

**Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-second session
New York, 25 February – 7 March 2008**

**The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men including
caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS**

Written statement*

Submitted by

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* The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.

WOMEN CARE- CAN MEN SHARE?

Sharing of responsibilities between women and men in the context of HIV/AIDS

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen,

My reflections and comments will be based on three elements of my personal and professional experience:

1. The experience of responding to my husband's AIDS diagnosis in 1986 by setting up TASO in Uganda which has turned out to be the largest indigenous care and support organization for people and families with HIV/AIDS in Uganda, in Africa and from which the world has learned so much about compassionate care.
2. My involvement with a unique global initiative by UNAIDS known as the Global coalitions on Women and AIDS: I will make particular reference to the recent review of Progress in 9 countries in southern Africa participating in the UN SG's Task Force on Women Girls and HIV/AIDS (*Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe*)
3. My current experience in setting up a model program of response to the needs of children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in Malawi. The "Funders collaborative for children in Malawi is a joint venture of four foundations: Elton John Foundation, the Diana Princess of Wales Fund, Comic relief and the Children investment Fund Foundation in support of the Malawi government National plan of action for

What we know today about the HIV/AIDS pandemic is not good news:

- ✘ **Despite promising developments to address the AIDS epidemic, the number of people living with HIV continues to rise in every region in the world**
- ✘ More adult women than ever before are now living with HIV (15.4 million) – nearly 50% of the global total
- ✘

But there is hope!

