

ACT UP

A Week of International AIDS Activism

Background

The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power

ACT UP/Amsterdam
ACT UP/Albany
ACT UP/Atlanta
ACT UP/Austin
ACT UP/Berlin
ACT UP/Boston
ACT UP/Central Illinois
ACT UP/Chicago
ACT UP/Columbus
ACT UP/Contra Costa
ACT UP/Denver
ACT UP/East Bay
Edinburgh ACT UP
Glasgow ACT UP
ACT UP/Houston
ACT UP/Indianapolis
ACT UP/Kansas City
ACT UP/Leeds
ACT UP/London
ACT UP/Long Beach
ACT UP/Long Island
ACT UP/Los Angeles
ACT UP/Madison
Maine ACT UP
ACT UP/Milwaukee
ACT UP/Minnesota
ACT UP/New Orleans
ACT UP/New York
ACT UP/Paris
ACT UP/Philadelphia
ACT UP/Portland
ACT UP/Provincetown
ACT UP/Rhode Island
ACT UP/Rochester
ACT UP/San Diego
ACT UP/San Francisco
ACT UP/Seattle
ACT UP/Sydney
ACT UP/Shreveport
ACT UP/Sonoma County
ACT UP/Syracuse
ACT UP/Tallahassee
ACT UP/Wichita State

AIDS Action Planning Committee
Action Now
Connecticut ACT OUT
CRY OUT!
Cure AIDS Now
Fight For Life
Gay/Lesbian March Activists
GUTS/Dallas
GUTS/Houston
Lesbian and Gay Rights Organizing Committee
Oppression Under Target
Orange County Visibility League
PWA Coalition of Minneapolis
STAT
The Swamp Rats
Tennessee Gay/Lesbian Coalition/ACT UP

ACT NOW
The AIDS Coalition to Network Organize and Win

A CAPSULE HISTORY OF ACT UP/SAN FRANCISCO

ACT UP/San Francisco grew out of the coalitions of militant AIDS activists formed to fight the bigoted and regressive AIDS initiatives proposed by Lyndon LaRouche in 1986. They created the **AIDS Action Pledge (AAP)**, a pledge to engage in civil disobedience if the LaRouche quarantine initiative passed. A group of lesbian and gay activists had formed an affinity group called **Citizens for Medical Justice (CMJ)** to use direct action to target government inaction and pharmaceutical profiteering around the epidemic; after the defeat of LaRouche, they changed their name to the AIDS Action Pledge, and became a community grass-roots organization of AIDS activists. The AIDS Action Pledge itself has been updated over the years and is still the political basis of ACT UP/San Francisco.

In January 1988, the AIDS Action Pledge decided to rename itself **ACT UP**, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, to add continuity to a rapidly growing national direct action movement. ACT UP/SAN Francisco is a part of ACT NOW (the AIDS Coalition to Network, Organize and Win) a national network of direct action AIDS activists.

September 1986: CMJ stages sit-in at Governor George Deukmejian's office to protest his veto of an AIDS anti-discrimination bill and 12 other AIDS bills sitting on his desk awaiting his signature. Eight people are arrested.

January 1987: CMJ changes its name to the AIDS Action Pledge.

February 1987: AAP institutes boycott of Burroughs-Wellcome products in response to profiteering on anti-viral drug AZT.

April 1987: AAP takes part in national week of protests revolving around federal inaction in fighting the AIDS epidemic.

May 1987: Protest at Burroughs-Wellcome office in Burlingame. Seven people are arrested.

April 1987: Participate in a national week of protests revolving around federal inaction in fighting the AIDS epidemic.

October 1987: Participate in National Lesbian/Gay March on Washington, DC, and in the civil disobedience at the Supreme Court. Twenty people were arrested from San Francisco.

January 1988: AIDS Action Pledge changes name to ACT UP (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) to add continuity to a growing national direct action movement. January 1988: ACT UP/San Francisco returns to Burroughs-Wellcome in Burlingame and shut down the West Coast office. Nineteen people are arrested.

February 1988: Demonstration at the San Francisco hearings of the findings of the President's Commission on AIDS.

March 1988: Picket and protest at the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) for their AIDS and lesbian/gay exclusionary policies.

October 1988: Demonstration and protest of AIDS-phobic episode of NBC'S television series, "Midnight Caller." Along with ACT NOW (AIDS Coalition to Network, Organize & Win) San Francisco joins a thousand other AIDS activists from around the country in shutting down the main headquarters of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

December 1988: "Midnight Caller" episode runs. Protest at San Francisco NBC affiliate KRON. Ten people arrested. December 1988: Sit-in staged at SF General Hospital to protest the denial of the use of Foscarnet, a drug caught in FDA red tape, that treats People Living with AIDS (PLWAs).

January 1989: Join with ACT UP/Portland in closing down their local FDA branch. Eleven people arrested. January 1989: Protest Dr. Anthony Fauci, disrupting his acceptance of Outstanding Achievement Award in HIV studies for 1988. Meet privately with Dr. Fauci later and present him with Parallel Track proposal.

February 1989: Join with Black and White Men Together/San Francisco to protest at the Black Mayors Conference in Oakland, CA. February 1989: Give seed money for the start of two new ACT/UP groups, ACT UP/East Bay and ACT UP/San Francisco Students United.

June 1989: Protest at University of Southern California for their use of placebos in treating and testing children living with AIDS.

August 1989: Join with Latino AIDS Project/San Francisco in outreach to Latino/a community at Day of the Dead celebration. Development of a Lesbian Safer Sex kit by the Women's Caucus. No Concession Girls, an outreach group targeting lesbians, begins to infiltrate women's bars and educate them about being pro-sex and practicing safer sex.

October 1989: Start of an ongoing campaign against mandatory AIDS testing of those seeking citizenship or asylum.. Joining with 20 other ACT UP'S nationwide in a day of protest. The protest is targeted by San Francisco police, and turns into a "Night of Resistance" as over 50 people are arrested and the police "sweep" the Castro district.

December 1989: ACT UP/SF joins other ACT UPs and executive directors of AIDS service providers in front of the White House to protest the lack of leadership and commitment to end the AIDS epidemic. 80 people arrested. December 1989: Return to Burroughs-Wellcome in Burlingame demanding to see the books of this leader in AIDS profiteering. Sixteen people arrested.

January 1990: ACT UP/SF convinces city hall to release \$700,000 allocated to different AIDS groups but "frozen" after the October earthquake.

February 1990: Target the INS exclusionary policies. Three people arrested.

April 1990: Join with ACT UP/Chicago and 15 other ACT UPs protesting the deplorable conditions of AIDS care in Chicago and demanding a national health care system.