Gesamentlike MIV-verklaring van Vigstaakgroep in Wes-Kaap

Die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (Wes-Kaap) en Verenigende Gereformeerde Kerk (Kaapland) wil, in die voetspore van Jesus Christus, die gekruisigde en opgestane Here, sy roeping en betrokkenheid t.o.v. die MIV-epidemie op 'n priesterlike, koninklike en profetiese wyse vervul. In gehoorsaamheid aan ons Heer, die Hoof van die Kerk, sal ons Hom volg waar Hy ons ookal lei om verantwoordelik en met deernis op MIV en Vigs te reageer.

1. Ons erken en bely:
    - dat ons, die kerk, die liggaam van Christus, ook met MIV leef;
    - dat onkunde, vooroordeel en ontkenning nog in baie lidmate se harte leef;
    - dat ons nie altyd die vernietigende effek wat die MIV-epidemie op ons gemeenskappe, gemeentes, gesinne en lidmate het, deur God se oë raaksien nie;
    - dat ons nie genoegsaam God se liefde teenoor mense wat met die werklikhede van MIV saamleef, uitleef nie.

2. Ons wil liefde en deernis betoon aan alle mense wat met die werklikhede van MIV saamleef. Ons wil dit doen deur:
    - begeleiding en ondersteuning te bied aan elkeen wat hartseer en pyn beleef, veral ook aan almal wat deur die kerk en breër samelewing verwerp of alleen gelaat is;
    - mites, diskoerse, verkeerde gesindhede en diskriminerende optrede binne ons gemeentes en gemeenskappe af te breek;
    - gemeentes plekke te maak waar almal welkom en geborge sal voel om vrylik, sonder vrees vir veroordeling, hulle Christenskap uit te leef;

3. Ons wil die verspreiding van MIV bekamp deur die bou van Bybelse morele waardes ten opsigte van seksuele gedrag. Gevolglik:
    - roep ons almal op om mekaar binne hul verhoudinge te respekteer;
    - roep ons egpare op om getrou aan mekaar as lewensmaats te bly;
    - roep ons ouers op om hulle verantwoordelikheid ten opsigte van opvoeding oor verhoudings- en seksualiteit van hulle kinders na te kom;
    - roep ons opvoerders op om in hulle omvattende opvoedingstaak, kinders en jongmense te wys op die waarde van 'n gesonde en morele lewenswyse;
    - roep ons almal op om veiliger en verantwoordelike seksuele praktyke te beoefen.

4. Ons wil die omstandighede wat die vinnige verspreiding van die MIV infeksie aanwakker, teenwerk. Ons wil alles in ons vermoë doen om:
    - die gesinslewe van ons lidmate, geskoei op Bybelse beginsels te versterk;
    - armoede, alkohol- en dwelmmisbruik te bekamp;
    - alle vorme van seksuele geweld en verkragting te veroordeel en 'n kultuur waarin mense mekaar respekteer te help skep;
    - korrekte en volledige inligting oor MIV beskikbaar te stel;
    - vrywillige toetsing vir MIV aan te moedig en geleenthede vir toetsing te fasiliteer;
    - groter bewusheid en sensitiwiteit te skep vir stigmatisering en veroordeling van mense met MIV en dit teen te werk;
    - mense aan te moedig om veiliger seks te beoefen.

5. Ons verklaar dat ons in hierdie belangrike saak samewerking en vennootskappe met die owerheid en ander relevante rolspelers soek en ondersteun.

Voetnota: Die terme MIV en VIGS hou ten nouste verband met mekaar, maar het elkeen 'n eie betekenis. MIV (is die Afrikaanse ekwivalent vir "HIV") verwys na 'n virus wat die immuunsisteem van mense beskadig en verswak. Sonder toegang tot medikasie lei MIV-infeksie uiteindelik tot die ontwikkeling van VIGS (in Engels AIDS). VIGS verwys na 'n tyd wanneer die MIV positiewe persoon ernstig siek begin raak met 'n verskeidenheid van infeksies en is die gevolg van MIV-infeksie. Die riglyn is om alleenlik die woord VIGS te gebruik wanneer ons wel verwys na die VIGS-fase wat met ernstige siekte gepaardgaan, maar in die meeste ander kontekste is dit akkuraat om slegs die term MIV te gebruik. Waar ' n mens wel na beide wil verwys, moet die terme nie gekombineer (MIV/VIGS) word nie, maar dan uitgeskryf word as MIV en VIGS.

Joint declaration on HIV

Aids Task Group

The Dutch Reformed Church (Western Cape) and the United Reformed Church (Cape) wish to faithfully follow Jesus Christ, their crucified and resurrected Lord, in His calling to involvement with regard to the HIV epidemic in the priestly, royal and prophetic tradition. In obedience to our Lord, the Head of the Church, we wish to follow Him wherever He leads in responsible and compassionate response to HIV and Aids.

1. We acknowledge and confess:
   - that we, the church, the body of Christ, also live with HIV;
   - that ignorance, prejudice and denial lingers in the hearts of many members;
   - that we do not always see the destructive effects of the HIV epidemic on our communities, congregations, families and members through the eyes of God;
   - that we insufficiently demonstrate the love of God towards people living with the realities of HIV.

2. We wish to show love and compassion towards all people living with the realities of HIV and we wish to do that by:
   - offering counseling and support to all who experience pain and heartache, especially those rejected or abandoned by the church and the broader society;
   - eliminating myths, discourse, negative attitudes and discrimination within our congregations and communities;
   - transforming congregations into safe-havens where all are welcomed and at liberty to exercise and express their Christianity without fear of being judged.

3. We wish to control the spread of HIV by establishing moral values with regard to sexual activity. Consequently:
   - we appeal to all to respect one another in their relationships;
   - we appeal to spouses to remain faithful to one another as life-long partners;
   - we appeal to parents to fulfil their nurturing responsibilities to educate their children in healthy relationships and sexuality;
   - we appeal to educators, in their comprehensive task, to instil in our children
   - and our youth, the values of healthy and moral lifestyles
   - we appeal to all to practice safe and responsible sex.

4. We wish to address the negative circumstances which encourage the spread of HIV infection. We wish to do all in our power to:
   - strengthen the family lives of our members in terms of Biblical principles;
   - address poverty together with alcohol and drug abuse;
   - root-out all forms of sexual violence and rape and help establish a culture in which people respect one another;
   - make available correct and comprehensive information on HIV;
   - encourage and facilitate voluntary HIV testing;
   - establish stronger awareness and sensitivity with regard to the stigmatizing and marginalizing of people with HIV; and to oppose it;
   - to encourage people to practice safe sex.

5. We declare that, in this important undertaking, we will seek and support co-operation and partnership with the authorities and other appropriate role-players.

Footnote: The terms HIV and AIDS are closely related to each other, but not exactly the same. HIV refers to a virus that weakens the immune system of human beings. In the absence of treatment, prolonged infection with HIV will lead to the development of AIDS. AIDS is therefore the result of HIV infection and refers to a time when the HIV positive person becomes seriously ill with a variety of different diseases. We are advised to only use the term AIDS when referring to the actual AIDS phase. In the majority of cases it is correct to refer to only HIV. When you do want to refer to both HIV and AIDS, we are advised to not combine it (HIV/AIDS) but to write it out as HIV and AIDS.