

*Candidate Statement***Section A. Contact Information**

Country	ZAMBIA
Name	ESTHER ZULU
Position/ Organization	SOCIAL WORKER COPTIC MISSION HOSPITAL (ART CLINIC)
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Section B. Statement of intent (max. 300 words)

In no more than 300 words, please describe how your professional background makes you a suitable candidate for this post and also describe what you would like to achieve if you were elected to this post.

I come from a 10 year background of volunteerism with an organisation called Youth Alive Zambia, I started working with orphans, the old, and people living with HIV/AIDS when I was still in high school. I discovered that this was and still is my passion. I then studied Social Work and I am currently practising as a social worker/counsellor with Coptic Hospital under the Anti Retroviral Clinic (Hope Center). During my two years with the clinic and being part of the first team to initiate the project, I have had the priviledge of working with the support group consisting of clients on ARV's and those with and taking TB treatment. I recently was part of the task force team with Treatment Advocacy Litearcy Campaign to advocate for better diagnostics and medication to treat MDR/XDR TB. My intentions for this post is to be used as an instrument and fight for better accesss and improved services for people living with TB/HIV and to see a better linkage between the two.

I would also love to work with people living with TB and children so that their views and experiences can be used to influence policy makers.

I lone and enjoy to work with the community, I am a very simple and committed person with everything I do. I feel confident that I can make a challenging and effective candidate.

Section C. Short biography (max. 300 words)

In this section, please provide a short biography outlining your academic background, professional experience, and any major project/initiative that highlight your knowledge of advocacy, communication and social mobilization at country level.

I completed my high school in 1999 from Kabulonga Girls High School. After this I travelled as a camp counsellor to United States where I worked in a summer camp for girls. I returned back to Zambia worked for SCOPE-OVC (Strenthening Community Partnerships through Envolvement of Orphans and Vulnerable Children) as an office manager. During my stay as a volunteer with Youth Alive Zambia I was trained in Child Counseling, Facilitation skills, Advocacy (Through the Sara initiative with UNICEF). I also took part in ICASA

conference and advocated through music during the conference. I later trained as an HIV/AIDS counsellor and enrolled as a Social Work student with the University of Zambia where I got my diploma. At the moment I am a Social worker and counsellor with Coptic Hospital. During my stay here I have been trained in ART management, Rapid Testing of HIV, and was selected to be part of the national task force under Treatment Literacy Campaign to advocate for the strengthening of community and national policies on TB/HIV linkages.

I am constantly in touch with the community and work in coordinating all support group activities. I was trained in Behavioural Change Communication and this together with my other skills has helped me be able to mobilise a number of activities at community and national level e.g World AIDS Day.

I was also a part of a research team called Right To Know under UNICEF which involved research and mobilization at rural level, we travelled to capture and disseminate information on HIV/AIDS and to rate the knowledge levels. I have sat on the World AIDS Day preparatory committee and helped in mobilising organisations and support groups for a number of activities e.g satellite activities and the candle light services.