



Press statement

UNAIDS CONCERNED ABOUT DETENTION OF AIDS ACTIVISTS IN NEPAL

Geneva, 16 August 2004 – UNAIDS is deeply concerned about the recent detention and reported mistreatment of 39 members of the Blue Diamond Society, a Nepalese AIDS NGO working with sexual minorities. The Nepali police arrested these people on 9 August 2004 and they are still being held today.

UNAIDS fully supports the Blue Diamond Society's work with sexual minorities on HIV prevention, care and support as well as human rights issues.

UNAIDS has conveyed its concern over these events to the Government of Nepal and has called on the government to ensure that NGOs in the country continue to provide the much needed services for HIV prevention, care and support in an atmosphere free from fear and intimidation where the human rights of all are respected.

For more information, please contact Dominique De Santis, UNAIDS, Geneva, tel. +41 22 791 4509, desantis@unaids.org. For more information about UNAIDS, please visit www.unaids.org.