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July 4 – 7, 2007
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In 2006, together with our colleagues, IWHC launched "With Women Worldwide: A Compact to End HIV/AIDS." Since then, 260 organizations from more than 50 countries have signed on to support the Compact. <http://www.withwomenworldwide.org>

This E-Bulletin is intended to keep the supporting organizations and interested

parties informed about resources and events on women and HIV/AIDS. We cannot possibly include all that's available, but we hope that it will be a helpful overview. We welcome your feedback as well as announcements to include in future bulletins, which will be sent on a quarterly basis. Please contact us at withwomenworldwide@iwhc.org.

Toronto Highlights

A sampling of resources from the XVI International AIDS Conference:

Women at the Frontline of the AIDS Response

A panel discussing the role of women and girls in the AIDS pandemic, chaired by Judy Woodruff. Participants included South African activist Musa Njoko, United Nations Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia Nafis Sadik, Black Entertainment Television co-founder Sheila Johnson, and Gates Foundation Co-Chair Melinda Gates.

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/health_cast/hcast_index.cfm?display=detail&hc=1797

*"It is time for women, young and old, to turn the tide against HIV and AIDS, and for us to take off the coat of being victims and take our place of power and authority."
– Musa Njoko*

In Her Own Words: Violations of Women's Human Rights and HIV

Six panelists from three different countries—HIV-positive women activists and policy analysts—identify where policy or programmatic interventions would make a difference in terms of HIV status, treatment, and community response. Co-sponsored by IWHC, the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), and the Association for Women in Development (AWID), and moderated by Charlayne Hunter-Gault.

<http://www.iwhc.org/resources/inherownwords/index.cfm>

What's Missing is Political Will

Laurie Garrett from the Council on Foreign Relations wrote an extensive wrap-up for the *Toronto Star* on issues raised at the IAC.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/11365/whats_missing_is_political_will.html

New Resources

10 Reasons Why Human Rights Should Occupy the Center of the Global AIDS Struggle

This report from the Open Society Institute (OSI) calls for world leaders to fulfill the promise they made at the 2006 UN High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, where they affirmed that, "the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is an essential element in the

global response" to HIV/AIDS. The analysis demonstrates that twenty-five years into the epidemic, this "essential element" remains missing in the fight against AIDS.

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/law/articles_publications/publications/human_20060802

Fostering Enabling Legal and Policy Environments for Sex Workers' Health and Human Rights

A CD-ROM by OSI containing key resources on protecting the rights of sex workers. It draws heavily on the experiences of sex worker advocacy and outreach groups and seeks to foster connections and dialogue within the international advocacy community.

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/sharp/events/fostering_20060622

Sex Worker Health and Rights: Where is the Funding?

OSI created this mapping and resource guide to inform both the philanthropic community and grassroots audiences. The report provides a snapshot of the funding landscape around sex worker issues and aims to stimulate more constructive dialogue about sex worker rights.

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/sharp/articles_publications/publications/where_20060719

Gender Impact of HIV/AIDS in India

According to this recent study by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), and National Council for Applied Economics Research (NCAER), India, the number of women living with HIV/AIDS is on the rise in India. The report states that women in monogamous relationships are being infected by their husbands and that nearly 60 percent of HIV-positive widows are under 30 years of age.

<http://www.undp.org.in/HIVAIDS/reports/Gender.pdf>

Compromised Intentions-The 2006 U.N. High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS and Its Failure to Address the Human Rights Abuses Fueling the Pandemic

This briefing paper by Human Rights Watch (HRW) seeks to critically review the June 2006 political declaration; to identify missed opportunities to protect human rights and more effectively address the HIV/AIDS pandemic; and to see where, despite its shortcomings, the political declaration can serve as the basis for future advocacy. It examines the political declaration's treatment of five key issues relating to HIV in light of human rights principles: (1) women's rights as they relate to HIV, (2) children and youth, (3) socially marginalized individuals, (4) treatment, and (5) targets and accountability.

<http://hrw.org/backgrounder/hivaids/ungass0806/>

New Approaches to HIV Prevention: Accelerating Research and Ensuring Future Access

Released during the IAC, this is the fourth report by The Global HIV Prevention Working Group. The Working Group is a panel of nearly 50 leading public health experts, clinicians, biomedical and behavioral researchers, and people affected by HIV/AIDS, convened by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Kaiser Family Foundation.

<http://www.kff.org/hivaids/hiv081506pkg.cfm>

Show Us the Money: Is Violence against Women on the HIV & AIDS Funding Agenda?

Violence against women is a key factor increasing women's risk of contracting HIV, as well as a consequence of many women's HIV-positive status. ActionAid International mapped multilateral organizations including UNAIDS and the World Bank to see whether recent commitments to reduce women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and violence have been translated into policies, programming and funding. The report makes clear that although most institutions recognize that

violence against women is a key driver of the pandemic, it is not a specific category of funding. For more information, contact neelanjana.mukhia@actionaid.org.

International Women's Summit Women's Leadership on HIV and AIDS, July 4-7, 2007

The World YWCA is convening this international summit in conjunction with World YWCA Council 2007. The first day of the conference will be a Positive Women's Forum exclusively for HIV-positive women.

For more information go to:
http://www.worldywca.info/index.php/ywca/world_council_07/iws_women_s_summit

Goals of the Summit:

1. Highlight the difference women's leadership is making in response to HIV and AIDS by making visible African and young women's leadership, at grassroots and community levels, including national, regional and international levels;
2. Build the capacity of leaders and their organizations in undertaking sustainable programmes that address cutting-edge issues;
3. Raise awareness and mobilize the women's movement on HIV and AIDS and crosscutting issues, and produce the evidence required to effect change at all levels in society;
4. Provide space for networking and building strategic partnerships to broaden the impact of responses to HIV and AIDS at all levels.

New Campaigns

African Civil Society Coalition

The African Civil Society Coalition was recently established to work on key advocacy challenges in Africa, review AIDS strategies and provide a platform for energizing HIV and AIDS campaigns by African civil society groups. The Coalition joins together a range of civil society groups including women's groups, youth networks, associations of people living with HIV, the media, and faith-based organizations. Members of the Coalition are meeting in Mombassa, Kenya this month to develop strategic directions for enhanced civil society participation in target-setting processes and in monitoring the accountability of African governments in meeting universal access benchmarks for 2008 and 2010. For more information, contact omololu@nigeria-aids.org.

The 13 Campaign

In Sub-Saharan Africa, 13.1 million women are living with HIV/AIDS. The 13 Campaign, coordinated by the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), will use the number 13 to catalyze action and symbolically freeze the grim statistics. The Campaign aims to encourage individuals and groups to mobilize thirteen others, and to make donations with the number 13 in mind. For more information, visit <http://www.13campaign.org/pages/13campaign.php>