

Want to be heard at the United Nations demanding female condoms? Here's how!

Dear Female Condom Advocates,

I am writing to you about an exciting new campaign in support of female condoms. This effort is being initiated by Universal Access to Female Condoms (see <http://www.condoms4all.org/> for more information about this non-profit partnership).

In this campaign, we will illustrate the growing, world-wide demand for female condoms (FCs) by creating massive chains of paper dolls, each one with a personal message that reflects one person's thoughts on FCs. Imagine hundreds and hundreds of paper dolls lining the walls of a conference room at the United Nations High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in New York next June. Imagine thousands of them being carried into the Dutch Parliament when UAFC holds its conference in the Netherlands next November!



Unlike the dolls in the above illustration, each of our paper dolls will be unique because each will have been completed by a different person. We plan to create four or five different models (shapes) that suggest people living in various parts of the world.

If you choose to participate in this project, we hope YOU will help us come up with models that people in your region would like! Here's how it will work:

1. NGOs volunteering to participate in this project will be asked to send us their ideas for possible paper doll designs and to answer a few other questions about how to make the dolls appealing to people in their region
2. Based on this information, we will design 4-5 models and each NGO will select the number and styles of paper dolls they want to complete. We will send out their "orders" with a box of colored pens that people can use to write on the blank dolls

and decorate them. All supplies will be free of charge, of course, and more blank dolls can be ordered once the first batch has been completed.

- Participants will then take these dolls to events, presentations, meetings, market place gatherings, clinics – wherever they go to talk about FCs. There, they will invite as many people as possible to write or draw on a doll (one per person) to express their thoughts on FCs. To help people get started, you may want to write “starter phrases” on some of the paper dolls, in your own languages. These might include:

“A female condom will help me....”

“I need female condoms because.....”

“I want female condoms that... “ (this one may help people to express preferences they have regarding female condom designs)

This paper doll represents...



- Once completed, these dolls will then be sent back to UAFC (we will pay for the postage). There, we will string the paper dolls together to make long chains of figures, each a distinctive representation of the person who signed or decorated it.

If your organization would like to participate in this project, please e-mail me back and let me know you are interested. I will then send you more information, including details about:

- The competition that qualified NGOs can enter in which prizes will be awarded to the organizations submitting the greatest number of completed paper dolls,
- How we will use all the completed paper dolls to make a strong statement about the urgent, grass-roots need for female condoms in all of our various countries.

With your help, this campaign can communicate a powerful message – and may generate significant press coverage that will help to influence policy makers. But we can only accomplish this with the help of lots of advocates and allies all over the world.

I hope you will want to help us make this vision a reality. Please e-mail me at annaforbes@earthlink.net and let me know if you wish to participate.

Thank you,

Anna Forbes
Manager,
UAFC Paper Doll Campaign