoro, General Secretary of the World YWCA, and Dr Kathleen Cravero, Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS, Emma Thompson speaks her mind in *Women are ... leading change*. The film lasts for just over 50 minutes and includes first hand testimony from women who are living with HIV/AIDS.

The film reminds us that women are biologically, socially and economically vulnerable to HIV and AIDS. Root causes such as violence or economic dependence disproportionately increase women's chances of contracting the virus. Discrimination or stigma then decreases the chance of obtaining adequate care. But women have solutions, as this film shows. Women are empowering themselves with knowledge. Women are helping one another through

associations and collective programmes. And, women are pushing governments to adopt practical solutions.

Those featured in the film describe their hardships, but they also provide direction. They show the value of having correct information. They prove the benefits of community support. They introduce people and organizations that are making a difference. We also see how the women's own commitment has helped change and save the lives of other women.

But the women in the film are also angry. They cannot understand those who have the power to change things but refuse to do so. They want HIV and AIDS to be higher on every government's list of priorities. They want gender imbalances to be addressed and women's rights to be respected. They aim to mobilise women worldwide because women everywhere count and can make a difference.

Those we see and hear in *Women are* know how many people have died, are dying and will continue to die unless concrete action is taken.

The World YWCA claims that, "If you were looking for a film about women and AIDS that tells it as it is, this is it ... Viewers walk away with both a sense of urgency and one of hope."

Women are had its premiere in Geneva and New York on 8 March to mark International Women's Day. Reaction afterwards indicates that the film is, indeed, very good:

"As a woman and a mum of two girls, I found it very powerful—it really emphasises in such a true way how the freedom of choice is a key to a woman's happiness."

"The questions of how persons are educated (sex and love, the responsibility of religion and theology) and what really does matter in a person's life and in a community was well presented from the female perspective."

Women are was made by Mondofragilis on behalf of the World YWCA, and with support of UNAIDS.

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or contact2004@mondofragilis.net.

WCC film wins international prize

A film about Sierra Leone produced by the World Council of Churches (WCC) for Danish television was voted the best film in the inter-religious dialogue category at the International Festival of Cinema and Religion, held in Trento, Italy last November.

Does God hide when the evil side of humanity takes over? In Sierra Leone thousands of people were massacred, had limbs amputated or were forced to fight as child soldiers in a meaningless civil war. Now a fragile peace has come to the country. Muslims and Christians are working together to heal the deep wounds, but what does it take to build reconciliation?



In *Roots of violence*, directed by Anders Laugesen for the WCC and the Ecumenical Council in Denmark, those who committed atrocities in Sierra Leone, as well as their victims, talk about what they have been through and how they experienced and understood God during the war.

For more information about *Roots of violence* visit:
<http://wcc-coe.org/wcc/news/videos/roots-of-violence.html>

The International Festival of Cinema and Religion web site is at:
http://www.religionfilm.com/gb_index.htm

Leasing for Small and Micro Enterprises

Published by the International Labour Office and subtitled "A guide for designing and managing leasing schemes in developing countries", this book is based on experiences of leasing schemes in many parts of the world, and is designed for those who are thinking about beginning such schemes.



One of the four co-authors of the book is former ECLOF staff member Mauricio Dupleich, who used to head up the Information Technology Department at ECLOF Bolivia. The other authors are Linda Deelen, Louis Othieno and Oliver Wakelin.

The guide explains what leasing is, how to design and market a lease product, and how to deal with regulatory and fiscal issues. The authors describe legal and fiscal practices from different countries to illustrate general notions on the regulatory aspects of leasing. For those weighing the pros and cons of offering a lease product, this book provides valuable insights.

Leasing for Small and Micro Enterprises, International Labour Office, 2003. ISBN 92-2-114186-1