



## Sample letter for Greek Fraternity and Sorority leaders/members to include in newsletters and online websites

Dear Leader:

As an entity requiring members to go through an orientation process; fraternities and sororities like yours are known for bringing empowerment, enrichment, and education to Black people. For the crisis at hand, we are calling on you to help educate the nation. Do you know how bad HIV/AIDS is ravishing Black America? The statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are alarming and definitely a wake-up call.

When looking at HIV/AIDS by race and ethnicity, Blacks have more illness (*Blacks represent approximately 13% of the U.S. population and account for 45% of new HIV infections and 46% of people living with HIV disease*); and more deaths (*Blacks accounted for 57% of deaths due to HIV in 2006 and the survival time after an AIDS diagnosis is lower on average than it is for most other racial/ethnic groups*).

**February 7, 2010 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> commemoration of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD).** NBHAAD is a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative designed to encourage Blacks across the United States and Territorial Areas to **get educated, get tested, get involved, and get treated** around HIV/AIDS, as it continues to devastate Black communities. NBHAAD is directed, planned and organized by a group known as the **Strategic Leadership Council** who partners with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to mobilize Black communities and address specific issues in regards to local epidemics and best practices that will influence the course of HIV in Black communities across the country.

Public figures such as **Congressman Elijah E. Cummings; Tony Dungy; Idris Elba; Kimberly Elise; Lance Gross; Hill Harper; Taraji P. Henson; Tom Joyner; Congresswoman Barbara Lee; Bishop Eddie Long; Ludacris; Master P; Tangi Miller; Patrik-Ian Polk; General Colin Powell; Sheryl Lee Ralph; Gloria Reuben; Romeo; Rev. Edwin Sanders; Tavis Smiley; and Congresswoman Maxine Waters** have all contributed their advocacy as spokespersons to this effort.

For 2010, we are mobilizing communities to be the voice and face for making *HIV/AIDS Prevention - A Choice and a Lifestyle!* We are asking Blacks all over to become the voice for

change by submitting a mini-video through the website that is centered on one or all four of the objectives of **NBHAAD** – education, testing, involvement, and/or treatment. All people, regardless of lifestyle or HIV status, *can* and *should* get involved with spreading the HIV/AIDS message to their families and communities.

**National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2010: Get educated! Get tested! Get involved! Get treated!** For more information on **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**, log onto [www.blackaidsday.org](http://www.blackaidsday.org).

Sincerely,

[name of person sending letter]

[title]

[organization, agency, group name]