



**NATIONAL MINORITY
AIDS COUNCIL**
Building Healthier Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dear USCA Attendees:

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2008 United States Conference on AIDS. This year, we are proud to announce a special Opening Plenary session called:



[Click here for a
special campaign
trailer!](#)

**“SOY... LA VOZ DEL CAMBIO”
 (“I AM... A VOICE FOR CHANGE”)**
*Heroes in the Response to the Latino AIDS
Crisis*

Thursday, September 18, 2008
2008 United States Conference on AIDS
Ft. Lauderdale Convention Center
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



**Univision
Correspondent
Teresa
Rodriguez**

This special session is being organized by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Univision, with support from the Latino Commission on AIDS, as part of an ongoing partnership to inform Latinos about HIV/AIDS. It will be moderated by award-winning television personality and journalist, Teresa Rodriguez, co-host of Univision's "Aqui y Ahora," and include an intimate conversation with heroes working on the frontlines of the Latino AIDS response. Attendees also will see a sneak preview of *SOY... (I AM...)*, the first national Spanish-language media campaign profiling Latinos living with HIV and their loved ones.

The need for dialogue about the impact of HIV/AIDS among Latinos has never been greater. The 2008 International AIDS Conference, held in Mexico City, marked the first time the meeting was held in Latin America, highlighting the impact of the epidemic there. And in the U.S., the latest statistics released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revealed that HIV continues to disproportionately impact Latino communities nationwide. HIV rates were found to be 40% higher than previously estimated overall, with 56,300 HIV cases occurring in 2006 alone, 17% of which were among Latinos.

Today, an estimated 200,000 Latinos are living with HIV/AIDS in the United States, with millions more indirectly impacted by the disease. Despite these staggering numbers, few people in the Latino community want to talk about AIDS, which has helped disseminate fear, stigma and misperceptions about the disease, as well as cause new infections. Because of this fear, AIDS is claiming the lives of Latinos at four times the rate of the general U.S. population.

I hope you will join me at this most important session.

Yours in Struggle,

Paul Kawata

About USCA

The 2008 United States Conference on AIDS (USCA) will take place September 18-21, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, at Greater Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. Since 1997, USCA, the largest annual HIV/AIDS meeting in the United States, has strengthened the domestic community-based response to HIV/AIDS by bringing together professionals from across the country to learn new skills and build partnerships and collaborations.

The conference's extensive selection of over 200 institutes, seminars, workshops and roundtables sessions addressing every aspect of the AIDS epidemic – from nutrition and treatment to prevention and international issues – enables participants to customize their training and networking experiences according to their unique professional needs. To learn more about USCA, visit: www.2008USCA.org; call: (202) 483-NMAC (6622); or e-mail: conferences@nmac.org.

About USCA's Sponsor, NMAC

The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) has developed leadership within communities of color to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS since 1987. NMAC has furthered this mission by providing a public policy education program; national and regional trainings and conferences; treatment and research programs and trainings; numerous publications; and a website: www.nmac.org. The agency also serves an association of AIDS service organizations, faith- and community-based organizations, hospitals, clinics, health departments and other groups assisting people and families. NMAC's advocacy efforts are funded through private funders and donors only. For more information, call: (202) 483-NMAC (6622) or visit: www.nmac.org.