

All Women, All Rights

A 2008 Delegates' Guide to Women and AIDS

XVII International AIDS Conference
Mexico City, Mexico



**The Global Coalition
on Women and AIDS**



ATHENA



OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE
Public Health Program

“I call upon women of the world to stand up and fight against violence and the spread of HIV and AIDS. Let’s not be bound by our cultures, which can be changed. Only we have the power to change our lives and our cultures.”

—Anita Isaacs, YWCA of Namibia

“The only way you will empower me is if we sit at the table together and share our power.”

—Mari Jo Vazquez, Chair of the ATHENA Network and former Chair of ICW

“Put simply, women know the disease and the conditions of their lives in ways that no one else can fathom. Thus, their input is essential to ensure that policies and programs that may be well intentioned and logical theoretically can be implemented on a practical grassroots level. We can identify barriers and help solve them through policy or program changes or through education and capacity building on the ground. We are also knowledge exchange brokers to ensure sustainability and change as required to meet changing needs and conditions.”

—Louise Binder, Coalition for a Blueprint on Women and Girls

“We will never see a reduction in new infections and deaths without investing in the strategic capacity of the most directly affected, HIV-positive women.”

—Terry McGovern, Ford Foundation

“First, we need to raise awareness on human rights, and also create an environment where women can come and talk freely and openly about their needs and rights. At the same time, we need to set up a policy that supports involvement of and participation of women. Also, we need to sensitize the issue of women with policymakers.”

—Mony Pen, Cambodian Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS

“We must ensure resources are put in the hands of positive women’s networks and the vast army of women who provide the majority of treatment, care, and support services without material support. Until we get away from the concept that “women’s work” is voluntary or unpaid while men require payment, we will not enable a meaningful involvement of the people most disproportionately affected who also have the least resources.”

—Lynde Francis, The Centre

All Women, All Rights

More than 25 years into the epidemic, gender inequality remains one of the principal drivers behind the spread and impact of HIV and AIDS. It is therefore long past time for strategies and actions that are informed by and responsive to women's rights and needs. Now is the time for: women's full participation in all levels of the response; research by and about women; prevention strategies that work for women; universal access to care, treatment, and support; the integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights; innovative strategies to address gender-based violence; and the promotion of laws and policies that protect and uphold women's rights.

The International AIDS Conference brings to the fore issues that are pivotal to an effective response. The lessons and conclusions from diverse experiences across the globe will shed new knowledge on and, in some cases, solidify what we already know – women must be front and center in the AIDS response.

This guide has been prepared by the ATHENA Network, the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, the Public Health Watch Project of the Public Health Program at the Open Society Institute and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The guide highlights sessions at the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City that either address women's issues directly, or that are conducted or sponsored by organizations serving women's interests.

The International AIDS Conference is a critical opportunity to:

- ▶ Advance the leadership and meaningful involvement of women and girls, particularly those most affected by the epidemic, in all levels of the response;
- ▶ Promote dialogue and debate on sensitive and emerging issues and how to address these through research as well as in policies and programs;

- ▶ Share challenges and best practices in the response to women and HIV, with a strong focus on the work being spearheaded by women living with HIV;
- ▶ Enable women to obtain the latest research and information on critical issues such as women-responsive measures to reduce perinatal transmission, women-responsive approaches to harm reduction, and availability of and accessibility to women-friendly and controlled HIV/STI prevention methods such as the female condom;
- ▶ Raise the visibility of issues relating to HIV for women in Mexico and Latin America;
- ▶ Engage with women from the local community – especially women living with HIV – who are not taking part in the formal conference proceedings;
- ▶ Create fora where community members, advocates, policy analysts, decision-makers, service providers, and researchers can share and learn together;
- ▶ Create spaces for effective networking across regions, sectors and disciplines as well as the strengthening of national, regional and international networks; and
- ▶ Promote the exchange of experiences, abilities and knowledge at the global level.

Networking Zones-Global Village

Women's Networking Zone

The 2008 Women's Networking Zone is a collaborative initiative of The Alliance for Gender Justice, whose partners include the ATHENA Network; Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y Juventud; Colectivo Sol; ICW Global; ICW Latina; and Mexicanas Positivas Frente a la Vida. The Women's Networking Zone (WNZ) will be located in the Global Village in space 413. The WNZ will be in both Spanish and English, with full simultaneous translation available at all times.

With the slogan "All women, all rights" our week of programming and open space is intended to:

- 1) Advance the meaningful participation of women, particularly those most affected by the epidemic, in all aspects of the response;
- 2) Share challenges and good practices with a strong focus on the work being spearheaded by women living with HIV;
- 3) Involve women from the local community who are not taking part in the formal conference proceedings;
- 4) Promote dialogue and debate on sensitive and emerging issues and how to address these in policies and programs in an inclusive forum where community members, advocates, policy analysts, decision-makers, service providers, and researchers can share and learn together; and
- 5) Promote a better understanding of how HIV-positive women can most effectively engage in the International AIDS Conference and how others can most effectively engage with women living with HIV.

In order to share the rich cultural heritage of Mexico, we will open the WNZ with a pre-Hispanic celebration to include traditional dancers (concheros) and a participatory ceremony that involves a sculpture of a Mayan goddess Ixchel. This event will be held in collaboration with the Indigenous People's Forum.

We will host a coffee hour each morning where Conference delegates and community members can share updates, meet informally, and strategize around key issues. Most days we will conclude with a cocktail hour where people can review the day's events together.

Our program will initiate cross-cutting dialogues and alliance building with particular attention to gender-based violence; emerging sexual and reproductive health and rights issues; gender, drug use, and harm reduction; migration; and women's leadership. We will also have a female condom space where women and men can ask questions, get information, and women can even try one on in private. The WNZ will offer a unique conversation, with a focus on who is talking as well as what is being said. Emphasis will be placed on the issues and priorities identified by women living with HIV in Mexico and the region.

Networking Zones-Global Village

Human Rights Networking Zone

The Public Health Program of the Open Society Institute* and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network are collaborating with a coalition of 24 HIV and human rights organizations and networks to convene the first-ever Human Rights Networking Zone (HRNZ) at an international AIDS conference.

The HRNZ brings together a unique global coalition of human rights and HIV organizations to maximize visibility of the human rights concerns of people living with and at high risk of HIV, and to catalyze action on HIV and human rights. It will be located in the conference's Global Village in networking zone 421, near the entrance to the food court.

The coalition of human rights and AIDS organizations have established the HRNZ as a common space for advocates to gather, organize, and mobilize. The Zone's activities will engage participants in campaigns to end HIV-related human rights abuses and will make human rights accessible, understandable, and practical for everyone. Participants will be signing petitions and the declaration, **Human Rights and HIV/AIDS: Now More Than Ever**; taking part in letter-writing campaigns; attending skills-building workshops; and debating controversial HIV and human rights issues.

In addition to the HRNZ, there will be the International Rally for Human Rights and HIV/AIDS on August 7th at the Global Village Main Stage from 13:30-14:30. The rally will feature keynote addresses by Mary Robinson, Executive Director of the Ethical Globalization Initiative and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and President of Ireland, Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS.

***The Public Health Program of the Open Society Institute will have a booth in the main exhibition space, #444.**

Editor's Note:

All information on session times and locations is accurate as of 1 July 2008. Please consult the official IAC program for updated session information, as well as information on poster presentations, which are not included here.

Pre-Conference Events

Wednesday, 30 July

19:00

The Intersections Between HIV and Violence Against Women

Session Type: Satellite

Location: Centro Cultural de España (C/ Guatemala, behind the Cathedral), Guatemala No. 18, Centro Histórico Cd.

Sponsors: UNIFEM and COLMICH

Thursday, 31 July – Saturday, 2 August

14:15-15:45

Understanding Gender and HIV/AIDS

Session Type: Youth Pre-Conference Workshop

Location: Centro Tlaltelolco, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)

Sponsors: Advocates for Youth, Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Diseases (WORLD), Juvenile Feminist Collective of Salvadoran Women, Engenderhealth, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)

Facilitators: Nickie Babayeva, Azerbaijan; Naina Khanna, United States; Edith Esmeralda Cabrera Gonzales, El Salvador; Mogomotsi Mfalapitsa, South Africa

This workshop will involve youth in a dynamic discussion around gender and its importance in addressing the HIV and AIDS pandemic. Participants will develop a framework for conceptualizing/defining gender, and examine gender inequalities, social norms and accompanying health disparities that relate to HIV and AIDS in their own lives and communities. Participants will learn how gender and gender inequalities play a role in HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention, and will examine the intersections of gender and HIV/AIDS among women, sexual minorities and transgender persons. Youth will explore the issue of gender-based violence as both a cause of, and result from, HIV and AIDS. The workshop will conclude with a group brainstorming session about what youth can do to raise awareness about the gender implications of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Friday, 1 August – Saturday, 2 August

14:00-18:00 (1 August);
9:00-17:00 (2 August)

Fifth Meeting of the Coalicion de Primeras Damas y Mujeres Lideres de America Latina

Location: Hotel Royal Pedregal

Sponsors: Coalicion de Primeras Damas y Mujeres Lideres de America Latina, GCWA, UNFPA, UNAIDS

The meeting will consolidate learnings from various experiences on initiatives in the Latin American region aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination against women and in increasing women's access to HIV services. The meeting will bring together leaders from women's organizations, women living with HIV, First Ladies of the region, and the UN, who will collectively shape a formal Declaration that will provide fresh impetus around their joint efforts.

Friday, 1 August

19:00-20:00

Macroeconomic Policies and the Feminization of HIV

Session Type: Satellite

Location: Centro Cultural de España (C/ Guatemala, behind the cathedral), Guatemala No. 18, Centro Histórico Cd.

Sponsor: UNIFEM

Yassine Fall, Economic Advisor at UNIFEM, will introduce the film, titled "Now or Never," by Moussa Sene Absa. The film explores the social and economic costs borne by women when health systems break down due to macroeconomic stabilization and structural policies such as cuts in health budgets or privatization of health sectors in seven countries covering Latin America, South Asia and Africa.

Saturday, 2 August

9:00-17:30

Strategies for Change: Breaking Barriers to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Women

Session Type: Symposium

Location: Sheraton Maria Isabel, Paseo de la Reforma 325, Fiestas Meeting Room

Sponsor: Public Health Program of the Open Society Institute

The symposium will feature strategies – legal, economic, empowerment and health services – that seek to ensure women's access to quality, comprehensive HIV services that respect their rights. The symposium will draw attention to efforts to meet the needs of a broad range of women, including those who are particularly marginalized and stigmatized, such as sex workers, drug users and women living with HIV, and to support their engagement in the development and implementation of the policies and programs that affect their lives.

14:00-18:00

Women in HIV Trials: Building Bridges in Clinical and Social Science Research

Session Type: Satellite

Location: W Hotel, Campos Eliseos 252, Colonia Polanco

Sponsors: Tibotec, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

During this session, attendees will hear from leading researchers on their experiences with prevention and treatment trials, the challenges they faced and the solutions they have found toward integrating women into HIV trials. Through small group discussions, attendees will join the guest speakers to develop action points on how to bridge the social and clinical sciences toward improving clinical trials.

Sunday, 3 August

9:00-11:00

Scale-up of Comprehensive HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment Services for Women, Children and Families: How Do We Move Toward Global Coverage of PMTCT and Pediatric ART?

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: **Session Room 2**

Sponsor: Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

Chairs: Nicholas Hellmann, United States; Richard Marlink, United States

Despite strides made in the past several years, the UN General Assembly estimates that only 34% of pregnant women receive services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Similarly, only 1 in 10 children in need of ART receives it, and at most, 1 in 25 HIV-exposed children receives cotrimoxazole prophylaxis to prevent opportunistic infections. Identification of HIV-exposed children and their enrolment into care and treatment (C&T) services as appropriate is limited by knowledge of providers, specific training in pediatric manifestations of HIV disease, available pediatric formulations, appropriate utilization of ARVs, and availability of tests for early detection of HIV infection in children. There is an urgent need for scale-up of prevention, care and treatment services. This requires sharing of approaches, experiences and lessons learned in implementing services along the HIV care continuum. To help enlighten other such efforts, three countries' experiences with rapid scale-up of prevention and treatment services will be shared, highlighting the practical successes and limitations of implementation.

10:00-15:00

Challenges for Women and Girls and HIV/AIDS

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: **Session Room 8**

Sponsor: International AIDS Women's Caucus

This satellite meeting will allow the Caucus constituency from all over the world to come together and share with other international women's, youth and human rights networks such as: Women Won't Wait: End HIV & Violence Against Women NOW!, With Women Worldwide, the World YWCA, ICW and Strategies from the South. These networks will consider the main issues of interest for women and girls, related to improving and ensuring care for the sexual and reproductive health needs of women infected and affected by HIV, the guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, care for victims of violence against women and the prevention of HIV/AIDS in children and women, access to integral care for women and girls living with HIV, including universal access to antiretroviral treatment, treatment for opportunistic infections and support and care that improve their quality of life and survival.

11:15-13:15

Linking Sexual and Reproductive Health: Increasing the Evidence Base of Innovative Approaches to Achieve Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support and to Reproductive Health Services

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 8

Sponsor: UK Network on Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights Working Group on SRH and HIV Linkages

Chair: Felicity Daly, United Kingdom

Intensified linkages between sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV provide an opportunity to increase the relevance, cost-effectiveness and impact of programs and policies on both SRH and HIV outcomes. Linked programs play an important role in efforts to achieve the goals of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, and universal access to reproductive health. Linked programming can help ensure that underserved populations, such as young people and marginalized groups, receive the services they need. Despite recognition of common ground, opportunities to strengthen integrated programming are often missed or limited by institutional barriers, competition for limited resources, conditionality or lack of evidence. Through this session, members of the UK Network on Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights Working Group on SRH and HIV Linkages will share concrete examples of successful programs they support which link SRH and HIV. The case studies will highlight successful elements from integrated programming in a wide range of epidemiological, geographical and social contexts.

13:30-15:30

Mujeres Adelante~Moving Forward: New Visions and Actions to Address HIV and Gender-Based Violence

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Session Room 6

Sponsors: ICW, ICW Latina, ATHENA

Chair: Dorothy Onyango, Kenya

Facilitators: Patricia Perez, Argentina; Anne-christine d'Adesky, United States

Speakers will present new proposals and best practice models to tackle the GBV-HIV link via a rights-based and gender equity framework. Topics include: Target 2010: ICW's global Peace Campaign, focusing on the links between conflict, HIV and the abuse of HIV-positive women's rights; Model strategies to tackle GBV-HIV issues from Africa; Interactive training workshop with Human Rights Watch on how to implement a 'best-practice' community monitoring and training program on GBV-HIV. Particular attention will be paid to the special challenges, roles and priorities of HIV groups addressing human rights, GBV and HIV in emergency settings and conflict zones. (Note: Spanish-English translation provided).

Grassroots Women and their Partners Creating HIV-Resistant Communities in Latin America and Africa

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 1

Sponsors: Huairou Commission, Horizons of Friendship

The Huairou Commission's AIDS Campaign has grown out of the direct experiences and realities of grassroots women leading development initiatives in their poor urban and rural communities. In taking the time to build and expand the Campaign, the African members have learned the steps required to forge an effective, women-led community response to HIV and AIDS and are ready now to share their lessons and practices with grassroots women throughout the world. Using the platforms of their organizations, self-help groups, support groups and home-based care groups, and starting with AIDS as an entry-point, grassroots women have created broad-based, holistic community development approaches to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS and address the deep-seated issues that cause its spread by supporting youth groups, addressing the vulnerabilities of widows and orphans, leading food security and nutrition initiatives, and creating collective livelihoods schemes. The local responses they are leading, the organizations they are building, the negotiations they are forging with local partners, and the national and cross-border networks they are building have become empowerment processes for these women in marginalized communities, creating change for women from the bottom up. This satellite session will provide a venue for grassroots women from Africa and Latin America within the network of the Huairou Commission to share their perspectives on and concrete strategies for responding to HIV and AIDS in Latin America and Africa.

Increasing Access for Women to Integrated Services for HIV/AIDS and Drug Addiction in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Opioid Substitution Treatment, HAART and Preventing Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission in Female Injection Drug Users

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Session Room 5

Sponsors: Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation, UNICEF, Eastern Europe/Central Asia Regional Office

Chair: Richard Needle, United States

This session will bring together leading public health experts from Eastern Europe and Central Asia to describe regional and country-level issues relating to the provision of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment to female injection drug users. The panelists will examine: Epidemiological trends in injection drug use (IDU) and HIV among female IDUs; Current status, utilization (availability, coverage and quality) and evidence of effectiveness of opioid substitution therapy (OST), highly-active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services for female IDUs; Barriers impeding access to OST, HAART and PMTCT services and best practices facilitating entry and retention in services; Challenges and strategies for scaling-up access to integrated OST, HAART and PMTCT services.

Update from the Middle East: Women and HIV

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 4

Sponsor: Global Network of Researchers on HIV/AIDS in the Middle East and North Africa

Chairs: James Matarazzo Jr., United Kingdom; Jim Cairns, United States

The focus of this session will be to explore the issues that women with HIV/AIDS face in the MENA region. This will include biological transmission, social stigma, and methods and interventions, with the goal being to enhance the lives of women who have been affected by this disease in the Middle East and North Africa.

The Intersections Between Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 6

Sponsors: UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNDP

Co-Chairs: Ines Alberdi, Executive Director, UNIFEM;
Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA

Violence against women is both a cause and a consequence of HIV among women. The threat of violence is one manifestation of gender inequality that can also carry with it the threat of HIV; a number of studies show that the risk of HIV is significantly higher in women who have experienced violence than among those who have not. Where there is stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV, fear of violence may prevent women from accessing information, discourages them from getting tested and from disclosing their HIV status, and also may represent an obstacle to receiving treatment and counseling. As women are key to the response to both epidemics, examining the intersections of HIV/AIDS and violence against women is a necessary element in promoting and coordinating a comprehensive approach and specific interventions. This session will highlight programmatic learning, evidence-based advocacy strategies and strategic policy interventions to address the intersections of violence against women and HIV/AIDS as part of a comprehensive approach to reversing both epidemics.

The Role of Funding Mechanisms in Creating Synergy Between Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV Programs

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 8

Sponsors: EngenderHealth, UNFPA, IPPF, WHO, GTZ

Chair: Gill Greer, United Kingdom

Despite the existence and support of international level major agreements and commitments that emphasize the importance of approaches that integrate SRH, HIV and AIDS and other key services such as child health and TB treatment, scale-up of integrated and comprehensive HIV and AIDS responses is not happening. With the exception of some bilaterals and foundations, the funding policies of several of the major HIV and SRH donors are a major

barrier to developing linkages and strengthening health systems. Through a moderated dialogue with key donors, this session will explore positive examples of how funding mechanisms can be used to create synergistic linkages between SRH and HIV programs and what still needs to be done to overcome this significant barrier to integrated and comprehensive HIV and AIDS responses.

Launch of the Gender and HIV Research Network, with a Focus on Research on Concurrent Partnerships and HIV Prevention

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 9

Sponsors: International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), International AIDS Society (IAS), San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Pangaia Global AIDS Foundation, Soul City: Institute for Health and Development Communication, African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)

This Network has been initiated to identify and address gaps in research on gender and HIV by setting an agenda for future research. At each International AIDS Conference, a topic will be chosen and a draft of recommendations for future research will be shared with conference participants for discussion and input. At the following conference, progress made in addressing the research gaps previously identified will be presented to conference participants, and draft research recommendations will be introduced on a new topic of concern related to gender and HIV. At the XVII International AIDS Conference, the topic to be discussed will be gender and concurrent partnerships, focusing on research that contributes to improved prevention efforts. The session will include a presentation on existing research related to concurrent partnerships, followed by an analysis of the gaps in the research and draft recommendations for future research.

15:45-17:45

Integration of Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Into Global Fund Proposals

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: [Session Room 2](#)

Sponsors: Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Global AIDS Alliance

The session will focus on linked and integrated reproductive health services as an essential component of universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment, discussing the evidence base and programmatic opportunities for integration. It will also focus on the political climate conducive to preparation of an integrated proposal, including enabling policies at the Global Fund itself, and provide examples of how some sub-Saharan African countries have succeeded in doing the political groundwork and civil society capacity building to produce a Country Coordinated Proposal that contains RH/HIV/AIDS integration.

Pleasure, Desire and Safer Sex: Can They Come Together?

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: [Session Room 6](#)

Sponsors: The Pleasure Project, Taking Action for Sexual Health

Sex is the most common way people contract HIV worldwide, yet frank discussion and information about how to have sex and stay healthy (much less enjoy yourself or give pleasure to others) are largely missing from health resources and HIV prevention campaigns. And safer sex of any kind is virtually absent from erotic media, such as porn films. The Pleasure Project will address these issues by showing attendees how (and why) to motivate safer sex practices by bringing pleasure and desire into the HIV and public health discourses. Pleasure, desire and safer sex will give attendees something concrete (and exciting) which they can take back to their own work in any setting or context to help redress the sex-negative, fear- and disease-based approaches that dominate the sexual health and HIV discourses, and to promote health, empowerment and well-being in a new, exciting and ultimately sexy way.

Financing and Resourcing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Context of HIV and AIDS

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: [Session Room 8](#)

Sponsor: World YWCA

Chair: Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, Zimbabwe

Although women's organizations and grassroots groups have been responding to HIV and AIDS, recent reports indicate various challenges in accessing quality sustainable resources for their work on AIDS. Yet, financing women's empowerment and gender equality is essential in reversing the impact of the HIV pandemic. Investing in women and girls includes allocating flexible and adequate funds to organizations that reach women and girls, providing them with appropriate services and ensuring they have equal opportunities. This session will focus on the architecture of funding for women's organizations and address the challenges and opportunities in financing gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of HIV and AIDS.

Scaling Up Comprehensive Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission Programs: Challenges and Lessons Learned from Adapting Global Recommendations to Country Situation

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: [Session Room 9](#)

Sponsors: World Health Organization, UNICEF, Interagency Task Team on Prevention of HIV Infection among Pregnant Women, Mothers and their Children

Many low- and middle-income countries are in the process of scaling up their national prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV programs in line with the targets set by UNGASS and the Universal Access Declaration of Commitment. Most countries are making progress and the proportion of HIV-positive pregnant women receiving antiretroviral prophylaxis to reduce the risk of transmission increased from 10% in 2004 to 23% in 2006. Despite the marked increase in access to PMTCT services, the world is far short from the 80% coverage target set by UNGASS. Weak health systems, fear and stigma of HIV, community mobilization with support from the male partner, and integration of PMTCT services with maternal, newborn and child

health care remain major obstacles in achieving Universal Access, and, progress is patchy and not well documented. Moreover, PMTCT is a fast evolving field, with research information and implementation experience moving and shaping the response to the epidemic. In 2006, WHO revised its antiretroviral drug for PMTCT guidelines and has since been promoting the use of a more efficacious regimen to further reduce transmission risk. Recent results from research also show that transmission risk from prolonged breastfeeding could be reduced. Although many challenges remain, some countries have been able to move faster and document progress made in providing a comprehensive PMTCT service. The session will present an opportunity to renew commitment to the comprehensive provision of services for care and support of mothers and their infants.

Securing Women and Children's Property Rights in the Era of HIV/AIDS

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 1

Sponsors: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNIFEM, UNDP, Huairou Commission, IFPRI, Groots Kenya

Chair: Esther Mwaura, Kenya

In some countries highly affected by HIV and AIDS, the premature death of a male head of household can mean that surviving widows and their children are at risk of losing their land, houses and other assets by family members grabbing their property. Forced off the land that represents often their only source of income and livelihood, women are at risk of homelessness, acute food insecurity and poverty. In some cases, women engage in high-risk sexual behavior in exchange for food or money in order to survive, increasing their vulnerability to HIV infection. The past decade has seen the international community come together and concentrate their efforts on research and programming for women's property rights. This session will identify what we know about the issue and share some successful initiatives that are addressing the problem.

Meeting the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of People Living with HIV: Critical to Human Rights and HIV Prevention

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 5

Sponsor: Guttmacher Institute

Despite the enormous challenge that AIDS still poses to global health, international efforts to reach those who urgently need HIV treatment have made significant progress in recent years. For a growing number of people with access to antiretroviral treatment, HIV is now a chronic disease rather than an imminent death sentence. And yet, the very success of international efforts in getting people access to life-saving drugs is also posing an entirely new set of challenges. Consider the fact that many HIV-positive men and women want to have a child. But they worry about the health risks for the parents and the baby, and whether or not they will have a long, healthy life to love and support the child. Other HIV-positive couples want to prevent pregnancy, either to wait to have a child or to avoid childbearing entirely, but do not know about the full range of birth control methods that may be appropriate for them. And still others want to pursue a satisfying sex life and need health care providers who are comfortable talking with them about sexual intimacy, risky behaviors and other sensitive issues. Increasingly, AIDS activists and the global public health community are acknowledging the sexual and reproductive health needs of people living with HIV. This session will describe these needs and aspirations and examine global advocacy efforts for better integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health services. Panelists will make the case for meeting the sexual health needs of HIV-positive people not only for vindicating the basic human rights of people living with HIV but also as an essential component of global HIV prevention efforts.

Strategies to Promote and Sustain Psychosocial Well-being for Caregivers and Children Affected by AIDS

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 7

Sponsors: World Vision International, REPSSI, Antares Foundation

Psychosocial care and support for children and adults impacted by HIV/AIDS is a critical component of a comprehensive AIDS response that includes prevention, treatment and support. Integrating and sustaining our commitment and energy to that response must harness the power and strength of communities and individuals, including those directly impacted and their caregivers. This session will contribute to the reinforcement of linkages among communities and the most marginalized to address the social and emotional impacts of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Monday, 4 August

10:30-11:30

Sex Workers Are Everywhere: Sex Workers Across HIV Movements

Session Type: Panel Discussion

Location: Global Village Session Room 2

Chair: Cynthia Navarrete, Mexico

Co-Chair: Andrew Paul Hunter, Thailand

This session will include a report back from sex workers on pre-conference events at AIDS 2008.

11:00-12:30

HIV Prevention for Women and Girls: Changing Gender Norms

Session Type: Oral Abstract

Location: Session Room 10

Chairs: Yolanda Simon, Trinidad and Tobago; Carmen Zorrilla, Puerto Rico

Speakers: Charlotte Watts, United Kingdom; Abby Charles, United States; Wellington Mushayi, Zimbabwe; Manoj Gopalakrishnan, India; Karen Hardee, United States Minor Outlying Islands

This session will present findings and address issues related to the following topics: A combined microfinance and training intervention can reduce HIV risk behavior among young program participants: results from the IMAGE study; SisterAct: sisters inter-acting – intergenerational communication between African American girls and women in Washington, DC as an alternative/effective HIV/AIDS prevention strategy; Small house, hure, sugar daddies, and garden boys: a qualitative study of heterosexual concurrent partnerships among men and women in Zimbabwe; Female condom breaks gender barriers – India – A case study; Integrating gender into HIV/AIDS interventions – does it make a difference to outcomes?

From Promises to Actions: Women, Funding and HIV and AIDS

Session Type: Skills Building Workshop

Location: Skills Building Room 10

Facilitator: Fernanda Hopenhaym Cabrera, Mexico

While the amount of funding for HIV/AIDS has increased significantly, women's rights organizations working on HIV/AIDS continue to struggle to access funds despite the feminization of the pandemic. This workshop will provide a space for capacity building regarding the financial sustainability of organizations working on HIV/AIDS and women's rights.

11:00-13:00

Vaccines and Microbicides: Where Do We Go from Here?

Session Type: Symposium

Location: [Session Room 1](#)

Chair: Mitchell Warren, United States

Speakers: Tachi Yamada, Japan; Alan Bernstein, Canada; Susan Buchbinder, United States; Seth Berkley, United States; Lut Van Damme, United States; Zeda Rosenberg, United States; Manju Chatani, Ghana; Pedro Goicochea, Peru

This session will highlight the following topics: Overview of current challenges; An HIV vaccine: where do we go from here?; STEP vaccine trial lessons learned; New priorities for IAVI; Recent microbicide trials and lessons learned; Antiretroviral-based microbicides and IPM; Microbicide community mobilization and trial participation; Vaccines advocacy and community leadership in the South.

14:15-15:15

Linking HIV and Reproductive Choice, Reflecting on Strategies for Advocacy

Session Type: Global Village Workshop

Location: [Global Village Session Room 2](#)

Facilitator: Maria de Bruyn, United States

Co-Facilitator: Marion Stevens, South Africa

14:15-15:45

National Report Cards Measuring Responses to Women's, Young Women's and Girls' HIV/AIDS Issues

Session Type: Presentation Q&A

Location: [Global Village Session Room 1](#)

Chair: Louise Binder, Canada

Speakers: Lois Chingandu, Zimbabwe; Louise Binder, Canada; Beatrice Kagoyire, Rwanda; Leah Stephenson, Canada

This session will include report cards from the following countries: Zimbabwe, Canada, Rwanda and Nicaragua.

14:30-16:00

Reproductive Health: Sexuality, Fertility and Desire

Session Type: Oral Abstract

Location: [Session Room 8](#)

Chairs: Dawn Averitt Bridge, United States; Lydia Mungherera, Uganda

Speakers: Dawn Averitt Bridge, United States; Joyce Wamoyi, United Kingdom; Tsitsi Beatrice Masvawure, South Africa; Joanne Ellen Mantell, United States; Wendy Knerr, United Kingdom; Sarah Finocchiaro Kessler, United States

This session will address the following topics: "Women's bodies are shops" – Beliefs about transactional sex and implications for understanding gender power and HIV prevention in Tanzania; Girls enjoy sex too: pleasure as a factor in sexual decision-making among female students at a Zimbabwean university; Toward improved reproductive health choices and health care delivery for HIV-infected men and women in developing countries with generalized HIV epidemics; Promoting sexual health and women's empowerment through pleasure: a literature review; Fertility desires and intentions among women living with HIV.

14:30-18:00

A Training of Trainers Based on 20 Years of Empowerment Work with Latinas: Designing Empowerment Seminars for Community and Peer Group Development

Session Type: Skills Building Workshop

Location: Skills Building Room 4

Facilitator: Carmen Zorrilla, Puerto Rico

Co-Facilitators: Lydia Santiago, Puerto Rico; Lylymar Colon Rodriguez, Puerto Rico; Ann Marie Scorsone, Puerto Rico; Georgina Silva-Suárez, Puerto Rico

16:30-18:00

Sex and Relationship Education and HIV

Session Type: Bridging Session

Location: Session Room 5

Chairs: Peter Aggleton, United Kingdom; Rodrigo Olin, Mexico

Speakers: Kjell Erik Oye, Norway; Peter Aggleton, United Kingdom; Marta Diavolova, Bulgaria; Mary Crewe, South Africa; Caroline Sakwa, Kenya; Rodrigo Olin, Mexico

This session will cover the following topics: The place of sexuality in sex and relationship education; Levers and barriers to success—steering a course between the past and the future; Beyond abstinence—experiences from South Africa; Working with young women for sexual health: the Binti Pamoja Project; ‘As we see it’ – what do young people want from sex and relationship education.

Pursuing Desire: Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV Prevention Integration

Session Type: Oral Abstract

Location: Session Room 9

Chairs: Purnima Mane, India; Mabel Bianco, Argentina

Speakers: Purnima Mane, India; Kevin Osborne, United Kingdom; Sarah Hawkes, United Kingdom; Ruth Borms, Belgium; Caitlin Kennedy, United States; Mary Nyikuri, Kenya

This session will examine the following: Dreams and desires: exploring the sexual and reproductive choices of HIV positive men and women – a qualitative perspective; High HIV incidence among men with genital ulcers in South Africa; What do sexual and reproductive health services offer in Europe?; Effectiveness of linking sexual and reproductive health services with HIV services: strength of evidence and research gaps; Repeat pregnancy among HIV-positive women participating in a prevention of mother-to-child transmission study – the Kisumu Breast Feeding Study.

17:15-18:45

Educational Tool “7 hours 55 minutes” – Sex Workers Empower Thailand

Session Type: Global Village Workshop

Location: Global Village Session Room 2

Facilitator: Buyu Van Driesten, Thailand

Co-Facilitators: Pornpitt Puckmai, Thailand; Liz Cameron, Australia; Chantawipa Noi Apisuk, Thailand; Chumpon Apisuk, Thailand; Thanta Laovilawanyakul, Thailand

This interactive workshop will allow participants to explore the physical, legal, and social environments in which sex workers live and work, and their impact on HIV prevention. It will encourage participants to analyze the root causes of HIV risk among sex workers, as well as to identify priorities and strategies.

18:30-20:30

From Commitment to Action: Implementing Effective Responses on Gender and AIDS

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Session Room 5

Sponsors: UNDP with UNAIDS Secretariat and UNIFEM

Chair: Kristan Schultz, Switzerland

This session will bring together AIDS and gender experts and practitioners from different regions and sectors to address the intersection between gender and AIDS and explore experiences in advancing gender equality and empowering women through national AIDS responses. Government and civil society best practices will be highlighted, in addition to opportunities and challenges in scaling up programming and funding for gender action. Discussion topics will include approaches for assessing and understanding how HIV differentially affects females and males to strengthen national response efforts, and strategies for supporting and empowering positive women and men, women's groups, and marginalized communities to effectively engage in AIDS decision-making, planning and implementation processes. The session will consider the need for implementation of dedicated action on gender and AIDS, alongside mainstreaming of gender perspectives in AIDS interventions, to ensure that gender priorities can be adequately funded and sufficiently scaled-up. In addition, the session will address opportunities for linking action on AIDS with broader action on gender equality by forging partnerships between people and institutions working on AIDS, and people and institutions working on gender. Speakers will address the concept of "knowing your epidemic" in gender terms, and the need to match AIDS responses to the gender-profile of national and local epidemics. This will include discussions on aligning program investments in prevention, treatment and impact mitigation to the needs of affected populations, as well as to new and emerging patterns of infection among females, males and most at-risk populations. Essential gender actions will be considered for countries facing generalized and hyper-endemic epidemics where women are disproportionately living with and affected by AIDS, as well as for concentrated epidemic settings where sex work, drug use and sex between

males play a key role in epidemic dynamics. Additional issues that will be addressed include gender-based violence, community gender norms, vulnerability of young women, HIV transmission in marriage and long-term relationships, and the role of men and boys in promoting gender equality.

No Simple Solution: Investing in HIV Prevention Research for Women and Girls

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Session Room 6

Sponsors: AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC), Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), Global Campaign for Microbicides (GCM), Ibis Reproductive Health, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM), International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC)

Women and girls urgently need a range of prevention technologies and approaches to protect themselves throughout the life cycle and as life situations change. The panelists will discuss the work needed to develop and test a range of interventions that address the complex gender inequality challenges that exist on structural, behavioral and cultural levels that continue to exacerbate a feminized HIV/AIDS epidemic worldwide. Given the recent disappointments in trials of new technologies (cervical barriers, vaccines, microbicides), and the revised prevalence estimates, there is a risk that attention to the serious impact of HIV on women may be reduced. This is therefore a critical moment to highlight the need for sustained and expanded investment in existing programs and technologies, as well as research on HIV prevention for women. Bringing the voices of high-level, well-recognized individuals to the forefront will raise attention to this issue within the AIDS field and among donors. Panelists will address: a) Innovative gender-based prevention intervention programs, including South Africa's IMAGE project; b) Female condoms, including the need to scale up female condom programming, demonstrate acceptability and impact, and evaluate whether and how a new technology could empower women; and c) New technologies: microbicides, vaccines, and PrEP as potential future female-initiated or controlled options to prevent HIV infection.

International Launch of WAGGGS/UNAIDS Training Kit on HIV and AIDS

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 1

Sponsors: World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) in conjunction with Guias de Mexico, WAGGG

Chairs: Mary McPahil, United Kingdom; Maria Elena Murillo Echeverria, Costa Rica

WAGGGS would like to invite participants at AIDS 2008 to the international launch of the WAGGGS/UNAIDS training tool kit on HIV and AIDS. An important component in WAGGGS' continuing work in the fight against AIDS, the kit is packed with training ideas for leaders and trainers to teach girls and young women about HIV and AIDS and to help counteract the stigma that surrounds the illness. It combines case study material alongside activities that have proved successful in several countries around the world. WAGGGS received funding from the UNAIDS-led Global Coalition on Women and AIDS to develop this project. The booklets cover information about HIV and AIDS, training in life skills and how to tackle prejudice and discrimination. The tool kit also contains practical activities, games and newsletters giving more detailed project outlines from the five countries featured - Peru, Malawi, Kenya, Brazil and India.

HIV Risk among Transgender People: The Social and Cultural Context from a Global Perspective

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 5

Sponsor: Center of Excellence for Transgender HIV Prevention, Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center, University of California, San Francisco

The objective of this satellite session is to provide a multidimensional perspective of HIV risk and social and cultural issues among transgender people. HIV and AIDS rates continue to escalate particularly in the Male to Female (MtF) Transgender community. Transgender people face severe stigma, discrimination and violence which contribute to significant rates of HIV infection. Despite these rates, research, program and policy initiatives in HIV prevention and care have historically overlooked transgender persons' needs. It is therefore critical to raise awareness about the negative health outcomes impacting this population.

The Role of Industry in Development of ARV-based Prevention Technologies for Women

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 10

Sponsor: Industry Liaison Forum

Meeting objectives:

- Update on ARV-based prevention research with focus on the needs of women (PrEP and second generation microbicides), progress and failures in the field and prospects for future
- Identify issues regarding clinical trial designs and endpoints for prevention research
- Partnership with industry
- Key lessons learned and future opportunities
- Priorities for research that ILF can address, building on industry investment and potential sites on the field of ARV-based prevention approaches
- Identify agenda based on investigator-led research that industry can support

Tuesday, 5 August

7:00-8:30

Scaling Up an Effective Response to Violence against Women and Girls: Case Studies, Promising Practices and Recommendations for Achieving Zero Tolerance

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 1

Sponsors: Global AIDS Alliance and the United Nations Foundation

Chairs: Eve Ensler, United States; Kathy Hall, United States

This session will explore a new report being released by the Global AIDS Alliance, which highlights successful efforts at addressing violence against women and girls in Ghana, Rwanda and South Africa, makes recommendations to national governments and the international community, and makes the case that scaling up a response to violence against women and girls is not only possible, but is happening.

Raising Women's Voices from the Margins: A Progressive Platform for the U.S. Global AIDS Response in PEPFAR II

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 8

Sponsors: The Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)

Chairs: Mary Robinson, Ireland; Serra Sippel, United States

Speakers: Barbara Lee, United States; Sekar Wulan Sari, Indonesia; Gabriela Leite, Brazil; Axela Romero, Mexico; Grace Sedio, Botswana

Participate in a conversation and the development of a progressive platform for the next phase of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Panelists will share diverse perspectives and experiences relating to HIV prevention among women—women who are living with HIV, female sex workers, female injecting drug users, married women, young women and girls, and

women who are incarcerated. This session will highlight what the next phase of PEPFAR should look like when it comes to women and HIV prevention. Audience participation and feedback will be used to create a platform to bring from the conference to U.S. policy makers and the next administration.

11:00-12:30

Prevention Programs with Female Sex Workers

Session Type: Oral Abstract

Location: Session Room 5

Chairs: Kate Shannon, Canada; Solome Nakawesi, Uganda

Speakers: Kate Shannon, Canada; Tisha Wheeler, India; Bright Ekweremadu, Nigeria; Maria Consuelo Raymundo, El Salvador; Rachel Wotton, Australia; Carlos Magis-Rodriguez, Mexico

This session will highlight the following topics: Sex workers use business skills to reach their peers for HIV prevention, resulting in high coverage over four states in India; Avoiding relapse: the impact of peer education plus model on behavior change and behavior maintenance among sex workers in Nigeria.

Women's Rights Equal Women's Lives: Violence Against Women and HIV

Session Type: Symposium

Location: Session Room 11

Moderators: Charlotte Bunch, United States; Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Saudi Arabia

Speakers: Bafana Khumalo, South Africa; Charlotte Watts, United Kingdom; Eliana Elias, Peru; Claudia Garcia Moreno, Mexico; Gcebile Ndlovu, Swaziland

This session will cover the following topics: Promoting an ethic of responsibility among men; How does violence against women increase their vulnerability to infection?; Transforming minds through radio; Effective responses to combating HIV; Does disclosure increase risk of violence?

Taking Into Account Gender Implications in Addressing the AIDS Epidemic – A Focus on Prevention

Session Type: Skills Building Workshop

Location: Skills Building Room 6

Facilitator: Izeduwa Derex-Briggs, Malawi

Co-Facilitators: Ludfine Anyango, Kenya; Leonard Okello, Kenya; Neelanjana Mukhia, South Africa

12:45-13:45

Trabajo Sexual, VIH y Derechos Humanos

Session Type: Panel Discussion

Location: Global Village Session Room 2

Chair: Andrew Paul Hunter, Thailand; Cynthia Navarrete, Mexico

Speakers: Alejandra Gil Cuervo, Mexico; He-Jin Kim, Netherlands; Melissa Gira Grant, United States; Angela Villalón, Peru

There will be presentations about diverse local and regional situations regarding public policies related to human rights, sex work and its vulnerability to HIV, mandatory testing, criminalization of sex work and HIV, international guidelines on sex work, best practices and case studies. The session will also feature an interactive debate with the participants and audience. Four speakers (Alejandra Gil Cuervo, Mexico; He-Jin Kim, Netherlands; Melissa Gira Grant, United States; Angela Villalón, Peru) will make presentations on “Changing laws, changing lives of sex workers.”

14:30-15:30

Partnerships and Strategies for Holding Governments Accountable for Reproductive Rights Violations of People Living with HIV/AIDS

Session Type: Panel Discussion

Location: Community Dialogue Space in Global Village

Chair: Elizabeth Tyler Crone, United States

Speakers: Lillian Sepulveda, United States; Johanna Fine, United States

The purpose of this panel is three-pronged: to share recent work documenting violations such as coercive sterilization of HIV-positive women in Chile and denial of reproductive health care services to HIV-positive women in Kenya; to discuss a range of accountability strategies to address these violations, from documenting abuses to national and international litigation; and to illustrate how these strategies can be effectively implemented. Identifying and documenting violations at the intersection of HIV and reproductive rights is a crucial first step and vital to effective advocacy.

Mobilizing Men for Gender Equality: A Dialogue About Accountability, Principles and Strategies

Session Type: Panel Discussion

Location: Global Village Session Room 1

Chair: Dean Peacock, South Africa

Speakers: Bafana Khumalo, South Africa; Abhijit Das, India; Lydia Mungherera, Uganda; Alice Welbourn, United Kingdom

15:00-20:00

Women & Girls' Rally and March

Session Type: Special Event

Location: Meet at the Women's Networking Zone in the Global Village (15:00); Depart Centro Banamex (15:30); March to Zocalo (17:00); Rally (18:00)

16:30-18:00

Who is Right and Who is Wrong – Putting the Right Back into Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Session Type: Symposium

Location: **Session Room 2**

Chair: Morolake Odetoyinbo, Nigeria

Speakers: Deloris Dockrey, United States; Shaun Mellors, South Africa; Promise Mthembu, South Africa; Carlos Garcia de Leon, Mexico

This session focuses on sexual and reproductive rights for people living with HIV (PLHIV) from a rights-based approach on a personal, programmatic, monitoring and action level addressing: 1) What is the foundation (value-added) for a rights-based approach? 2) How to convince the powers-to-be of that value? 3) How to measure progress in achieving rights? The session will look at how PLHIV exercise their individual sexual health and reproductive rights when facing different circumstances and consequences than their sexual partners.

Global Health Initiatives: The Impact of Vertical Funding on Health Systems and Community Priorities

Session Type: Oral Abstract

Location: **Session Room 3**

Chairs: Susan Cleary, South Africa; Robert Greener, Switzerland

Speakers: Susan Cleary, South Africa; Kevin John Kelly, South Africa; Valeria Oliveira Cruz, United Kingdom; Serra Sippel, United States; Neil Spicer, United Kingdom; Victor Mwapasa, Malawi

This session will highlight the following topics: The effects of changing aid architecture on civil society responses to HIV/AIDS; Are global health initiatives for HIV/AIDS in Uganda bypassing the government's policies and systems?; Impact of US funding on HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Dominican Republic; The effects of global health initiatives in concentrated epidemics: emerging findings from the Global HIV/AIDS Initiatives Network; HIV/AIDS workload and staff motivation in Zambia and Malawi: comparative effects of global HIV/AIDS initiatives.

17:45-18:45

PMTCT vs. Full ART for Pregnant Women. Which is the Most Effective and Responsible Approach to Saving Lives and Preventing Further Transmission?

Session Type: Debate

Location: **Global Village Session Room 2**

Chair: Patricia Campos-Lopez, Mexico

Co-Chair: Cynthia Davis, United States

Speakers: Terri Ford, United States; Patricia Gonzalez Moreno-Hubbard, Mexico; Sophia Mengistu, Ethiopia; Penninah Lutung, Uganda; Robin Smalley, South Africa

18:00-19:30

Sex Workers Mini Film Festival

Session Type: Screening

Location: **Global Village Video Lounge**

18:30-20:30

AIDS, Race, Gender and Inequality in the Americas

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Session Room 2

Sponsor: UNDP

Chair: Rebecca Grynspan-Mayufis, United States

This session will address how race, gender and inequality affect vulnerability to HIV, and influence access to prevention, treatment, care and support services. Panelists from civil society and government will explore current responses to the epidemic in Latin America, the Caribbean and North America, and whether sufficient attention is being paid to the key factors driving vulnerability. Country case studies will include special attention to issues of race, gender, inequality and stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV. The following topics will be covered: Race, Gender and AIDS in North America; Afro Brazilian women and HIV: the case of Brazil; Economic inequality and HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean; Indigenous peoples and HIV/AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean; Responding to the triple stigmas of homophobia/race/living with HIV; Social exclusion and AIDS.

Linking Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 2

Sponsors: WHO, UNFPA, IPPF

Chair: Michael Mbizvo, Switzerland

There is growing recognition of the crucial role of linkages between HIV prevention, treatment, and care with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) at the policy, systems and services levels. Investing in linking sexual and reproductive health and HIV is strategic in reaching the two inter-related universal access goals in HIV and in sexual and reproductive health. In June 2006, at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS), Member States declared “the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health.” HIV is largely a

sexually transmitted infection or transmitted during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding. HIV and poor reproductive health also share root causes, including gender inequality, social marginalization, gender-based violence and early marriage. Providers working in SRH already offer a wide range of services to many women who are at the center of the global HIV epidemic with half of all new infections being among women. SRH services are increasingly expanding their outreach to adolescents and to men, and there is growing recognition of the need to better reach other key populations. Acting on the bi-directional linkages between sexual and reproductive health and HIV services increases opportunities for achieving universal access to prevention, care and treatment for HIV, and notably for addressing the often neglected rights and sexual and reproductive health of people living with HIV.

Macroeconomic Policies and the Feminization of the AIDS Epidemic

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 4

Sponsors: UNIFEM, UNDP

For the first time, globalization and HIV/AIDS is a cross-cutting theme of the International AIDS Conference creating a unique opportunity to spotlight macroeconomic policy and the feminization of the epidemic. Discussion of the feminization of the epidemic is not limited to prevalence rates, but also refers to how women bear a disproportionate impact of the AIDS pandemic. Gender responsive economic policies may play a central role in addressing this burden as well as in reducing women’s vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. This session will present a panel discussion on the social and economic costs borne by women when health systems break down due to macroeconomic stabilization and various structural policies. The discussion will also focus on how it is imperative that policies support women’s economic independence, access to and control over resources including their right to property and inheritance, their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection and the delivery of social services in a manner that mitigates the impact of AIDS on women and girls. The session will also visually spotlight these issues through highlights of a film by the award-winning international director, Moussa Sene Absa.

Wednesday, 6 August

9:00-10:30

Plenary Session

Session Type: Plenary

Location: Session Room 1

Chairs: Jack Whitescarver, United States; Tony Clement, Canada; Suniti Solomon, India

Speakers: Robert Silicano, United States; Linda Richter, South Africa; Elena Reynaga, Argentina

The Day 3 plenary will include a prize presentation for the “Women’s Prize,” and address the following topics: HIV persistence on patients on HAART; re-evaluating prospects for eradication; HIV and children; sex work.

10:30-12:00

Girls Worldwide Say “Fight AIDS”

Session Type: Global Village Workshop

Location: Global Village Youth Pavilion

Facilitator: Lexa Kaipa, Malawi

Co-Facilitators: Vicky Gagliano, Mexico; Bernadette Fischler, United Kingdom; Pamela Achieng, Kenya; Micaela Valcarcel Scerpella, Peru; Megha Tiwari, India; Luanda Luiza Santos de Fonseca, Brazil

11:00-12:30

Impact of AIDS on Human Development: Reproduction in the Social Context

Session Type: Symposium

Location: Session Room 3

Chairs: Musimbi Kanyoro, Kenya; Alice Welbourn, United Kingdom

Speakers: Marion Stevens, South Africa; Gracia Violeta Ross, Bolivia; Anna Coutsooudis, South Africa; Priya Nanda, India; Kousalya Periasamy, India

This session will cover the following topics: Prevention, treatment and reproductive choices; Harm reduction and reproduction; Women, AIDS, fertility and desire; Mother and child dyad issues: breastfeeding and child survival; The economics of social reproduction: inheritance, land and employment issues for women; Widowhood.

Gender and HIV: Emerging Issues

Session Type: Oral Abstract

Location: Session Room 10

Chairs: Mary Crewe, South Africa; Jeffrey Grierson, Australia

Speakers: Mary Crewe, South Africa; Kristan Schoultz, Switzerland; Alphonse Mihigo Ombeni, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Britt Herstad, United States; Sophie Wertheimer, Canada; Brigitte Elisabeth Markham, Zimbabwe

This session will be broken into the following sub-sections: Gender issues in the AIDS response: where are we?; Sexual violence against sex workers by police and military in Sud-Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo: implications for HIV transmission and access to treatment; Gender-related barriers to emerging HIV prevention methods: a review of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) policies; (Re)Inserting women’s voices into the development of HIV prevention in Ghana; Women’s property rights as a response to HIV and AIDS – lessons from community interventions in Binga, Zimbabwe.

Gender: Young Women and Their Fight Against HIV/AIDS

Session Type: Skills Building Workshop

Location: Skills Building Room 1

Facilitator: Gulalai Ismail, Pakistan

This skills building session will explore different factors affecting young women's lives and how these interplay with HIV/AIDS; adopting intersectional approaches in programs and policy advocacy; and how understandings of sexuality are instrumental in issues of young people and how they can be integrated.

Moving Beyond the Male Drug Users: Developing and Designing Gender Sensitive Service Delivery Models for Women Drug Users and Partners of Male Drug Users

Session Type: Skills Building Workshop

Location: Skills Building Room 5

Facilitator: Jyoti Mehra, India

Co-Facilitator: Lipi Chowdhury, India

This workshop will provide an excellent learning opportunity about the need for gender sensitive programming required at the initial stage of setting up the harm reduction services for male drug users. Engaging with networks of women living with HIV and AIDS is a key factor for success.

Caring for Carers: A Rights-Based Approach to Supporting and Managing Home-Based Care Providers

Session Type: Skills Building Workshop

Location: Skills Building Room 8

Facilitator: Hye-Young Lim, South Africa

The importance and advantage of adequate home-based care cannot be overlooked, especially in a resource poor setting. It is equally important that home-based care providers, who are often poor women working on a "voluntary basis," are adequately trained and supported. The workshop examines the current situation of home-based care providers in southern African states and advocates the application of a rights-based approach, which is based on human rights principles to support and manage home-based care providers.

Engaging Communities in Dialogue to Address the Linkages Between Culture, GBV, and HIV/AIDS

Session Type: Skills Building Workshop

Location: Skills Building Room 10

Facilitator: Cecilia Mhiti, Zimbabwe

Co-Facilitator: Veronica Kanyongo, Zimbabwe

11:45-12:45

Vaginal Wall Exhibition and Workshop

Session Type: Global Village Workshop

Location: Global Village Session Room 2

Facilitator: Lucille C. Atkin, United States; Wendy Knerr, United Kingdom; Anne Philpott, India

14:30-16:00

Beyond Barriers: Disabilities and AIDS

Session Type: Oral Abstract

Location: Session Room 6

Chairs: Maria de Bruyn, United States; Mwesigwa Babu, Uganda

Speakers: Maria de Bruyn, United States; Mark D. C. Guimarães; Jill Hamass-Hancock, South Africa; Cláudia A. Bisol, Brazil; Adonis Touko, Cameroon; Myroslava Tataryn, United States

This session will cover the following topics: Risk behavior among patients with chronic mental illness in a national multi-center study in Brazil; gender differences; Response to disability in the context of HIV/AIDS in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; HIV/AIDS knowledge and health-related behaviors: a hearing vs. deaf or a boy vs. girl issue?; Sexual behavior and HIV prevalence among the deaf population in Cameroon; Enabling inclusion: challenges and successes in addressing the exclusion of women with disabilities from HIV/AIDS prevention.

Women Take the Lead

Session Type: Oral Abstract

Location: [Session Room 7](#)

Chairs: Jeanne Gapiya Niyonzima, Burundi; Mony Pen, Cambodia

Speakers: Elizabeth Tyler Crone, United States; Hilda Pérez Vázquez, Mexico; Kousalya Periasamy, India; Sophie Dilmitis, Switzerland; Silvia Petretti, United Kingdom

This session will cover the following topics: Women's participation and leadership in the AIDS response: challenges and opportunities; Consolidating the response to women and HIV in Mexico; Leadership skills – the need of the hour for women living with HIV; Developing new leadership amongst young women that effectively responds to HIV; PozFem UK: the national voice of women living with HIV.

14:30-18:00

Responsible Media Coverage: Culture, Gender and Human Rights in HIV and AIDS Reporting

Session Type: Skills Building Workshop

Location: [Skills Building Room 3](#)

Facilitator: Jeanne Lawler, France

How can the media better address the challenges of HIV and AIDS? Do the voices of affected communities receive sufficient coverage? Learn, debate and build partnerships at UNESCO's workshop on responsible HIV and AIDS reporting.

16:30-18:00

The AIDS Care Economy and the Burden on Women

Session Type: Symposium

Location: [Session Room 4](#)

Moderator: Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Nigeria

Speakers: Marilyn Waring, New Zealand; Aissatou Djahate, Canada; Olagoke Akintola, South Africa; Sharonann Lynch, United States; Juan Somavia, Chile; Michel Kazatchkine, France; Mirta Roses, Argentina

This session will address the invisible cost of the care economy.

In the AIDS Response, Where is the Leadership for Women's Human Rights?

Session Type: Symposium

Location: [Session Room 8](#)

Moderators: Mandalit Del Barco, United States; Gracia Violeta Ross, Bolivia

Speakers: Kalindy Bolivar, Ecuador; Imane Khachani, Morocco; Johanna Hanefeld, United Kingdom; Promise Mthembu, South Africa; Nastya Meylakhs, Russian Federation

This session will cover the following topics: Realizing equal rights for girls; Developing a new generation of powerful young women; Delivering on prevention that works for women; Sexual rights and reproductive rights of positive women; Defending the rights of women drug users.

18:30-20:30

Making HIV Trials Work for Women and Adolescent Girls

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 2

Sponsor: GCWA, Tibotec, ICRW, UNAIDS

Chair: Kristan Scholtz, Switzerland

This satellite aims to raise awareness of issues regarding women's participation in HIV trials and define next steps in the movement to rectify data gaps concerning women and HIV clinical trials. It focuses on the rationale for and progress on an action plan containing recommendations for policy and programming, a research agenda and an advocacy framework, which arose from a December 2007 meeting in Geneva. Convened by UNAIDS, Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, International Center for Research on Women and Tibotec Inc., expert delegates from international organizations, government, pharmaceutical industry, civil society, international organizations, and research institutions deliberated on the issue of making HIV trials work for women and adolescent girls.

Advocacy Strategies to Make the AIDS Response Work for Women

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 7

Sponsor: CEDPA

Chair: Yolonda Richardson, United States

Too often, the importance of putting women at the center of efforts to confront AIDS has not moved beyond rhetoric. When national and global AIDS policies are forged, too few women's organizations and networks are at the table. And, though more money than ever before is funding the AIDS response, women are largely absent when decisions are made about these funds. Yet, the good news is that there has been some success by the increasing numbers of women, women's organizations

and networks who are advocating for AIDS programs and policies that meet the realities of their lives. This session will examine the following topics: Ensuring that the U.S. response to the global AIDS epidemic meets the needs of women and their families; Community-level advocacy for increased prevention education targeting youth; Civil society watchdog efforts to monitor pharmaceutical supplies in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus; Keeping treatment issues on the front burner of the AIDS agenda at the country level and through global agencies.

Thursday, 7 August

11:00-12:30

Male Circumcision: To Cut or Not to Cut

Session Type: Bridging Session

Location: Session Room 2

Chair: Alvaro Bermejo, United Kingdom

Moderator: Doo Aphane, Swaziland

Speakers: Marie Wawer, United States; Mogomotsi Supreme Mafalapitsa, South Africa; Karen Smith, Indonesia; Marge Berer, United Kingdom; Cheik Ibrahima Niang, Senegal; Manuel Antonio Velandia Mora, Colombia

This session will address the following: The evidence: Does circumcision really work?; The meaning of circumcision for young men; Cultural and religious sensitivities; The implications for women and for MSM; Traditional practices and effective prevention; Implications for MSM.

Human Rights, HIV and Sex Work Policy

Session Type: Symposium

Location: [Session Room 8](#)

Chair: Cheryl Overs, Thailand

Speakers: Gulnara Kurmanova, Kyrgyzstan; Chutchai Kongmont, Thailand; Alejandra Gil, Mexico; Dorothy Aken Ova, Nigeria; Meena Seshu, India

The session will cover the following topics: Introduction to film on the impact of anti-trafficking programs on sex workers and sex worker HIV programs; Film on the impact of anti-trafficking programs on sex workers and sex worker HIV programs; HIV programming and our human rights: a sex worker's perspective; There is no human right "not to be a sex worker": Why rights-based programs need to focus on HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights; The view from the ground – the impact of raids and rescues on communities and on sex worker HIV programs.

The Aftermath of War: Women, Children and Displaced Populations

Session Type: Oral Abstract

Location: [Session Room 9](#)

Chairs: Mary Robinson, Ireland; Paul Spiegel, Switzerland

Speakers: Mary Robinson, Ireland; Paul Spiegel, Switzerland; Margaret Wambete, Kenya; Chrispus Kiliko, United States; Andrew Kiboneka, Uganda; Floride Nyiraneza, Rwanda

This session will cover the following topics: Estimating the impact of widespread rape on HIV prevalence in conflict-affected sub-Saharan African countries; Experience of people living with HIV/AIDS in internally displaced camps (IDPS) in Rift Valley Province, Kenya; Conceptualizing the nexus between sexual violence and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS infection in Kenya; implications for practical responses in crisis and unstable situations; Pediatric outcomes in a cohort of conflict-affected HIV-positive children in Gulu, Uganda; A peer-based model for counseling HIV-positive women in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide.

From Single Dose Nevirapine to Multiple ARV Drugs for PMTCT: Implementing WHO Guidelines for ARV Drug Use in Pregnant Women in Sub-Saharan Africa

Session Type: Skills Building Workshop

Location: [Skills Building Room 10](#)

Facilitator: Anna Miller, Zimbabwe

11:45-12:45

In Our Own Hands: Advocating for Women-Initiated Prevention Methods

Session Type: Global Village Workshop

Location: [Global Village Session Room 2](#)

Facilitator: Cindra Feuer, United States

Co-Facilitators: Emily Bass, United States; Serra Sippel, United States; Anna Forbes, United States; Katie McKenna, United States; Manju Chatani, Ghana

12:30-13:00

Mariko Passion: Educated Whore and Urban Geisha

Session Type: Performance

Location: [Global Village Main Stage](#)

Mariko Passion is a performance artist/activist/educator/whore revolutionary. She sings and rhymes her experiences and reality over beats, produces and edits documentary videos, and educates communities across the U.S. and internationally on issues related to sex worker rights.

13:00-14:30

Mujeres en Frente del VIH y SIDA: la Respuesta Comunitaria Mexicana

Session Type: Panel Discussion

Location: [Global Village Session Room 2](#)

Chair: Tamil Kendall, Mexico

Speakers: Nizarindandi Picasso, Mexico; Marieke Geertruida van Dijk, Mexico; Paola Pérez Maldonado, Mexico; Maria Solis, Mexico; Georgina Gutierrez, Mexico; Rosalinda Arechar Lara, Mexico

14:30-16:00

The Role of Human Rights in HIV Related Interventions Amongst Vulnerable Groups

Session Type: Symposium

Location: [Session Room 2](#)

Chair: Edgar Carrasco, Venezuela

Speakers: Scott Burris, United States; Simranjit Jana, India; Karyn Kaplan, Thailand; Mirtha Colon, Honduras; Mark Heywood, South Africa

This session will address the following: Human rights: the link to HIV; Civil society and state's response to vulnerabilities and criminalization of sex work in India, the place of human rights; Impact of negation of human rights in harm reduction intervention among drug users in Thailand; Vulnerabilities of Native and Afro-American communities in the Americas to HIV; Human rights in response to HIV in state plans.

The Future of Microbicides: From Vaginal ART to PREP

Session Type: Symposium

Location: [Session Room 9](#)

Chairs: Nomita Chandhiok, India; Ian McGowan, United States

Speakers: Guido Vanham, Belgium; Salim Abdool-Karim, South Africa; Timothy Mastro, United States; John Mellors, United States

This session will cover the following topics: Future promising microbicides: what to learn from the invitro work; ART containing vaginal microbicides in the clinical pipeline: a status of the studies; Pre-exposure prophylaxis: overview of current and planned trials; The use of oral and topical PREP at population level: what are the issues.

14:30-15:15

Star Whores 2

Session Type: Performance

Location: [Global Village Main Stage](#)

16:30-17:30

The Vagina Monologues: The Intersection of Violence and HIV among Women and Girls

Session Type: Global Village Workshop

Location: [Global Village Session Room 1](#)

Facilitator: Joyce Hunter, United States

Co-Facilitators: Zulaika Velázquez, United States; Elizabeth Tyler Crone, United States; Nobubtu Matinise, South Africa

16:30-18:00

HIV and STI Interactions: New Knowledge, Further Challenges

Session Type: Oral Abstract

Location: **Session Room 1**

Chairs: Peter J. Figueroa, Jamaica; Hazel Dean, United States

Speakers: Peter J. Figueroa, Jamaica; Jorge Sanchez, Peru; Sam Phiri, Malawi; Deborah Watson-Jones, United Kingdom; Sue Napierala, United Kingdom; Amneris E. Luque, United States

This session will address the following topics: The importance of HIV/STI interactions; Incidence of genital ulcers and HSV+ genital ulcers in trial of HSV-2 suppression to prevent HIV acquisition; Impact of acyclovir on ulcer healing and HIV-1 lesional and genital shedding among patients with genital ulcer disease in Malawi: a randomized controlled trial; Risk factors associated with HIV incidence in HSV-2 sero-positive Tanzanian women in a RCT of HSV-2 suppressive therapy; Mycoplasma genitalium and risk of HIV acquisition among women in Zimbabwe; Prevalence of human papillomavirus (HPV) genotypes in HIV-1 infected women in Seattle, WA, and Nairobi, Kenya: results from the Women HIV Interagency Network (WHIN) program.

Building Citizenship for HIV and AIDS

Session Type: Oral Abstract

Location: **Session Room 7**

Chairs: Richard Parker, United States; Ana Luisa Liguori, Mexico

Speakers: Richard Parker, United States; Fabian Cataldo, United Kingdom; Ana Amuchástegui, Mexico; Griselda Perez Luna Gallardo, Peru; Charlie Baran, United States; Shari Margolese, Canada

This session will address: New forms of citizenship and socio-political inclusion: universal access to ART in the shanty towns of Rio de Janeiro; Legal claims by HIV+ military men in Mexico: sexuality as a phantom in the defense of sexual rights; “Sexual citizenship”: articulating research and activism to consolidate sexual rights and confront HIV/AIDS in Latin America, 2003-2007; Mobilizing black civil society to engage and carry out

HIV/AIDS prevention and education through a social change agent training model; Building a movement to advance gender equity in HIV and AIDS through local-global alliances.

Political Crises, Sexual Violence and HIV

Session Type: Bridging Session

Location: **Session Room 4**

Chair: Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda

Speakers: Sid Naing, Myanmar; Martha Tholanah, Zimbabwe; Dorothy Onyango, Kenya; Patricia Perez, Argentina

This session will address the following: The impact of political crises and violence in Burma; Ongoing crises in Zimbabwe: sexual violence, treatment access and HIV; The gendered challenges of the current crises in Kenya; Violence and crises in Eastern Congo; Working toward peace in difficult situations.

Advances and Challenges: Reducing HIV Transmission to Infants

Session Type: Oral Abstract

Location: **Session Room 5**

Chairs: Patricia Doughty, United States; Noris Pavia-Ruz, Mexico

Speakers: Patricia Doughty, United States; Khumo Seipone, Botswana; Taha Taha, United States; Moussa Sarr, United States; Karen M. Megazzini, Zambia; Suzanne Maman, United States

This session will address the following topics: Overview: PMTCT and pediatric care and treatment – measuring progress in low and middle income countries; Mother-to-child HIV transmission rate in Botswana – analysis of dried blood spot (DBS) results from the national PMTCT program; Should infants receive antiretroviral prophylaxis throughout breastfeeding? Findings from the post-exposure prophylaxis of infants study in Malawi (PEPI-Malawi); Overall and diarrhea or lower respiratory infections-related mortality among formula fed and breastfed children of HIV-1 infected women in Africa: a meta-analysis; A cluster-randomized trial of enhanced labor ward-based PMTCT services to increase population nevirapine coverage in Lusaka, Zambia; Redefining male involvement in PMTCT from female partner’s perspective.

Addressing Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS – SASA! An Activist Kit

Session Type: Skills Building Workshop

Location: Skills Building Room 5

Facilitator: Josephine Kamisya, Uganda

This workshop introduces The SASA! Activist Kit for Preventing Violence against Women and HIV with practical examples of local activism, training, media and advocacy and communication materials that seek to change the fundamental power imbalance between women and men.

Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Session Type: Skills Building Workshop

Location: Skills Building Room 7

Facilitator: Pamela Young, United States

Co-Facilitator: Muriel Visser-Valfrey, France

Promoting gender equality and ensuring that sexual and reproductive health and rights is the right of girls and women, as well as boys and men, and must be part of comprehensive prevention and care strategies. This workshop will develop competencies in addressing gender inequalities and sexual and reproductive health and rights in programming. Hands-on experience from recent technical support provided across a variety of contexts by members of the UNAIDS IATT on Education will assist participants in developing strategic visions.

Expanding Access to Female Condoms through Strategic Partnerships and Informed Advocacy

Session Type: Skills Building Workshop

Location: Skills Building Room 9

Facilitator: Serra Sippel, United States

Co-Facilitators: Sophie Dilmitis, Switzerland; Bidia Deperthes, United States

18:30-20:30

Disability, Women and HIV/AIDS

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Session Room 5

Sponsors: Yale School of Public Health, Disabled People's International, AIDS-Free World

Chair: Stephen Lewis, United States

This satellite will address the following topics: Excluded: women with disabilities and the global AIDS movement; The intersection of gender, HIV and disabilities; Equal access to information, prevention, services and care; Sexual violence and women with disabilities; A checklist for leaders; The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Gender Analysis of HIV Communication Campaigns in Latin America and the Caribbean

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 1

Sponsor: PAHO

This satellite session will provide a participative gender analysis of HIV TV spots produced in Latin America and the Caribbean. The objectives of the session are: 1) Identification of the gender stereotypes, particularly about women, in the HIV TV spots produced in Latin America and the Caribbean; 2) A shared understanding of how these stereotypes contribute to increase women's vulnerabilities to HIV; 3) Production of recommendations for professionals involved in the development of HIV TV spots.

Sex and Sensibility: Meeting the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of People Living with HIV (PLHIV)

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Skills Building Room 4

Sponsors: IPPF, Ipas, UNFPA, WHO, GNP+

Chair: Lynn Collins, United States; Maria de Bruyn, United States

The increased access to ARVs that is slowly becoming a reality worldwide re-emphasizes the need to comprehensively address the sexual and reproductive needs of people living with HIV (PLHIV). Sexual and reproductive health are important to us all, at all stages of our lives. Yet, globally, far too many PLHIV are denied their right to sexual and reproductive health with millions of women and men lacking access to contraception suited to their situation, and millions more living with HIV and sexually transmitted infections that could have been prevented or treated. A significant proportion of HIV-positive men and women report that they want to have a child or another child in the future. And when they are asked why, they talk about the pleasure and happiness that comes with being a parent – an answer that, not surprisingly, echoes a reason given by HIV-negative people. At the same time, those living with HIV who are considering parenthood raise concerns about the effect a pregnancy may have on a woman's health, the risk of transmitting the virus to their newborn, whether they will be able to have a long, healthy life in which to love and support the child, and - should they die - who will take care of their children. If their reproductive health needs are to be met comprehensively, they must also have access to emergency contraception, safe legal abortion services and post-abortion care to deal with miscarriages and unsafe abortions.

MenEngage: Developing a Global Movement to Work with Boys and Men for Gender Equality

Session Type: Non-Commercial Satellite

Location: Session Room 7

Sponsor: MenEngage Alliance

Chair: Andrew Levack

A growing movement of HIV programs are finding innovative ways to work with men and boys by encouraging a reflective process that explores how gender inequities and rigid messages about masculinity contribute to HIV,

STIs, gender-based violence and other health-related problems. These programs share a “transformative approach” that allows men to challenge harmful gender norms and embrace alternative models of masculinity that support their own health and that of others. This can lead to improved partner communication, increased condom use, reduction of sexual partners, delayed initiation of sex, increased use of HIV services, and an increased role in the care and support of people living with HIV and AIDS. This session will reflect on efforts to engage men and boys in social movements, while also sharing information about MenEngage and ways for conference participants to become active members of its network. The session will consist of three components. It will begin with a panel of three grassroots male gender activists from Africa, Asia and Latin America. After the panel presentation, Gary Barker will provide an overview of MenEngage and share examples of the work it has achieved through global, regional, and country networks. This session will conclude with participants convening in small groups based on country and/or region. Participants will learn about the work of current MenEngage regional efforts and share input on ways to expand the size and scope of country-level networks.

Friday, 8 August

8:15-10:30

Plenary Session

Session Type: Plenary

Location: Session Room 1

Chairs: Julio Frenk, Mexico; Jean Francois Delfraissey, France; Paul Bekkers, Netherlands; Helene Gayle, United States

Speakers: Chakaya Jeremiah, Kenya; Bruno Spire, France; Edwin Cameron, South Africa; Zonibel Woods, Canada

The plenary will address the following issues: HIV and TB; HIV prevention: what have we learned from community experiences in concentrated epidemics?; Criminal Statutes and Criminal Prosecutions in the Epidemic: help or Hindrance?; Investing in gender equality: why women and girls matter in the AIDS response.

Sponsoring Organizations

ATHENA Network

ATHENA's mission is to advance gender equity and human rights in the global response to HIV and AIDS. With the continued feminization of the epidemic, a coordinated and robust civil society response to address gender inequity is essential. Because gender inequity fuels HIV and HIV fuels gender inequity, it is imperative that women and girls speak out, set priorities for action, and lead the response. The Network builds upon the work of individuals and entities who have been committed to this challenge for years, and uses coordinated, collective action to advance their efforts further. The Barcelona Bill of Rights, promulgated by partners at the 2002 International AIDS Conference, is a guiding document for ATHENA.

www.athenanetwork.org

Global Coalition on Women and AIDS

The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS is an alliance of civil society groups, networks of women living with HIV, and United Nations agencies. It works at global and national levels to advocate for improved AIDS programming for women and girls. The GCWA brings together leading advocates to influence policies, practices, laws and financing mechanisms to make the AIDS response, at all levels, work for women and girls. Its agenda is firmly rooted in country realities and the true experiences of women and girls. It aims to be a consistent and credible reference and source of information on issues related to HIV/AIDS and women and girls. The GCWA's prime accountability is to women and girls worldwide to ensure their agency, inclusion, empowerment, security and rights in the context of AIDS.

www.womenandaids.unaids.org

Open Society Institute (OSI)

The Open Society Institute, a private operating and grantmaking foundation, aims to shape public policy to promote democratic governance, human rights, and economic, legal, and social reform. On a local level, OSI implements a range of initiatives to support the rule of law, education, public health, and independent media. At the same time, OSI works to build alliances across borders and continents on issues such as combating corruption and rights abuses. The mission of the OSI Public Health Program is to advance the health and human rights of marginalized persons by building the capacity of civil society leaders and organizations and advocating for accountability and a strong civil society role in health policy and practice. Public Health Watch, an initiative of the Public Health Program, aims to strengthen meaningful and sustained engagement by infected and affected communities in the development, implementation, and monitoring of TB, HIV and TB/HIV co-infection policies, programs and practices.

www.soros.org/health

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

UNIFEM is the women's fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality. Placing the advancement of women's human rights at the centre of all of its efforts, UNIFEM focuses its activities on four strategic areas:

- ▶ Reducing feminized poverty;
- ▶ Ending violence against women;
- ▶ Reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls; and
- ▶ Achieving gender equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war.

www.unifem.org

www.genderandaids.org

