



“AIDS in Focus” is a photography contest sponsored by the Mexico YouthForce. The concept behind the contest is simple; we want youth to submit their photographs on what AIDS means to them and their communities. How does AIDS affect you as a young person? As young people between the ages of 15-24 account for more than 40% of new HIV infections it is clear that youth worldwide must have a voice in the fight against AIDS.

As this is a global epidemic it is crucial that this type of communication takes place. The beauty of photography is that it has the ability to transcend language barriers and to allow cross-cultural dialogue and understanding.

Your entry:

To submit your photographs please join the YouthForce group on Flickr (<http://flickr.com/groups/youthforce/>) and add your photographs to the group. Also, remember to tag your photographs with “AIDS in Focus” as well, so we know that they are a part of the contest. We also ask that you write a short description about the photograph that includes details about what the photo means to you, along with your name, age, and country of residence.

Contest Rules:

1. All photographs must be relevant to the topic.
2. You may submit multiple photographs, but may only enter the same photograph once.
3. Once your photographs are entered into the contest, you give permission for the photograph to be used by the Mexico YouthForce. This may include use on the Youth 2008 AIDS Web site (www.youthaids2008.org) and in the Youth Pavilion at the XVII International AIDS Conference.
4. Winners will be selected by a panel of three judges.
5. Entries must be submitted no later than June 1st, 2008.
6. Winners will be officially announced one week after the contest ends.
7. Questions about the contest can be sent to mediamyf@gmail.com

Prizes:

The top five photographs selected will be showcased on the Youth Web site and in the Youth Pavilion at the XVII International AIDS Conference taking place this August in Mexico City (www.aids2008.org). Winners will also receive a gift pack.

About the Mexico YouthForce:

The Mexico YouthForce, a continuation of previous YouthForces at the International AIDS Conferences in Toronto, Bangkok and Barcelona, is a coalition of youth-led and/or youth-serving HIV/AIDS organizations who are working to empower young delegates and promote youth participation around HIV/AIDS before, during and after the XVII Mexico City International AIDS Conference.