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# Press Release

## Positively Empowering TeenGirls Bout Life (P.E.T.A.L) HIV/AIDS Awareness Forum Will Educate Girls and Their Families

Not-For-Profit Empowerment Organization for girls and young women will host a free Community Forum at the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building, November 2007

**Harlem, NY:** A panel discussion on HIV/AIDS awareness will be hosted by P.E.T.A.L. on Sunday November 4, 2007 from 1:00p – 4:00p. This event will be held at the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building, which is located at 163 West 125th Street in Harlem, New York. This community forum will emphasize the importance of HIV/AIDS education for young ladies and their parents/guardians. Recent studies on HIV/AIDS within African American communities have reported the need for continued education among women regarding this disease. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention HIV/AIDS July 2007 Fact Sheet:

- African Americans women make up 12% of the U.S. Population, but they account for 66% of AIDS diagnoses
- Latina women make up 13% of the U.S. population, but they account for 16 % of new AIDS diagnoses
- African-American children represent almost 71 percent of all pediatric AIDS cases

Presently, 1 out of every 4 new HIV case in the United States are women. Of this number 2 out of 3 are African American. "The number of our girls and young women that are being affected and infected by HIV/AIDS is alarming", says Tamiko Evans, Founder/ P.E.T.A.L. "Our mission is to empower and educate young women because we believe knowledge is power."

Approximately 200 – 250 girls and their parents are expected to attend this forum. Egypt, National Radio and Television Personality will moderate the forum. Confirmed panelists include Dr. Robert Fullilove, Associate Dean Community and Minority Affairs and Professor of Clinical Socio-Medical Sciences, Columbia University and Dr. Monica Sweeney, Assistant Commissioner Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control. A special screening of "Kelly's Secret" by Kim Singleton and other expert panelists, celebrity guests, and City Council/State Assembly representatives are scheduled to participate.

Contact 888.632.9953 for more information about this event and Positively Empowering Teengirls About Life [P.E.T.A.L.].

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empowering girls & young women one seed at a time!

Positively Empowering Teengirls About Life [P.E.T.A.L.]  
P.O. BOX 5028. PLAINFIELD. NEW JERSEY 07061 PHONE / FAX: 888.632.9953