



Transcript provided by the Kaiser Family Foundation¹
(Tip: Click on the binocular icon to search this document)

Youth Speak Out on Sustainable Response to HIV/AIDS
Kaiser Family Foundation
July 21, 2010

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

[START RECORDING]

KARINA NEUHOFER: -- young delegates, I want to welcome you to just very, very special session. For a more sustainable response to HIV and AIDS, it's needed that young people are asked, because we are the ones who are the most effected and we are the ones who have to cope with HIV and AIDS in the future.

So it's a big challenge for us and so we want to be asked nothing about us without us. So, let us use this session to speak about, to talk, to discuss, to listen, and to find ways and solutions together; we here on the stage and you all.

To do this, we have to support our four amazing speakers from three different continents. To the audience, I want you to ask you to welcome them with me. First, Chantale Kallas from Lebanon. [Applause] Remmy Shawa from Zambia. [Applause] Caitlin Chandler from USA. [Applause] and Sydney Hushie from Ghana. [Applause] And to complete with the fourth continent, it's me from Austria. [Applause] I'm Karina Neuhofer and I'm working with the Catholic Youth in Austria and I want to guide you through this session.

So let me just give some few words about the time table we are making now. I will shortly introduce them, the speakers, they can make their presentations one by one, and I ask you afterwards to ask questions and we can make some questions and answers later on. Yes, afterwards there are some

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

final statements and conclusions. And the surprises you have already. So let's make it happen.

The first person I want to introduce is Chantale Kallas. I'm pleased to have you here. She is from Lebanon and now 25 years old. She's working in different areas of drug-related work, prevention, and harm-reduction. Currently, she's the Regional Development Coordinator for Youth Rise and educated women in rehabilitation centers in Lebanon. She will then speak about human rights.

Remmy, he's currently working together with UN Tribe Team in Zambia in establishing the US tribe program for young people. He co-founded a project called Man and Gender [misspelled?] at the University of Zambia. Later on, he will talk about youth participation and leadership.

Caitlin Chandler is the current Coordinator of the HOE Young Leaders Fund a new youth-driven small events program. She is 26 years old. She spent four months in Accra, Ghana studying and volunteering in the West Africa AIDS foundation. She has worked within several youth-led organizations including the Global Youth Coalition on HIV and AIDS. So, she will then speak about sustainable funding.

Sydney Hushie from Ghana some of you may have met in Ghana before. Sydney is the program coordinator at the Global Youth Coalition on HIV and AIDS in Accra. He worked with young people since he was 11 years and started working on HIV and

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

AIDS in 2004. So he will then speak about accountability and responsibility. So, let's make it happen. We start with the first presentation about human rights.

CHANTALE KALLAS: Hello everyone. So as Karina introduced me and thank you Karina for this. [Applause] So as Karina introduced me before, I'm the Regional Development Coordinator for Youth Rise. Youth Rise as you might know and some of you might not know is the only youth-led network for harm reduction that's at the local level.

Our end is to voice young people, young people who use drugs and young people who work in this field to be able to be present at the local, regional, and international conferences so that we are part of the solution and part of the whole process.

They asked me today to talk about human rights. And human rights for us, I'm going to take it specifically in talking about human rights for young people who use drugs. And first I thought maybe I should talk about the breeches in human rights and how these are being done daily for young people who use drugs.

Then I thought let's stop talking what's going on and let's start giving solutions for this. We at Youth Rise decided to go back to the basics. We at Youth Rise decided to go back to where it all started and start fixing the problem from the basics of it. And we used our name Rise, which means

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

resources of information, support and education, and these are the foundations that can help us prevent further breeches in human rights, especially for young people using drugs.

I'll go with each one of these basics one by one and define what we at Youth Rise ask for young people who use drugs, what we ask for their safety for them to have a better quality of life.

If we talk first about resources, everyone knows that almost all the young people who use drugs have no access to harm reduction services and they have access to these harm reduction services are not adequate for these young people. So what we ask and what we think is very important is to have safe environment as resources where people and young people who use drugs can come and benefit from these services.

These services should include trained, paid educator paid service providers. And by trained service providers are people who are not judgmental and I've working with young people who use drugs and I have seen people working with them with the judgment and the stereotype in their head at all times, and this is not human rights based.

Then we all think that we need this big harm reduction thing, but at the end of the day, what these young people are asking for is sometimes only food and shelter. So we should be able to give them these resources before starting to talk about more things and more complicated resources.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

In addition to that are the materials given to young people that should be written in a youth-friendly manner and should contain information that targets these age groups. Such information are not like colorful in language and this is not what young people need.

I have a 17-year-old sister and I'm 25, I'm not that old, but when I read her Facebook page, I'm shocked. I don't understand what she's writing about. So what we need is to read their Facebook pages, to read the pages of these young people where they're communicating and involve them in the process so that these materials and these resources that we are implementing and developing for them are adequate.

I move now to the "I" which is the information and as Karina said, nothing about us without us. So, this is where we should involve the young people who use drugs everywhere. And we start involving them when we admit worldwide that young people worldwide are using drugs. This is the reality. We shouldn't be afraid of saying that.

We should be able to say it and start working from that point. The just say no approach that has been used and is still being used worldwide is not working and we have seen the results of this approach.

So we should be able to look at this and change it into a safe environment where a young person who uses drugs can come and say I'm using drugs. Give me the information I need to

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

prevent further consequences of this, to prevent me getting into harm related things that are possible when using drugs.

So this can't be done if we're still judging and stigmatizing young people who use drugs and this comes the support part of rise.

Support part is today, and from this conference and from every conference, Youth Rise will be the repeat and hopefully one day we will be able to say we achieved, we call for the whole global community to stop the hate, stigma, and discrimination towards young people who use drugs. We should be able to accept young people who use drugs as part of our society by accepting that young people use drugs again.

We call for the repeal of punitive laws [misspelled?] criminalization of young people and we encourage the implementation of alternative programs that include and empower them. An alternative program includes choices. There is not one choice for a young person to go to. We should give them all the choices, all the information, and these young people will be able to know what's best for them.

And I think we're, almost half the people here in this room are young people, and Aram [misspelled?] said yesterday, I'll do my best and he'll know what's best for him. So this is what we should be implement wherever we go. We should know what's best for us and do the best for us. But we need the

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

support from the global community by giving us the choices the information to do it.

Finally, education. I was raised in Lebanon and I worked on drug prevention for a long, long while. And the drug prevention field it's like there's no other choice. We should be able to change this name from drug prevention to drug education. We should be able to accept that there's a different spectrum within the drug users. There's use, there's abuse, and there's a dependency. And we shouldn't link or join all of them together.

By doing that by educating young people on these, we'll be giving them and empowering them and their human rights the rights for information and for the right to information that they're not getting. And as I said before, all educational materials should be targeted and clearer to the youth, whereby they can read them easily.

How can we do that? We can do that by leaving our chairs in the big offices and going and meeting young people where they are. We can do that by providing them as said before, and again, I repeat it because it's very important, safe alternatives for them to grow and be happy.

So, this is back to the basics. Harm reduction at the end of the day is not that complicated. It's only an interactive process whereby young people and people who use drugs can be involved in this process. This is why we should

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

look forward. And when we're back to the basics and not speaking of big human rights articles, what we think about is now they have it. They have the basics. Here's the sustainability.

Now they're not only able to make advocates for their human rights, now they're able to exercise their human rights because we provided them with all the tools they need.

So, this is applicable to young people who use drugs, because I know it from working with young people who use drugs, but this is also applicable to young sex workers, to young MSM, to young people living with HIV and AIDS, and to all young people, providing them with these basics will set a platform for them to be able to achieve their potential while protecting their human rights and all we have to do right now, from now forward, is to make it happen. So now make it happen.

[Applause]

KARINA NEUHOFER: Thank you Chantale. The next topic is youth leadership and participation. [Applause] Remmy, I want you to -

REMMY SHAWA: Thank you. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I thought maybe I could do some slides with statistics and graphs and I know that stuff we seen in plenaries and so on so that you could be interested more in the discussion yes? Alright.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Usually when I travel I get calls from other young people to know what they are facing and these calls, I will explain more, but I want you to just go through them and interpret them the way you want to.

Okay. When I was about to come to the pre-conference first of all, I thought maybe this could be a chance for us to queue and old saying youth are the leaders of tomorrow. But fortunately after I came here, I realized that that saying has already been killed. And true to sessions we've having and interactions, the young people have realized that we are not the leaders of tomorrow, but we are the leaders of today.

Because today's the tomorrow that we talked about yesterday. And so we have just realized that tomorrow will never come and the time to act is now. Now, when I look at youth leadership and participation, I strain to look at the challenges that I have faced and some of the colleagues that I have spoken to. And I'm not going to speak on behalf of young people in Africa or in Zambia, because I'm too small to do that.

But I'll try to speak on behalf of those that have touched my life, on behalf of Angel, a young man that is working in Matero, a poor community in Zambia. Angel works at a center, a child and woman center and gets \$40 per month. The last time I spoke to Angel, he wasn't getting anything in three months. And was complaining that the adults at that center

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

don't want to hear what he has to say, especially on how to run the center.

And so I realized, well, as much as we are fighting for this youth leadership, the challenges that we face are way too many. Young people are highly affected and we know that. Young people use drugs, young sex workers, young migrants, and the list goes on and on. Young people are only used nowadays as tools for interventions, and not as the brains of the programs that we have.

Young people have technical and financial support. There is lack of integration of young people in HIV Programming at most levels. There's age stigma and discrimination and stereotypes, what we call ageism. What the adults are saying a young person is too young, we are certainly responsible, you cannot do this.

Young people are used as cheap labor, as volunteers, I really just have the session of the conference that you had, I think an example in 99-percent of volunteers are young people or maybe there's 90-percent of the young people here are volunteers. And so when we're looking at some of the solutions that we might start thinking about, who could look at young people needing much capacity building and mentorship to be better leaders.

And I think we should not think of this movement as a way of taking over from the established leaders and abolishing

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

everything that they're doing. I think it's the partnership that we are fighting for, that we should learn from adults and the established leaders and they should learn from us as well, so that we can implement, we can plan, we can deliver together.

And also we need support in terms of finances. And I'm happy to hear of the youth leadership fund that we have and the existing structures as well that you already have that are existing funding mechanisms also should learn to incorporate young people at all levels. The global fund, PEPFAR, and all these to mention, but a few.

Youth participation. Young people need to be a formative area in national and global HIV programming. Without the national HIV and strategic frameworks, most of the time. But then you just find one category or segment of young people, yet young people are affected in gender, in prevention, in treatment and care and support.

We also need deliberate opportunities and policies that we need to set up for young people in decision making structures. I'm talking about and have contributable mechanisms and international AIDS consoles, I'm talking about to the UNAIDS supposed to be and I'm talking about the civil society bodies.

I was at a UNAIDS PCB last year and I saw these government leaders coming with a bunch of delegates from their countries, and among them there were very few young people.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Even those by just simply taking notes for the delegate leader and I think maybe governments should be thinking of integrating young people so that we also can learn at that higher level. [Applause]

We also need to look at young people to also become part of policy formulation, implementation, evaluation of these programs that we have. In respect to the respective organizations. Now, not just a global picture but also at the national level. Whichever organization that you are coming from, you should be able to help in making decisions of that particular organization and I think that's where it starts from.

It starts from home before we can even cry about involvement at that broader picture. And finally, I would just say youth participation is not more than consultations because with young people but is about involving young people at all levels. And I had less sort of a young person do work in communities. I have this young photo of young leaders meeting. I have this photo of high-level meeting, but how high is this level meeting and how low is this one? Thank you. [Applause]

KARINA NEUHOFER: Thank you Remmy. We are going on with the next topic, sustainable funding. [Applause] Caitlin may I ask for your next presentation?

CAITLIN CHANDLER: Well, thank you for having me. I'd like to speak a little bit about what I think that donors and

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

youth-led organizations could start doing differently to build a more sustainable response to HIV.

So, first I'm going to start with the donors. We all know the numbers, we know 40-percent of new infections occur among young people, but many donors don't have clear strategies for how to reach young people.

So one of the first things that I think needs to happen is that donors need clear strategies for addressing young people's needs when it comes to HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support. These strategies should be public and transparent so that young people can hold donors accountable to their commitments.

And in the development of these strategies, young people who are most affected by HIV in different communities should be consulted, including the views of young people living with HIV. Often we see that donors allocate large amounts of money, especially in HIV prevention to what they think is a sexy, multimedia way of reaching young people.

I'm talking about campaigns like Love Life in South Africa. There's a new one every day. Most of these campaigns never reach the young people who are most in need of prevention services and information. If diverse youth populations were actually involved in the development of HIV Prevention campaigns, imagine how different the results could be.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

Donors need to realize that young people need more than twitter campaigns and social media sites to live healthy lives. They need access to clean needles. They need sexual and reproductive health services that are non-discriminatory. They need protection from police, they need the space in which to make informed choices, as Chantale was mentioning, and they also need funding to advocate for their own needs.

We need donors to start supporting networks of most affected young people. Organizations that have come together to meet needs around young sex workers, young people who use drugs, young people who are living with HIV. These initiatives need to be supported, otherwise their voices will be absent.

Often donors to youth-led initiatives are very directive. This needs to be addressed because when a donor makes a grant to a youth-led organization, their autonomy needs to be respected. Donors should not interfere with governance mechanisms. They should respect the decision making process of that youth-led organization. And if they have a concern, they should address it in an open and transparent way. It should not happen behind closed doors. Donors should not decide to pull funding without consultation of that youth-led organization. [Applause]

And finally, in addition to donors being very clear about their expectations so that youth-led organizations can actually meet them, donors should make multi-year grants to

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

youth-led organizations that they feel are effective and that they want to support because when an organization never knows where its next source of funding is coming from, it's impossible to do strategic planning and build a sustainable response.

So, what can youth-led initiatives do differently when it comes to funding? Well, I think we need to be better about recognizing about what our weaknesses are and I think we need to be open about these weaknesses with donors. If we need assistance in learning how to track and monitor budgets, we should ask for it.

I also think that we need to be more critical of ourselves. Mark Heywood said in his speech at the UNGASS 2006 review when civil society is snared at endless conferences and flattered at consultations, we become part of the problem.

The same is true of the youth-led initiatives. Many youth-led HIV initiatives do not involve young people living with HIV or young people from most affected communities. We need to change this. If we advocate for participation and inclusion in other processes, but we can't be participatory and inclusive without our movement, then we will fail. [Applause]

I attended the youth pre-conference this year and it was the first time I had been to a youth pre-conference around an international event where there was a workshop on the rights and needs of young sex workers. And I think it was clear to

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

everyone who attended from the discussion afterwards that for many young people in the room, it was the first time they were really thinking about what young sex workers needed when it came to HIV prevention and what they needed for having their human rights fulfilled.

So I want to say to all of us in the room that we need more discussions like this. We need to break down the barriers between our movements and we need to unite different youth populations in building our response to HIV. I think this is something we can do differently. I think this is something that hasn't happened before.

Our movements are splintered, but we as young people can be inclusive and figure out how to be united in our approach. So building a sustainable response to HIV means that youth-led HIV organizations that are effective must be funded and it also means that young people working on HIV issues must avoid just becoming replicas of the AIDS industry and not challenging themselves.

So finally, I think all of us donors, young people here in this room, we need to hold ourselves accountable to the young people who aren't here. The young people who don't have access to these kinds of conferences and events. Thank you.

[Applause]

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

KARINA NEUHOFER: Last but not least, we are coming to the topic of accountability and I ask you Sydney to talk of this.

SYDNEY HUSHIE: Thank you. When I was given the topic to talk about accountability and responsibility, two things immediately came to my mind: one, holding our leaders accountable and two, holding ourselves as young people accountable.

And then I became a bit scared because I was wondering how am I going to talk about holding ourselves accountable as young people without having all of the other young people look at me and say what is wrong with him?

But, again, I still have to talk about it because there are young people who still live accountable lives and run accountable projects in our different countries. I will cite one young man in Ghana, who works on a project called Curious Minds, it is a media project that is funded by the UNFPA.

This project has a group of young people with an adult coordinator. Over the years, when the program didn't have any funding, there was good harmony amongst all the young people, and there was good harmony amongst the young people and the adult coordinator.

Just when the funding starting coming in from the UNFPA, then trouble started amongst the group of young people, and trouble started amongst the young people and the adult

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

coordinator. The adult coordinator wanted to be the one deciding which funding goes to what activity, deciding who pays for what, deciding which activity comes after which, even though it was the young people who developed all these things themselves.

This led to a situation where the young people decided to boycott the program because the adult coordinator was not giving them the opportunity to be accountable for an initiative that they created themselves. Second, is another young person who lives in Nigeria and works with young people?

Got funding from a big UN agency to implement a program. There was good harmony amongst themselves, than just when money came into the system, amongst themselves as a team they created trouble or problems within themselves.

They couldn't decide who should be the one to hold the funds; they couldn't decide who should be the one to disperse the funds. Another person wanted to withdraw money from accounts without having the others know about it and decide to do what he or she wanted to do with that money.

Now, why I am talking about these? I am talking about them because these are problems that young people face on a daily basis running programs. We keep calling adults to be accountable for all of the opportunity and responsibility placed in their hands. As young people, how much of that

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

responsibility do we take to ensure that we are accountable for the little opportunity that we have.

Most youth organizations or young youth programs do have weak M&E systems. We are not able to monitor our programs properly. There is not much proper documentation of our initiatives. When we implement these programs, we can't tell the status of the programs because we have not documented the status of these programs.

This can attributed to the fact that young people do not have training enough, or enough capacity building, in the areas that they are working, which is no fault of ours anyways. Most donors will give you money for initiatives but will not provide funding to support training of these young people to be able to run the programs that they do.

Even at times when you do given money to run programs, the money is only given for the program itself. There is no funding to support the co-activities of that program that you are doing. Young people need to improvise and find creative ways of finding money to support the co-activities that are related to the program that they have to do.

Also, there's another problem that I have identified around funding that comes to young people, especially from big donor organizations. Funding that comes to young people, usually funding that comes late, or usually they are small

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

amounts of money. These young people are not able to do any big projects.

There is no sustainability around what they doing. These small moneys, \$2,000, \$1,000, for a youth program to run, that doesn't have any support what so ever around it, it puts young people in a position where there is very little support and there is very little monitoring.

Usually there are quite a number of young people surrounding the initiative. There is little self monitoring because the money is not big enough. There is not much accountability around the issue.

For me, I would suggest that as young people we need to find the appropriate teams. We should form the appropriate teams as young people to support our own initiatives and form partnerships and coalitions among ourselves as a team. Each one of us would complement the work that we do and help us monitor that work that each and every other person does.

I would like to close with this final statement, that if we as young people would demand accountability from adults, our governments, and all the other people that we look up to, we should first look at being accountable to ourselves as young people and also to the constituents that give us legitimacy that we have as young people to do what we do.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

KARINA NEUHOFER: Thank you very much. Thank you for these great statements. I think there are question, maybe statements from your side.

I ask you to come to the both microphones which are near to the stage so that we can see you and I would tell you then to speak. So that many people can speak, we make the speakers time of one and a half minutes, so I ask you to make short statements or questions. I will collect them and we make another round on the stage. We start there, number 2.

JOSEPH: Thanks very much Karina for the opportunity. I am Joseph from Ghana and I applaud the panel for the wonderful job done. As you earlier mentioned and just hearing you all contribute, personally I wanted to detected or notice, if we really want us young people to have a sustainable response to our problem, I put it this way, then we have to really hold on to what the last speaker said.

We have to be really responsible for our actions. If we do all things, we take decisions, we go about some ways of doing things, and we don't take into consideration the possible consequences, we will be making a whole lot of noise and nobody will hear us out.

I sincerely support that idea that we should be more responsible and accountable. If we are not able to keep maybe positions or opportunities given to us today as young people, you don't expect that tomorrow we will become big time leaders,

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

as my big brother here said, we won't be able to do anything new or extra ordinary.

We start now and then tomorrow we are sure we can be better leaders. I would suggest that what our adult colleagues here present could do for us that they should from time to time guide us and guide us well.

As we said, yes, we are the leaders of today; we are the leaders of tomorrow. If they don't guide us well, they should know that tomorrow is collapsing. I support the idea that yes, we should be more responsible of our decisions.

Thanks very much.

KARINA NEUHOFER: Thank you Joseph. [applause] Next speaker please.

DONALD ASPERONE: Good afternoon. My name is Donald Asperone [misspelled?] from San Martins, which is in the Netherlands. Thank you very much Madam Chair. I just very quickly had two questions I think anybody on panel can chose to answer this one. What do you guys see as the core business of youth movements? Is it simply advocacy or is it at the same time to run programs and/or is it a combination of both? How do we work those out and move forward?

I would like to ask, this may be more specifically for Remny, could you talk about what is your current level of engagement with your national programs and what is some of the lessons that you have learned coming from that maybe as well?

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

I am really horrible with names, the last speaker, Sydney, could also answer, and from Caitlin's perspective could you talk about what funding agencies should be looking for in terms of the engagement they should have and what attitude should young people have when they seek to engage a funding agency. Thank you.

KARINA NEUHOFER: Thank you. Number 3.

IANGA: My name is Ianga [misspelled?] from Nigeria where we are students with the Birmingham City University UK. I have been involved with youth work since I was twelve. My question what is the contribution about the example you gave about Nigeria and the youth work there.

We spoke about the funding with small money and its effects on sustainability and youth are not able to carry out projects effectively. From experience, what I would like to say is that some, because of the competitive nature of funding where young people are competing to get funding for a particular project, mostly if the funding is, for instance \$2,000 and maybe youth NGO was implemented, its similar projects with kind relate to money and done effectively.

Most international organizations feel that if a group has done this before and effectively carried out this project then they don't see any reason why they should increase the money and give another group money to do something quite

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

similar. Like you said, people just write reports and with money we need integrity.

With report writing is so easy to write a report and said you have done this, especially when the money train is not effective. We've got loads of problems, as you guessed lack of effective money train and as we lead to money.

If you look at it from that point of view, you realize that you can't really blame the general agency for giving that money because somebody else would implement such projects and do it effectively with that small money.

You can't really blame the youth for asking for that small money because they won't at the end of the day carry out that project even with the small money and still do something else. My contribution would be that if we want to do something, what we worth doing, it is worth doing well.

I think for the international organization they need to know that if the youth want something substantial, and if they want to see results, they have to start putting in money into work and have to be able to look at work done in the past, to be able to trust who they are giving money to. That's what I wanted to say. Thank you.

KARINA NEUHOFER: Thank you. I take two more statements and then we go back on this stage. Please.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

NINA: Thank you. First I want to thank you all for sharing your opinions and statements. It has been great to hear you all. My name is Nina, I come from Estonia.

First of all, I would like to comment a bit on the statement that 99-percent of the people here who are volunteers are young people. Actually I am really proud of it because that means that young people are here for the cause and leadership is all about service and they are serving the needs. I think this is a great opportunity for them to, exactly be leaders. How they are going to use it is another question.

As for the questions, it is kind of connected to his question regarding acting on a high level as they say, in a low level, or a grass root level not low level.

How do you think that, or do you think that it is enough connected, in real life, so not only in conferences but like everyday life, the youth movement on advocacy level and the grassroots level and if there is a gap? I have a sense that we are lacking communication there. How do we overcome it, if you think there is a gap?

The second question is apparently there is so many youth organizations that we could also feel a lot of competition between us, so how do you think we can all join together and do something together, all together, and just be more **cooperative instead of competitive.**

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

KARINA NEUHOFER: Thank you very much. As I want to take one last statement I ask the woman to talk.

MALE SPEAKER: Actually I am going to do the translation for her.

MICHIALUS: I am Michialus [misspelled?] from Brazil. Early today I participated in a round table and this participation made me think about how youth participation is being done. For some time now we had some teams, like this one, trying to think in a better way how to deal with HIV and this time I was in this table just to be in this table.

My work goes further than only show my face and say I am HIV positive, it goes to a direction to change actually what I am doing. I feel that the inequities, especially here in this area, especially with the language issues and also with my work and how it will change effectively with the people that I live in my country the people, that I work with now.

KARINA NEUHOFER: I ask you to come to an end because we have to go on.

NINA: In my hand there is a little song and this little song represents to me the AIDS. Bigger than the AIDS, it is all the prejudice, discrimination, and stigma that goes around it. What we have to do, is that we have to do our work to think of people that died from AIDS that are suffering from AIDS and think that we can do something less than this big event and more effective.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

KARINA NEUHOFER: Thank you very much for your statement. Time passes; let's have a look at these questions. I think the one I want you to answer first is, what is the core business for this youth organizations and what can we do and how can we go on? Who wants to answer first? Remny, I think some part of the question was-

REMNY SHAWA: Mr. Braun, you offered two options whether it is advocacy or actually running the programs. I think it is both, if we can combine the two. Especially if we can reach a point where everyone accepts youth participation and leadership there will be less need for advocacy because everyone will be on your side, especially those that are making the decision.

KARINA NEUHOFER: Yes, Thank you. Yes, Chantale.

CHANTALE KALLAS: On this subject, the question of whether it's a focus here or really work on the ground, this is our quality as young people, since we are doing both of these. I work in a youth led organization where I do both advocacy and at the same time I refuse to leave my other work which is like no money and a lot of work but this is the work I really get the messages from.

If I am working on advocacy and not really working and interacting with young people who use drugs what am I doing. This is where the youth led organization that we should be

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

working with and we should be running have to take the message from the grassroots level up towards advocacy level.

This is what we do at Youth Right. We inform everyone who is working in the field to get their message through. We inform them in every step and this is how we succeed with these young people. [applause]

KARINA NEUHOFER: Chantale, do you see this as an answer also to another question and if we are enough connected to real life.

CHANTALE KALLAS: I think we sometimes forget to be connected to real life and this is where we should have a wakeup call and go back to the work. This is where, I was talking to one of my friends that I met in an international conference, Louisa Sanchez, I don't know if she is here, and yesterday we took the decision at our group has been working in advocacy, to step back for a while and then to back to the grassroots level.

Go back to the work in the field in a different country, in a different context so that we can advocate better. We should always remind ourselves that we have to go back to the field. We have to go back to the people we are representing. We shouldn't be like free with our arrogance that we got the level with the young people speaking at international conferences.

KARINA NEUHOFER: Thank you. Sydney?

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

SYDNEY HUSHIE: I just wanted to say that Chantale, the point that she just made, that this has a lot to do with accountability as well as young people. You could easily get lost in the midst of jumping from one airplane to other and moving from one meeting to other and lose sights on what the practical situation is in your country.

We need to be responsible knowing that we are representing a certain constituency. Without people living with HIV, we would all not be here. We wouldn't have the legitimacy with which we have. Why we can sit on an airplane and travel thousands of kilometers to go to another country, to program, to make things happen better.

If you move around and you forget that you need to still go back and touch base, then you are doing the people you represent a disservice. Like she said, we need to take some time and stop and take stock of what we have done.

That's what I was talking about documentation. We need to stop and see how far have we come and what is left for us to do as young people. When you are starting, you know you are starting on a sound footing and not get lost in the whole-

KARINA NEUHOFER: Thank you. Caitlin, Joseph the first speaker told us, he wanted to say to the decision makers guide us and guide us well. What can you say about this guidance or partnership, he was talking about partnership?

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

CAITLIN CHANDLER: I think for anyone, a young person or an older person, mentorship is important. I think those kinds of relationships where you are learning from someone else, whether they be older or younger than you, are necessary.

I think maybe the HIV response of doing a better job at figuring out how to mentor and support and to enable young people to be leaders within the movement. I don't think it necessarily needs to be an older person mentoring a young person. The young person can also mentor someone who is much older than them.

REMNY SHAWA: There was just a question from Chantale as to the level my engagement, at country level. I am currently volunteering at UN AIDS working on the business case for young people together with the United Nations Joint Program. It is more of a policy level that I point out, to bring out a United Nations program for young people.

You also understand this voluntary is different from volunteering experience that most young people do get in their organizations, where you are doing the running around wearing yellow tee-shirts, ushering people where to go but not necessarily having to contribute to policies. I think that is the volunteering that we would want to think about again. Does that mentor you to become a good leader? Yes.

KARINA NEUHOFER: Caitlin wants again.

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

CAITLIN CHANDLER: Thank you for bringing up the volunteering. I had a thought related to the comment that volunteering can be really important. I completely agree with the young woman who said that, but I think we also need to recognize that for some young people volunteering isn't an option. If your first concern is how you are going to support yourself and how you are going to pay for your own needs, we also need to find ways to enable those young people to participate. [applause]

KARINA NEUHOFER: Thank you very much. It is now really interesting and I would like to talk to you and with your statements were very fine but our time comes to any end. I ask you speakers to find some more final words for this audience to give them with so that they can go home and have something from you.

REMN Y SHAWA: I am going to start. I would like to say that young people in this present generation are leading a prevention evolution, like what was said by the UN AIDS. I think it is become we have done a lot of hard work. This hard work is paying off.

We need to stop as young people at some point and see how far we have come, and also decide how we want to go from this point. We should try to, as much as possible, look within ourselves and not begin to see this as another job or another option for us to travel to another country, or this should not

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

see this as an opportunity to get some funding for you to use to enrich yourself or to make yourself, to put yourself in a better position but have the ultimate goal that it's all about another young people who is dying because some leader is taking a certain decision that isn't suppose to be taking.

Who is dying because someone sits in somewhere has decided to use money to buy airplanes, and cars and more and more wives instead of paying for ARVs to treat those people. Once those realities keep hitting us we would- [applause].

KARINA NEUHOFER: Thank you. Caitlin.

CAITLIN CHANDLER: Wow, I don't want to follow that. I think that speaking of treatment, with Sydney touched on, one of the things that is important for young people is to also be a part of not just advocating for their needs, but for the greater needs of the community. I hope that young people here will get involved in doing advocacy for the global fund and ensure that treatment can continue for people that need it, whether they are young or old.

I think that many of these issues point to a greater need for dialog between youth led organizations and donors so they have a better idea of where they are coming from within the youth movement.

Young sex worker organizations with young harm reduction networks and, of course, the thing we need to recognize is that even though we have these different sectors

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

they are all overlapping and none of those, the way we identify or talk about groups, is static and by having more and better conversations we can try to change the way we think and try to build a better HIV response.

KARINA NEUHOFER: Thank you.

SYDNEY HUSHIE: I would just like to say quickly, we need to network amongst ourselves by all means possible and that starts right now and it starts right here. Then when we get back to our countries or our regions, we need to spread ourselves to reach to the lowest level, to the grassroots, and be able to invite that knowledge. Why most young people don't participate is that they feel they are not confident enough and they don't have the knowledge how to engage in all these processes. Please let's share the information and mentor others. [applause]

CHANTALE KALLAS: I want to share with you a story that happened to me during this conference, happened with me during this conference that has to do with human rights. Let's hear from the young woman that is working that is working on its own. Asked the story, my colleagues and I ask the question on the board there and we wrote the question saying what advice would you give to a young woman injecting drugs.

There were many options which others, of course, but then when I passed through that board, someone wrote, and I am going to say it, quit that shit cold turkey. If we as human

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

activists, young human activists, still have this stigma, this stereotype, this discrimination, for people that we are saying proudly that we advocate for them, what right do we have to blame the others of the society.

So keep this question in your mind. If you are advocating for young people who use drugs, we should advocate for everyone else because you're a human rights activists not a young people who use drugs activists. [applause] Thank you very much.

KARINA NEUHOFER: Yes, thank you for being here. To you speakers, thank you for being here to you. It was a great session. It was interactive and there were many points. We could talk three more hours. It was fun.

Things that will stay in my mind are sentences you said, something like, we are not the leaders of tomorrow, as you said Remn, we are the leaders of today. I think these are things we should keep in our mind.

As Caitlin said, if young people should get help, they have to be asked. Young people know best what young people belong.

MALE SPEAKER: Make it happen. [applause]

KARINA NEUHOFER: Make it happen. There is one big chance to make it happen, this commitment desk you can find it now outside or you can find it in the youth pavilion. Everyone

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.

can give a commitment for the youth. I ask you to go there and
make it happen. Thank you very much. [applause]

[END RECORDING]

¹ The Kaiser Family Foundation makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of written transcripts, but due to the nature of transcribing recorded material and the deadlines involved, they may contain errors or incomplete content. We apologize for any inaccuracies.