

Caucus rallies to enlist aid for Darfur, hurricane relief

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impress upon Khartoum that they allow the UN force to come in, allow unfettered humanitarian access, and bring an immediate end to the violence."

The caucus also held a press conference to discuss Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic among African Americans.

Caucus members were recently tested for the virus to highlight the importance of getting tested and urge an end to the "state of denial" about the devastation among blacks. The growing rate of AIDS infection is in the African American community, particularly black women, who represent over 70 percent of the new AIDS cases.

"Since the beginning of the epidemic,

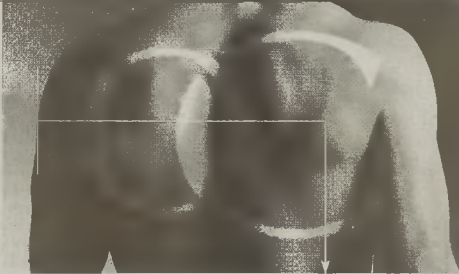
HIV/AIDS has had and continues to have a disproportionate impact on the African American community," noted Congresswoman Donna Christensen (D-Virgin Islands). "Not only are African Americans more likely than any other population group to be infected with HIV, but African Americans are disproportionately over-represented among people with new AIDS diagnoses and are more likely to die from AIDS-related conditions."

Rep. Maxine Waters (D. Calif.) said the CBC will be taking more aggressive positions, including supporting mandatory testing of inmates and including HIV testing as part of regular medical examinations.

Watt said the caucus has introduced legislation to help restore the Gulf Coast after Katrina's devastation as well as prodding

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