

“The critical shortage of health workers and weak healthcare systems are key constraints to improving health care in Uganda. Sustained commitment and creative action are urgently needed to support health providers and patients. Joint effort by US and Ugandan medical students will go a long way in securing the right to health of millions of Ugandans. ”

-Stella Oola, Makerere Medical School Student and President of SEHC



**Students for Equity in Health Care (SEHC)** is a student-run advocacy group founded in December 2004 by a group of 13 Makerere University medical students with a desire to advocate for equitable health care service delivery in Uganda and worldwide. SEHC, which is supported by Physicians for Human Rights and its Ugandan partner, the Action Group for Health, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS (AGHA), gives health students the forum to provide needed leadership on AIDS and health rights on their campus and across Uganda.

Today, SEHC has grown from 13 student founders to a national presence, with chapters at all three public medical schools in Uganda: Makerere University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Gulu University. SEHC also has chapters at the Paramedical School and Nursing School in Mulago.

Since its inception, SEHC has been involved in numerous activities that promote equitable access to quality health care in Uganda and strengthen student leadership and empowerment, including:

- 🚫 Organizing an annual AIDS Action Week and National Student Conference both to raise awareness and to advocate for improved service delivery to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS
- 🚫 Advocating for provision of a Hepatitis B vaccine to medical students in Uganda, an action which led the Minister of Health to promise the vaccine to all health workers country-wide
- 🚫 Working together with the faculty of medicine to find funding for rural education initiatives which bring medical students to poor, underserved rural areas to provide needed medical services
- 🚫 Holding health and human rights workshops to sensitize students to the importance of the human rights aspect of health care, including work to combat stigma in health settings
- 🚫 Building national and international partnerships to improve health rights

