

Press Release

The media project 'Lifeboat' raises awareness on the situation of HIV positive women and children

Cologne, 7 May 2010. "Happy Mother's Day" will many children say to their mothers this Sunday, while offering a little present. Women living with HIV who wish to have a baby cannot take this day for granted. HIV is no reason not to fulfil their wish to have a child which is also due to advances in medicine. But the stigma attached to HIV still poses a huge barrier to many.

„Actually, women living with HIV can almost always have healthy children”, explains Ulrike Sonnenberg-Schwan, chairperson of All Around Women Special (AAWS). AAWS, a section of the German AIDS Society, is an important partner for the project 'Lifeboat'.

The media campaign 'Lifeboat Germany' is designed to support and encourage HIV positive mothers, parents and their children. "We want to strengthen families so they can lead a life as close to normal as possible", explains project manager Harriet Langanke. The videos and other resources for 'Lifeboat' are designed together with the people affected. They are in charge and decide what they want to say and how to state that. They steer the action in front and behind the camera. "The participatory work with HIV positive women, their families and children is what makes our project special", confirms Langanke. The 'Lifeboat' DVD includes three short films as well as important information such as addresses of support centres and literature references.

Running up to the International AIDS Conference in Vienna in mid July the DVD is on offer for a special price. At the conference Lifeboat will present itself to experts from all over the world. "The international exchange is particularly important", explains Manuela Maignashca, the director of 'Lifeboat International'. "In many countries there are no lifeboats of any form for HIV positive women and their families"; Maignashca continues.

The DVD is available with English and French subtitles, so it is also relevant for migrants. 'Lifeboat Germany' is part of the International Lifeboat project for positive motherhood. It is funded and implemented by Gemeinnützige Stiftung Sexualität und Gesundheit (GSSG).

Further Information:

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