## TREATMENT INFORMATION GROUP

## thinking about AIDS drugs

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And to Mrs Jerry Coovadia c/o Professor Jerry Coovadia University of KwaZulu-Natal HIV Pathogenesis Programme DDMRI 719 Umbilo Road Congella Durban 4013

Dear Mrs Whiteside

## THE HSRC'S JUNE 2009 'HIV PREVALENCE' REPORT

I'm rather worried about Alan. He seems to have furtive sex with young African prostitutes on the brain, and at the same time he goes banging on about the need for 'moral regeneration'. For someone of his advanced years

I'm sure you'll agree this is very unseemly. And depending on how you're looking these days, it might even be a terrible clue.

I'm referring to the Human Sciences Research Council's latest HIV infection statistics in South Africa, published in June 2009, and Alan's comments on them in the London *Financial Times* on 16 July: 'HIV/AIDS: A glimmer of hope shines amid the epidemic'.

For some odd reason the article didn't mention the glittering highlight of the HSRC's findings, announced by the London *Independent* four days later: 'Around 5.2 million South Africans were living with HIV last year – the highest number of any country in the world. Young women are hardest hit, with one-third of those aged 20-to-34 infected with the virus.'

So you'll be as mystified as I was to read: "What we are seeing for the first time in this epidemic are data that give us hope," says Alan Whiteside, of the HIV/Aids research division at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. "That is very important to South Africa." Because it's hard to imagine that what filled Alan with 'hope' was to learn that according to the scientific authorities over at the HSRC one in three (1/3) young (African) women in our country (32.7%) have incurable deadly sex viruses teeming like miniature maggots in their nether passages.

Perhaps the 'very important' part of the HSRC's 'data' that gave Alan 'hope' – but which neither the *Financial Times* nor the *Independent* mentioned – is that only one in three hundred and thirty-three (1/333) whites like you and him have the virus in your privities (0.3%). Yes, that's just one in three hundred and thirty-three (1/333) whites in South Africa, as against one in seven blacks (1/7) overall (13.6%) who are going to die a certain horrible, painful and lonely death in about ten years time.

But I wouldn't worry too much about this absolutely fantastic infection rate of incurable deadly sexual disease that the blacks are riddled with if I were you, Mrs Whiteside. As long as you keep off the Durban beaches and stick to your church, bowls, bridge and book club you'll be quite safe from them.

The Treatment Action Campaign will have been most disappointed to hear Alan say, 'We are getting people in for treatment but we can't treat our way out of this epidemic.' After all the untold millions from foreign governments and corporate philanthropies that they spent on persuading our government to buy life-saving ARV treatments for the blacks, the life-saving ARV treatments that the pharmaceutical corporations sell to save lives, Alan went and told the *Financial Times* that the life-saving ARV treatment sold by the pharmaceutical corporations to save their lives isn't the thing for saving their lives after all. 'Prof Whiteside believes that much more emphasis needs to be placed on prevention, and he argues that to be effective this must take into account the economic and "transactional" aspects of sex and sexuality. In addition, women need to be given more information and power, in order to effect what he calls "a moral regeneration which takes into account sexuality."

I was a bit surprised that Alan thought black 'women need to be given more information' about 'sex and sexuality' from AIDS experts like himself, which is to say even 'more information' that 'sex and sexuality' have become extremely dangerous to enjoy nowadays, especially for the blacks – ever since a brand new virus invented itself deep in the African jungle a few decades ago, which monkeys jumping around with blue-coloured testicles transmitted to Africans, who then spread it all the way over the Atlantic Ocean to fast-track life-style, inner-city homosexualists, heroin addicts and Haitian immigrants in America, which dislikeable

bunch of people then transmitted it back over the sea to the blacks in Africa again. The 'information' about how 'sex and sexuality' is responsible for the blacks getting sick is everywhere you look. Goodness, Mrs Whiteside, do we really 'need ... more' of it?!

But what I really want to talk to you about is Alan's advice that what the natives ultimately need to save their lives is 'a moral regeneration which takes into account sexuality' especially 'the economic and "transactional" aspects of sex and sexuality'. And there can be no doubting that as an English immigrant Alan is extremely knowledgeable about the blacks and their need for 'a moral regeneration which takes into account sexuality', particularly 'the economic and "transactional" aspects of sex and sexuality'. You only have to look at the HSRC's claims about 'HIV prevalence' among the blacks to know that what Alan is saying is very true, namely that it's high time these people got a grip on themselves. They've obviously been busy with a non-stop sexual orgy!

Since the HSRC reported no HIV infection among whites to speak of, Alan obviously didn't have you and him in mind when urging the need for 'a moral regeneration which takes into account sexuality' – certainly not! The God-fearing people who came to this country to teach the natives civilization, religion, hygiene, good morals and the dignity of labour, which is to say how to behave, don't have these deadly germs, or hardly at all (and the HSRC's figures for the coloured and Indian infection rate is also miniscule). It's the blacks who need to regenerate their sexual morality, Alan meant, especially young black women, every third one of whom you see is a carrier of the deadly sex plague.

And if a positive HIV test result means an HIV infection, and HIV is a virus, and the virus is spread sexually, just as the Americans say, and 'What we say goes,' as George Bush Snr once famously said, then who can fault Alan's very scientific deduction that young black women in South Africa are basically total sluts, needing 'a moral regeneration which takes into account sexuality', especially '"transactional" aspects of sex and sexuality'?

The *Financial Times* claimed that 'Widespread poverty, in contrast with the untrammelled wealth flaunted by the few, has given rise to a culture in which young women are willing – or feel obliged – to use their bodies to try to better their economic circumstances. ... The problem is in evidence in the township shebeens (unlicensed bars) where elderly punters avert their gaze as middle-aged men lead nervy girls to the rickety shacks round the back to have sex.'

Now I'm certain the English journalist who wrote the article doesn't sit around drinking 'in the township shebeens' with 'elderly punters' and 'middle-aged men', 'avert[ing] their gaze' when 'nervy girls' are led off 'to the rickety shacks round the back to have sex'. I'm sure too that HSRC head Olive Shisana, also interviewed for the article, doesn't socialize in this manner either, now that she's an AIDS expert saying the sort of things the Americans like to hear about Africans and is consequently living high on the hog in the suburbs these days (she spoke about her favourite bother, the 'sugar-daddy syndrome', not paid sex with strangers). So I'm assuming Alan was the source of this 'evidence'. If I'm right about this, do you think Alan was just dreaming up this lurid image to slot into his fellow English readers' basically racist preconceptions about Africans, and to titillate them with it? In other words fabricating the 'evidence' like perjury in court? Or do you think maybe he's been part of the action (he likes to describe

himself as 'a *middle-aged* white academic')? Now I'm not saying he has been part of the action, Mrs Whiteside, but you know how it is at church: it's always the deacon or the elder, the most prominently outspoken advocate of puritan piety and the need for 'a moral regeneration which takes into account sexuality', who ends up arrested for rogering the children from the orphanage and that sort of thing. Surely you've noticed Alan's fondness for African shirts and Chinese suits when flying off (business class always) to exotic countries on his regular AIDS junkets, trying to blend in with the locals and look a real Third World Man! And come now, Mrs Whiteside, you don't really think it's only in South Africa that friendly young women loll about hotels and public houses?!

You please mustn't think I'm implying that there's anything unscientific about Alan's thinking in these matters. His good friend and AIDS expert colleague Jerry Coovadia completely agrees with him scientifically. And as chairman of the 13<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference in Durban in 2000, and our country's first 'Professor of HIV/AIDS Research', Dr Coovadia is undoubtedly our leading, most highly respected scientific authority when it comes to AIDS among the blacks.

One of our richest too! According to an AP report on 20 July, 'South African scientists' like him 'received more money from [US NIAID director Anthony Fauci's] institute's research fund than any others in the world except the U.S. He called it "the most important Aids research partnership in the world."'

Asked by a SAPA reporter at the International AIDS Society conference in Cape Town on 21 July, 'Why is the prevalence of HIV and Aids so high in southern and South Africa?', the 'co-chairperson of the conference, and a world authority in the field of Aids research and policy making' pointed to

the 'the destruction of family life, and the destruction of culture and community, on the restraints to risky sexual behaviour, especially of young people' by colonialism and apartheid. But 'I don't believe poverty causes it,' Professor Coovadia said. 'It exacerbates Aids when you get it; obviously you can't get treatment and so on.' African poverty resulting from three and a half centuries of colonialism and apartheid otherwise has nothing to do with it, he reckons; and obviously only a denialist would say that the chronic under-nourishment of impoverished Africans unable to afford proper nutritious food – plus hopelessness and despair – is the principle cause of their poor health.

No, it's sex to blame, Professor Coovadia scientifically explained: women coming to industrial centres 'were often disadvantaged because they couldn't get work on the mines, or couldn't get any work, so they turned to prostitution or transactional sex'.

As for African men, 'There is the concept of masculinity, which applies in black males,' he went on, not white, coloured and Indian males like him. It 'applies in black males', and it is 'the sense of the "macho male", who must be able to dominate women, who must be able to rape women, must be able to work in a criminal culture, and so on. This period of acclimatisation within a gangland culture led to what you see now ... We know there's a lot of rape, more than almost anywhere else in the world; there's a lot of coercive sex; there's a lot of early onset sex in schools. So all the protective mechanisms of traditional life have absolutely been seriously affected, more so than in other countries. The fact that there is coercive sex starting from a very young age, the fact that there are ... young women, black women mostly, who are seduced by the materialism that they see around them into having sexual relations with men who could buy them gifts ... older men, who are likely to be HIV infected' – all this, Professor

Coovadia told the reporter, explains the one in three (1/3) HIV infection rate among young African women, according to his AIDS expert colleagues at the HSRC, also paid by the Americans.

In urging in the *Financial Times* that 'women need to be given more information and power' – black women he means, not you, whom he thinks has quite enough 'power' already thanks very much – your Alan seems to go with Professor Coovadia's view of Africans; because by 'power' he obviously means the 'power' to keep the beasts off. The 'power' black women don't have. To keep the beasts off. The beasts described scientifically by Professor Coovadia. Who rape their women and children 'more than almost anywhere else in the world'.

You see, Mrs Whiteside, there's one thing Professor Coovadia and your husband both know and it's the boy. The boy in the garden, and he's basically a criminal rapist like Charlene Smith said in the *Washington Post* back in 2000. And the girl in the kitchen, well she's basically a prostitute; they all are. It's perfectly obvious!

Why, 'we know' that Africans are sexually distinct from Indians and all other people, says Professor Coovadia: 'I've studied and grown up in India, where there is great poverty. But there is a substantial difference between our family lives, and our behaviour, sexually-risky behaviour, the way we are brought up. I think there are fundamental differences in culture and tradition in the way in which we impact on the way the epidemic has evolved.'

Unlike Indians such as Professor Coovadia, who has never put it in anyone other than Mrs Coovadia thanks to the 'way we are brought up' and the 'fundamental differences in culture and tradition' between Indians and the blacks, the boy is different: 'In the context of risky sexual

behaviour, there is no doubt that the man who has ... concurrent partners ... is considered to be a major risk factor.'

So there it is, Mrs Whiteside, it's all scientifically explained by our top academic AIDS expert: 'in black males' one finds a basic criminal mentality, a need to be 'macho' in their intimate relationships, to 'be able to dominate women', 'rape' them, and 'coerc[e] ... girls' of a 'very young age' into 'early onset sex in schools'. Also a special propensity to have 'concurrent partners'.

And this is what makes the African man a walking 'major risk factor' for spreading the virus everywhere in our country – one in four (1/4) of whom aged between 25 and 49 (23.7%) have HIV lurking in their groins according to the HSRC.

Clearly the reason there's no HIV infection rate worth mentioning among whites, coloureds and Indians, is that white, coloured and Indian men aren't natural rapists and paedophiles with loveless, faithless sex lives. It's just not in their nature to go around raping women and children, and also having 'concurrent partners', as it is 'in black males', as Professor Coovadia explained it very scientifically.

But I must say, Mrs Whiteside, your Alan is very good at striking the right pose in front of the Americans who fund his AIDS research, his research of AIDS among the blacks who can't control themselves and who need whites like him to help them with lessons in good and proper Anglican sexual morality to live by.

In May 2003 the US House of Representatives voted to approve President George Bush Jr's original PEPFAR fund allocation of \$15 billion to fight AIDS in Africa (since trebled to \$48 billion, of which \$591 million was spent in and on South Africa last year). In terms of a last-minute amendment for which Vice President Dick Cheney successfully lobbied House members, one third of the cash was allotted to sexual abstinence training. That's \$5 billion to teach Africans not to have sex! Since quite clearly they have far too much!

This was in tune with a statement from the White House that President Bush wished the PEPFAR bill to 'prioritize the abstinence component of the ABC approach' in fighting AIDS in Africa: "A" for abstinence, "B" for being faithful and "C" for condom use when appropriate'.

As Republican Representative Mike Pence put it at the time, 'It's important that we not just send them money, but we send them values that work.' Of course, by 'them', he wasn't meaning whites in Africa like you and Alan who need 'a moral regeneration which takes into account sexuality', but, you know, 'them'.

It really was very sharp of Alan to remember and repeat Representative Pence's point that the blacks need to be taught American 'values that work' and to regenerate their moral outlook particularly concerning their 'sexuality', since the moral values of the blacks concerning their 'sexuality' are obviously no good when compared with American ones. You only have to look at how much AIDS they've got to see that the blacks have got no sexual morals. The Americans would have been very glad to hear Alan agreeing with them on this.

And I'll never forget the extremely impressive show Alan put on for us at the second meeting of then President Mbeki's International AIDS Advisory Panel in Johannesburg in July 2000 for the benefit of the Americans sitting there – most importantly Clifford Lane, deputy director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases: 'It's time we stopped messing around and started taking AIDS seriously!' he shouted.

You should have been there, Mrs Whiteside! It was like watching Khrushchev in the UN pounding the table with his shoe! The Americans were obviously very impressed to see how determined Alan was to see the pointless scientific debate about the real nature, cause and best treatment of AIDS called off and to fight the virus that the blacks are spreading all over South Africa! And since then – let's face it – you and he have never had it so good!

Anyway pardon me for troubling you over all this, but whereas Rian Malan thought my first book *Debating AZT: Mbeki and the AIDS drug* controversy 'Absolutely amazing ... A work of genius ... He writes so well ... I just love his one-liners'; Denis Beckett: 'very nice writing ... you can't really be a lawyer'; Hiram Caton PhD, Emeritus Professor of Politics and History, and former Head of the School of Applied Ethics, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia: 'top dollar writing'; Manu Kothari PhD, Emeritus Professor of Anatomy, Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College, King Edward Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, India: 'a rare combination of incisive insight, entertaining wit, profound perspicacity, all of which and a lot more being available through his racy, delicious pen'; and Yves Vanderhaeghen, deputy editor of the Witness: 'Crisp. Logical. Sometimes over the top. Bristlingly intelligent. Exhausting. Acerbic. Sometimes vicious. For anyone who wants to know what Mbeki's on about, it's all here, in a nutshell', I have a report that your husband found my little book 'unreadable' – perhaps not wanting 'to know what Mbeki's on about' because that might have interrupted the great gushing torrent of American greenbacks pouring into his account, and old Alan certainly knows what side his bread's buttered on. And if he found my book 'unreadable' he'd never have managed to get through this letter on his own, which is why I'm hoping you'll share it with him.

Also I know how very busy Alan is having to go to the bank all the time to deposit all the money the American government gives him to fight the germs that the blacks are spreading all over South Africa and threatening the national security of the United States with. It must be very tiring for him.

Thank you my dear.

ANTHONY BRINK