



E. LYNN HARRIS SPEAKS FOR BLACK AMERICA AT AIDSWATCH

Who: Ten-time New York Times Bestselling Author, E. Lynn Harris
What: 17th annual AIDSWATCH
When: April 27-29, 2009
Where: Washington, DC
Why: E. Lynn Harris speaks on behalf of Black America concerning HIV/AIDS

WASHINGTON, DC -- Fifteen years ago a literary movement began sparking a shift in the social consciousness of the way African Americans would later understand their complicated intersection of race, sexuality and spirituality. In 1994, the novel *Invisible Life*, the first of twelve books to be eventually written by prolific author, E. Lynn Harris was published. Today it lives as the foremost visionary and the most current statement of the social dynamics of sexuality between and among black Americans.

The multiple New York Times Bestselling author and lecturer, E. Lynn Harris is now expanding his pioneering literary work of black sexuality to include advocating on behalf of black America for the increased nationwide funding of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and awareness within black communities. As part of Harris' awareness initiative, he will participate in the 17th annual AIDSWATCH convening in Washington, DC, April 27-29, 2009.

Harris will meet and accompany AIDSWATCH participants from across the nation as they lobby their congressional representatives in both the US House and Senate for their continued HIV/AIDS funding commitments. Further, Harris will also address the topic of the rapid growth of HIV/AIDS among black Americans as well as the plan of action to be taken.

"We as a nation and as a race must take aggressive steps in reducing the growth of HIV/AIDS in black communities by diligently working together to ensure that no one is left from our prevention and treatment efforts" explained Harris adding that "Today AIDS is the leading cause of death among black women aged 25-34 and the second leading cause of death among black men aged 35-44."

And with such large numbers of African American women being diagnosed, Harris once boldly stated in the black female driven, *Essence Magazine* that "Women's lives today depend on their knowing who's sleeping with whom."

But he also adds that "Blacks in general consist of 46% of the more than one million people estimated to be living with HIV and 45% of all new HIV cases in the United States. Black women, men and youth are all in danger of HIV/AIDS. We must work together to stop it."

Harris is available for radio, print, online and television interviews. For more information about E. Lynn Harris' participation in AIDSWatch, please contact Herndon Davis at 718-408-3767 or Herndon@herndonDavis.com.

For more information about AIDSWatch and the activities occurring during the event, please contact Kali Lindsey, Vice President for Federal Government Affairs, at 240-247-1019, KLindsey@napwa.org. Also, visit <http://www.napwa.org/advocacy/aidswatch.shtml> for more information.

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