



Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) is the successor organisation to the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Since 1994 ACTSA has been campaigning with the people of Southern Africa as they strive to build a better future, working for peace, democracy and development across the region.

ACTSA influences decision-makers in Britain and Europe on policies that affect Southern Africa. It keeps the region in the public and political spotlight through lobbying, publication of reports and briefings and media work. A brief summary of ACTSA's most prominent current campaigns are given below.

ACTSA's "Dignity. Period!" campaign which was launched in 2005 has received a great deal of support. As Robert Mugabe's regime plunges Zimbabwe deeper into crisis, basic goods like sanitary products are becoming luxury items only available to the rich. Millions of women go without these basic products. As a result many are suffering from infection, depression and, in some serious cases, infertility. There have also been examples of women being beaten by their husbands who wrongly attribute their infection to infidelity. ACTSA has been tirelessly campaigning in solidarity with the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions to raise funds to buy large quantities of sanitary products in South Africa and distribute them to the most in need Zimbabwean women.

HIV/AIDS has been a key area of ACTSA's work and remains a critical issue for the people of Southern Africa. Since 1999, ACTSA has been responding to calls for support from governments and campaign groups, working to end the injustices that obstruct Africans' access to treatment. ACTSA supporters have taken on the pharmaceutical multinationals; British and European governments; and international bodies like the World Trade Organisation (WTO). ACTSA continues to battle for access to treatment and the proper funding of the Global Fund. In addition, ACTSA campaigns for the importance of addressing gender inequality, recognising that young women have the most difficult task in both protecting themselves against the HIV virus and also in accessing treatment once they are infected. We are also working on a campaign to call trans-national companies to justice, with regards to their HIV/AIDS policies that affect their workers. These key issues form ACTSA's current focus on HIV/AIDS as we continue our work with other organisations and as part of a wider coalition.

ACTSA also campaigns tirelessly for trade justice. Trade policies are biased towards the rich countries that produce them. ACTSA is part of the "Stop EPA Campaign", a coalition of organisations fighting for an end to Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). EPAs force the poorest of Southern African countries to unfairly compete with rich ones. 750 million of the world's poorest people are at risk of further poverty if EPAs are carried out in their current form.

ACTSA asks for more and better aid and the eradication of all apartheid-caused debts. ACTSA believes that the UK, whilst working towards the donation of 0.7% national income being given in aid by 2008, must lead the way in increasing funding to the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. Currently the UK only contributes 50% of its fair share to the fund. In addition to facing the devastating problems caused by extreme poverty, Africa faces demands of over \$10 billion in debts each year. However 70% of Southern Africa's debt is the apartheid's legacy - \$11 billion were borrowed to maintain the regime and over \$17 billion to fight it. With these debts the devastation of apartheid lives on.

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