

COSATU resolution on AIDS

This Congress noting that:

1. Thousands of people have died and over 1 million have contracted the deadly virus over the world.
2. A number of people are dying of this disease in South Africa and it is estimated that 40% of the population may be infected.
3. That presently there is no cure for AIDS, and therefore we can expect to see many deaths.

Noting further:

1. That certain employers are beginning to discriminate against workers who suffer from AIDS.
2. That poverty contributes to the spreading of AIDS and other diseases.
3. That the migrant labour system, forced removals, and the state of emergency contribute to the instability of families and communities, creating conditions for the spread of AIDS.
4. That the state has already promulgated a law that empowers it to repatriate foreign workers carrying the AIDS virus.
5. That the education and information programmes of the government and bosses are racist and have created suspicion amongst our members, and have even led to a doubt that AIDS exists.

Therefore resolves:

1. That the Education department of COSATU together with the education departments of affiliates embark on an extensive programme aimed at informing our members how to prevent AIDS.
2. To campaign against the dismissal and discrimination of workers who are found to have the AIDS virus.
3. To expose and eliminate the conditions which break steady relationships and thereby help to spread AIDS (conditions such as migrant labour, hostel living, shortage of housing and so on). □