

Disobedience Protests

20 March 2003

The AIDS Office of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference endorses the Treatment Action Campaign on Civil Disobedience protests launched today, Thursday 20 March 2003, the eve of Human Rights Day in South Africa.

We note with dismay and frustration the way in which the Ministry of Health continues to deal with the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Too much time and effort is being wasted on ongoing debates around HIV/AIDS. South Africa with one of the highest AIDS prevalence rates in the world and situated in the corridor of the worst infected and affected region cannot continue to watch thousands of people dying daily. We urge to the government to work speedily on implementing a treatment plan, an investment in a better health care delivery for all.

This endorsement comes with a strong caution that the Catholic Church does not condone any violent action committed by AIDS activists and protesters.

We need the government to work together with all sectors in endorsing the National Treatment Plan.

The Catholic Church is committed to extensive programmes for the care of people affected by HIV/AIDS.

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