

Zambia

The Foundation is concerned about the large number of street children, especially in the capital, Lusaka, who are particularly exposed to physical and sexual abuse, prostitution, and a high risk of HIV infection. The Foundation is also concerned about the living conditions of prisoners and detainees, especially with regard to access to health-care facilities, adequate food and safe drinking water. The Foundation is concerned about the inadequate coverage and quality of health care and the scant financial resources available to the health-care system. It is also concerned about the brain drain of health professionals due to poor working conditions in the health sector.

The Black Caucus Foundation is alarmed about the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by the people of Zambia. The Foundation is also concerned that people afflicted with HIV/AIDS seldom have adequate access to the necessary health-care services, including antiretroviral drugs, appropriate facilities and food. The Foundation reiterates its urging that street children be provided with preventive and rehabilitative services for physical and sexual abuse, as well as adequate food, clothing, housing, health care and educational opportunities. The Foundation urges the government to strengthen its measures, including policies, programs and specific legislation, aimed at improving the living conditions of prisoners and detainees. The Foundation requests the government allocate a higher percentage of its GDP to the health sector and to improve the working conditions of health professionals. The Foundation recommends that the government intensify its efforts to check the spread of HIV/AIDS, inter alia, by strengthening the policy of both providing and encouraging the use of condoms. The Black Caucus Foundation also recommends that the government continue its efforts in prevention and health care by providing sexual and reproductive health services, particularly to women and young people. The Foundation recommends that the government seek to provide adequate health care for people suffering from HIV/AIDS, taking into account the particular needs of widows and orphans.