



Media Alert

For Immediate Release

## Mrs. Nane Annan to Open International Exhibition on HIV and AIDS–Related Stigma

On December 1, World AIDS Day, the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA), in conjunction with UNAIDS will launch a poster exhibition, **Signs of Hope, Steps for Change**, featuring artwork created in over 23 countries addressing the stigma and discrimination suffered by those living with HIV and AIDS. We are honoured that **Mrs. Nane Annan** will be present to make some personal remarks about the importance of this exhibition. In addition, special guests, including **Kathleen Cravero, Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS** and **Rev. Robert Vitillo, President of the National Catholic AIDS Network** will provide some remarks about how this extraordinary effort marks an important step in challenging people of faith to speak out against HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination.

The exhibition represents the feelings and emotions of children, youth and adults all over the world. They represent the concerns, fears and hopes of people in the face of HIV and AIDS. They document the experiences of stigma and discrimination. Several of the artists, representing **Armenia, Finland, Indonesia, Israel, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, and Sudan** will be travelling to New York in conjunction with the exhibition. These artists, some as young as nine, will be present for the opening and will be available to discuss what this project has meant for them as they link their faith with their belief in the right to be free from stigma and discrimination.

You may preview the posters that will be on exhibit at: [www.e-alliance.ch/postercd](http://www.e-alliance.ch/postercd)

The EAA is also collaborating on an evening of poetry, music and other performances by celebrated international artists at the **Cathedral of St. John the Divine** the same evening.

**What:** International Poster Exhibition: *Signs of Hope, Steps for Change: Creating Positive Change in Attitudes that Cause HIV and AIDS-related Stigma and Discrimination.*

**When:** Opening on December 1 at 5:00 pm continuing through January 23, 2004.

**Where:** The United Nations Visitor's Lobby, 46<sup>th</sup> St. and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., New York City.

**For More Information:** Shawn Gaylord 202.746.0174.

**For More Information on the event at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, please contact 212.584.5024.**

This event is produced in cooperation with UNAIDS, UNICEF, World Council of Churches, FinnChurchAid, Church World Service, International AIDS Society, UN Exhibitions, Department of Public Information, Interchurch Organization for Development Co-operation, Norwegian Church Aid, World Vision International, CORE Initiative, and the World YWCA and with the generous support of Pictorico and Duggal Visual Solutions.

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**Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance**

150, route de Ferney  
PO Box 2100  
1211 Geneva 2  
Switzerland

**Alianza Ecu mica de Acci n Mundial**

150, route de Ferney  
Apartado postal 2100  
1211 Ginebra 2  
Suiza

**Alliance Oecum nique «Agir Ensemble»**

150, route de Ferney  
Case postale 2100  
1211 Gen ve 2  
Suisse

**Globales  kumenisches Aktionsb ndnis**

150, route de Ferney  
Postfach 2100  
1211 Genf 2  
Schweiz

☎ + 41 22 791 6723  
☎ + 41 22 710 2387  
✉ info@e-alliance.ch  
www.e-alliance.ch