



A TRIBUTE TO PETER BUSSE 1958-2006

Geneva, 9 January 2006 – It is with great sadness that UNAIDS learnt of the death on 6 January 2006 of our longtime colleague Peter Busse.

Only last April Peter held a party to celebrate the 20th anniversary of his HIV diagnosis. During the 20 years since his diagnosis Peter was an extraordinary leader in the response to AIDS both within his home country of South Africa and internationally. He lived openly and positively with HIV since the early days of the epidemic and through his work, supported thousands of others to do so.

In the late 1980s Peter founded South Africa's first AIDS support organization, the Township AIDS Project (TAP). He was a Director of the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA), and in 2000 assumed the role of Community Programme Committee Co-Chair for the World AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa.

A phenomenal trainer, Peter was in great demand as a consultant, traveling extensively throughout the world. One of the more remarkable things about Peter was the quiet dignity with which he always carried out his work and led his life. Peter was a man who truly made a difference but did not shout about it. Loved and respected by many people the world over, he will be sorely missed.

With Peter's death, we must make sure that his contribution to the history of AIDS is not lost.