



## **XIX International AIDS Conference Washington DC, July 2012**

### **Women's Rights: Turn The Tide A Women's Networking Zone at AIDS2012**

We look to the upcoming International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C. as an opportunity to mobilize women regionally and globally, for innovative community building and advocacy, in order to:

- 1) Create a vibrant, inclusive space to ensure the knowledge, expertise, and opportunities of AIDS 2012 are accessible to and benefit from the engagement of women from around the world and the local U.S. community, many of whom would otherwise be excluded due to prohibitive registration costs;
- 2) Spotlight and celebrate the diversity of women and girls;
- 3) Ensure women's priorities, expertise, and experiences are visible at the conference, creating a link to the issues and audience of the "main" conference;
- 4) Advance a comprehensive and inclusive women's and human rights agenda, including women's sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- 5) Champion the leadership of women living with HIV, particularly young women;
- 6) Highlight structural factors such as poverty, sexism, racism, violence against women, homophobia, and gender-based violence as a cause and consequence of HIV; the need for advances in female-controlled prevention tools; and, the rights of women facing multiple forms of stigma and discrimination, including women who use drugs and/or engage in sex work or transactional sex, express gender identity/sexual orientation other than heterosexuality, and adolescent and young women;
- 7) Share information from the conference/WNZ with those unable to attend through blogs, twitter, and e-mail list-serves; and,
- 8) Build inter-regional alliances.

*"People see the United States as a high income country, but the cost of attending the conference is way out of reach for most women – even those living in the DC area. We want our space to be an area where local women have a place to speak, so that the world can see we share many of the same issues as other women living with HIV around the world."*

*(WNZ programming partner)*

The Women's Networking Zone is coordinated by the ATHENA Network.





### **The Road to Washington, D.C.**

The Women's Networking Zone (WNZ) is a community built forum within the International AIDS Conference that is open to the public – and a place where community members, researchers, advocates, service providers, and decision-makers can meet, share, and learn together. Building on WNZs from Toronto, Mexico City, Vienna, Rome, and Addis Ababa, AIDS 2012 offers an opportunity to mobilize women nationally and globally, for innovative community-building, knowledge sharing, and collaborative advocacy.

We view the WNZ as an inviting and inclusive forum for bringing together, local, regional, and global perspectives, as well as for bridging the gender, human rights, HIV, and sexual and reproductive health and rights communities. The WNZ will consult globally and nationally to develop a geographically and socially diverse program; present creative and interactive sessions, including debates, panels, workshops, performances; focus on challenges, emerging issues and best practices in the HIV response for women; promote information sharing and caucusing; inter-regional, inter-generational and inter-faith dialogue; exchange of experiences, skills, tools, and knowledge on prioritized gender- and rights-based issues; coordination with other networking zones on overlapping issues; and dialogue between women's civil society and decision-makers.

The WNZ is committed to diversity, showcasing the voices of women living with HIV, and supporting effective engagement of the diversity of women at AIDS 2012, especially women from the local community. The WNZ will include among its activities a daily focus on particular issues affecting women living with and affected by HIV who are based in the U.S. We will also seek to spotlight the work of local organizations to bridge their work with that of other women's groups around the world.

*“I was so shocked at the poverty I saw [in America]. We need to find creative ways to help those in America. We need to give visibility to women living with HIV in the US. I don't believe that the world really knows.”*  
*(WNZ programming partner)*

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### **Programming Guidelines**

The WNZ will offer diverse activities, and will feature a cross-section of activity types on each day – including panel discussion/presentations; networking and/or informal dialogue sessions; demonstrations; performances; and interactive workshops.

Please NOTE that while we are the Women's Networking Zone, this is not 'women's-only' space. We encourage people of all genders, sexes, and sexual orientations and identities to spend time in, and participate at the various activities at the WNZ, as we seek this to be an inclusive and diverse space.

### **Principles and Priorities**

The WNZ aims to provide a parallel space for women and issues that are often sidelined from the mainstream spaces, while promoting two-way engagement and dialogue with delegates and leaders from the "main" conference.

The WNZ will prioritize activities led by or of particular relevance to women living with HIV, young and adolescent women aged 15 to 30, and women from the local community, especially women of color living with and affected by HIV.

The WNZ will provide space for cross-regional, cross-generational, and cross-community/movement dialogue.

We aim to make the Zone linguistically, geographically, and politically diverse and accessible.

### **Presentation Formats**

#### ***Networking, Caucusing and Structured Dialogue Sessions***

**Networking and caucusing sessions** are intended to provide a link to other events occurring, and emerging issues arising, during the conference. Proposals for networking sessions should include informal discussion and provide networking opportunities for participants interested in one or more related topics. Caucusing sessions should be related to up-coming conference sessions or emerging issues that call for advocacy strategy development. Examples of a networking session would include informal discussion with presenters after an official conference session, plenary, global village presentation and/or satellite; or advocacy strategy sessions. **Structured dialogue sessions** should have a theme, a facilitator, and be organized in an interactive format.

#### ***Panel Discussions***

Panel discussions should be designed to stimulate lively debate between panellists and audience.

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### ***Workshops***

A limited number of **interactive capacity building workshops** will be scheduled in the WNZ. Workshops must provide a concrete exchange of skills and be highly interactive. Please note that the WNZ is an open and busy space so privacy or quiet cannot be guaranteed.

### ***Critical Dialogue Sessions***

A daily '**critical dialogue**' will explore specific issues bringing together leaders from different backgrounds, communities, sectors, and movements. In particular, we would love to bring women from the scientific community to take part in a moderated debate with women from the activist and grassroots communities to share perspectives and promote cross-community support and engagement. These sessions will be recorded and posted on websites to engage as broad an audience as possible, and/or used as spring boards for discussion papers and the like.

### ***"Meet the Experts"***

A **daily showcase interview** with a different UN head, decision-maker, leader, or "expert" to ask them what they are doing to champion women's rights in the HIV response.

### ***Showcases and Performance Arts***

**Showcase** presentations offer an opportunity to show successful program development and implementation, these might include video presentations, theatre and dance, arts and crafts and other creative intervention strategies. Proposals for showcase presentations should emphasize the problem and the solution being offered, in an interactive and/or graphical format including (but not limited to) verbal presentations, slideshows, and graphical displays and/or role-playing, films or audio documentaries.

### ***Demonstrations***

We also welcome proposals for **demonstrations** and **sexuality education**, (eg female condoms, sexual pleasure, etc). Please describe your demonstration installation in as much as it relates to the overall themes and priorities of the WNZ, and include a description of the space, time, and equipment needed for the activity.

### ***Art Installations***

To increase the interactive and attractive feel of the Women's Networking Zone, we also welcome **art installations** that challenge gender norms, embrace diversity and human rights, provoke thought, and/or represent innovative and creative responses to HIV and AIDS. As with the other session types, we particularly welcome art installations from young women aged 15-30, women living with HIV, and women from the local community.

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### ***“Market Place”***

A limited number of tables will be available, for (mainly local) organizations to showcase their work on a rotational basis. (NB: it is not permitted to sell items in the WNZ.)

### ***The Visible Panty Line***

As in previous WNZs, we invite women of all ages, shapes, and sizes to **bring your panties, bras, stockings, and other lingerie items** no longer in use (or that never fitted in the first place) to adorn our “Visible Panty Line” – an alternative to the bunting flags seen at street parties and celebrations, our “panting” is not only colorful, fun, and celebratory of women’s bodies, but also playfully subverts binaries around the personal and the political, and functions as a conversation catalyst around the taboos and norms related to women’s underwear, and sexuality more broadly.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ZONE**

In order to assist you in crafting an appropriate proposal, the following information should be useful:

- **Structure of the space** - the Women’s Networking Zone is an open space that is approximately 120 square meters. The zone is open to all visitors including non-conference attending public and there is a general coming-and-going of the visitors in and out of the zone at all times. The WNZ cannot guarantee that meetings, workshops, or discussions will be private, ‘safe’, or quiet spaces.
- **Interactive discussions and workshops** are held in an attractive and comfortable space, using sound systems as the Global Village can get noisy during busy times.
- **Display and information tables** are available and will give priority to local women’s organizations and WNZ partners but also guarantee regional representation. The WNZ will also host *Mujeres Adelante* – a daily newsletter produced throughout the conference week from the WNZ focusing on women’s rights and HIV.
- **Art installations and film / audio documentaries** are welcomed (audio-visual equipment can also be used for presentations).
- **Language** –**While the official language of the WNZ is English, we welcome proposals for sessions to be run in any language.** We hope to be able to arrange whispered translation within the WNZ as necessary, but this will be on a voluntary basis and provided by WNZ partners, friends, and volunteers.
- **The WNZ cannot offer financial support for your activity, but human resources are available.** The WNZ has no funding to help you carry out your activity, but will have volunteers available to assist you in implementing your

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activity. Please indicate in the proposal submission form if and how many volunteers will be needed to 'woman' your session. All activities will be publicized in the WNZ program calendar, which will be distributed throughout the Conference.

- **Hours of operation.** The Global Village is open
  - Sunday July 22<sup>nd</sup> Noon – 6pm
  - Monday July 23<sup>rd</sup> -Thursday July 26<sup>th</sup> 8:30am–8pm

To submit a proposal for a session in the WNZ, please use the submissions form on the following pages. **We regret that at this time we can only accept proposals in English.**

**Deadline for Submissions: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

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## Women's Networking Zone Programming Proposal

Deadline for submissions: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Lead Organization					
Partner Organizations					
Lead Contact / Facilitator					
Telephone		Fax		Email	
Session Title	Subject Area (tick all relevant areas) <input type="checkbox"/> Access <input type="checkbox"/> Rights <input type="checkbox"/> Investment <input type="checkbox"/> Security <input type="checkbox"/> Equity				
Session Length <input type="checkbox"/> 1 hour <input type="checkbox"/> 1.5 hours					
Language (please tick) <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify	Target Audience				
Session is led by women/organizations from the <b>United States</b> YES / NO	Date and Time Restrictions				
Session is led by or of special relevance to <b>women living with HIV</b> YES / NO	Session is led by or of special relevance to <b>Young Women</b> aged between 15 and 30 YES / NO				
Session is led by a WNZ partner organization   YES/NO	Has this session been accepted elsewhere?  If so, where?				
How many proposals are you submitting to the WNZ?	If you are submitting more than one proposal, please rank your submissions and indicate your priority session here:				

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Session Type (please tick)

- Networking/Caucus/Structured Dialogue Session
- Panel Discussion
- Workshop
- Showcase / Performance Arts
- Demonstration
- Art Installation
- "Market Place" (US-based orgs only)
- Critical Dialogue Session
- Meet the Expert Session

Please give a brief rationale for addressing the topic as a WNZ session

Methodology (Please include a description of how the session will be structured with emphasis on how participation will be encouraged.)

Please list the names and affiliations for any panel members or co-facilitators (please indicate if any of the facilitators is a woman under 30 years old)

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Proposed Material/Technical Requirements:

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED PROPOSAL BY EMAIL TO: [wnzproposals@gmail.com](mailto:wnzproposals@gmail.com)**

Please include **'Women's Networking Zone Proposal'** in the subject line

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: Friday 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012**

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**Thank you for your interest in participation. A decision on your proposal will be made and notification sent by early June 2012.**

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

For more information on how you can get involved in the Women's Networking Zone, including volunteering to staff the zone during the conference, please email us at [womenaids2012@gmail.com](mailto:womenaids2012@gmail.com) or join our listserv to stay up to date - [wnzaid2012@googlegroups.com](mailto:wnzaid2012@googlegroups.com).

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## **Women's Rights: Turn The Tide WNZ@AIDS2012 Partnership**

AIDS Legal Network, South Africa  
ATHENA Network  
Balance Promocion para el Desarrollo y Juventud, Mexico  
The Coalition for a Blueprint for Action on Women, Girls, and HIV/AIDS,  
Canada  
Campaign to Stop Torture in Health Care  
Center for Health and Gender Equity, United States  
Closet de Sor Juana, Mexico  
Different Avenues, United States  
Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer-FEIM-, Argentina  
Global Coalition on Women and AIDS  
GNP+ North America  
GSSG, Germany  
ICW Global  
ICW North America  
International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association  
(ILGA)  
International AIDS Women's Caucus  
Ipas  
Make Women Count Campaign  
New Jersey Women and AIDS Network, United States  
Open Society Foundations  
Open Society Law and Health Initiative  
Salamander Trust, United Kingdom  
SANAC Women's Sector, South Africa  
Sister Love, United States  
STOP AIDS NOW!  
UNDP  
UN Women  
Universal Access to Female Condoms (UAFC) Joint Programme,  
Netherlands  
U.S. Positive Women's Network, a project of WORLD, United States

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WECARe+ (Women in Europe and Central Asia Region Plus)  
What Works for Women & Girls: Evidence for HIV/AIDS Interventions, United States  
Women ARISE  
Women for Positive Action  
Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Disease (WORLD), United States  
Women with a Vision, United States  
The Women's Collective, United States  
The Women and HIV Research Program, Women's College Research Institute, Toronto, Canada  
World YWCA

### **Regional and Global Priorities for WNZ@AIDS2012**

1. Sexual and reproductive health and rights for women in all of our diversity: including SRHR violations such as the forced and coerced sterilization of women living with HIV; the implications of the criminalization of HIV on women's SRHR; and emerging debates
2. Sex worker-related issues, and linking to the Mumbai 2012 parallel conference
3. Engaging decision-makers and donors about financing and resourcing the HIV response for women and girls – how shifts in global financing are pushing more responsibility onto households and squeezing women's and girls' resources
4. Violence against women as a cause and consequence of HIV, especially violence against women living with HIV
5. The elimination of stigma and discrimination against all women and girls, and achieving enabling legal environments
6. Criminalization of women living with HIV, and LBT women, across the world
7. Identifying the links between global and local issues
8. Raising the visibility of issues affecting women living with HIV in the U.S., including through visual presentations – such as the 'Hour-Glass' campaign to highlight that 1 woman gets HIV every 37 minutes in the U.S.
9. Marginalization and poverty – including property and inheritance rights
10. Skills building workshops, tools, information and dialogue, driven and informed by young women to build the capacity and leadership of young women, especially young women living with HIV
11. Innovative community programs led by women living with HIV – such as peer mentorship, advocacy, and community mobilization led by women living with HIV
12. Women's sexuality and sexual pleasure
13. Self care, relaxation, and wellness
14. Building rights-based dialogues with religious leaders and faith-based organizations

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15. Female condom advocacy, availability, and counseling and advances in other female-controlled prevention methods
16. Care work and HIV
17. Beyond the MDGs - what we would like to see for women in relation to HIV in whatever comes next
18. Caucusing and information sharing around daily conference themes for enhanced engagement with main conference
19. Linking to and building on achievements made through WNZ experiences at Addis Ababa, Rome, Vienna, Mexico City, and Toronto

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