

Women's Leadership on HIV and AIDS The Nairobi 2007 Call to Action

DECLARATION & SUGGESTED STRATEGIES FOR
IMPLEMENTATION MADE AT THE WORLD YWCA
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S SUMMIT, JULY 2007

We affirm the human rights of women and girls and recognise that the realisation of these rights is critical to an effective response to the global AIDS pandemic and the future of our world. We commit to lead change in our communities to transform the lives of women and girls everywhere, especially those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. We believe that women's leadership is essential in changing the course of this pandemic.

The Nairobi 2007 Call to Action builds on the commitments made by others before us¹ and key strategies identified by members of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. Central to these are promoting the leadership of women and girls, securing their human rights, ensuring women's equitable representation in decision making and expanding resources for women.

By taking leadership into our hands and uniting in strength as a movement of women, we can lead the change we wish to see in the world. We unite in solidarity regardless of HIV status, age, creed, race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or ethnicity.

We do this because we care about ourselves, our families and our communities.

We commit to create and sustain change for women and girls, particularly those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. We will achieve change individually through our thoughts, words and actions, and collectively with our families, friends, colleagues, faith groups and communities as part of the global women's movement.

¹These include ICW's 12 statements 1992, the Barcelona Bill of Rights of 2002, the NGO Code of Conduct, the Canadian Blueprint document of 2006 and the Johannesburg Position on HIV/AIDS and Women's and Girls' Rights in Africa, 2006, With Women Worldwide Compact to End HIV/AIDS, 2006, and the Panama Declaration of 2006. These and other documents may be found on the World YWCA website.



World YWCA

International Women's Summit:
Women's Leadership on HIV and AIDS July 4-7
World YWCA Council July 2007 ●●●



Kenya2007

Changing Lives Changing Communities



The Nairobi 2007 call to action

We seek to create change in ten key areas for action that are based on existing knowledge and evidence about the life experiences of women and girls around our world, particularly those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. The ten critical actions for change are:

- 1.** Developing the leadership of women and girls to respond to HIV and AIDS, overcome stigma and discrimination and offer solidarity and support to all women and girls and particularly those infected and affected by HIV
- 2.** Ensuring the meaningful involvement of women infected and affected by HIV in relevant decision making, respecting their right to self determination and enabling their participation in the development of AIDS strategies, programming and decision making bodies
- 3.** Promoting gender equality and the human rights of women and girls including laws that protect these rights, education of those who must uphold them and services that enable women to claim our rights
- 4.** Working to ensure the physical, sexual and psychological safety and security of women and girls in all aspects of their lives
- 5.** Promoting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all women and girls, including healthy and safe practices that minimise the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and expansion of female initiated HIV prevention methods
- 6.** Ensuring education, economic security and access to resources for women and girls including the right to own and inherit property

- 7.** Expanding access to services for women infected and affected by HIV, including safe voluntary testing, care, treatment and support as well as expanded services for wider voluntary community testing

- 8.** Preventing new HIV infections among young women and children by protecting their human rights and revising existing AIDS strategies to respond to the reality of their lives

- 9.** Advocating for increased resources to support the capacity of women to lead change on HIV and AIDS and recognising the valuable assets that women and girls bring to the response

- 10.** Promoting the participation, empowerment and leadership of women at all levels of society including equitable representation of women at the highest levels of national political, executive, legislative and judicial structures around the world

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ON HIV AND AIDS

Our leadership can change our world. We commit to advance these ten critical actions to create change in the lives of women and girls around the world and particularly those infected or affected by HIV and AIDS. We pledge to turn these words into action.

World YWCA International Women's Summit: Women's Leadership on HIV and AIDS Nairobi, July 7, 2007

