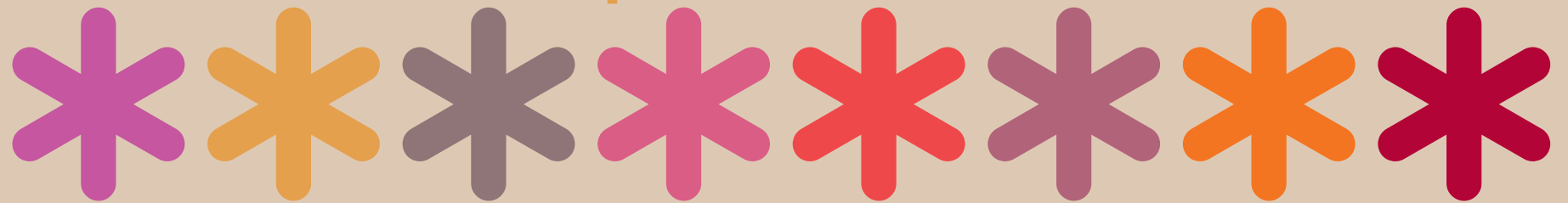




ATHENA

Annual report



2012



About ATHENA

ATHENA was created to advance gender equity and human rights in the global response to HIV and AIDS.

ATHENA's mission is to:

- advance the recognition, protection, and fulfillment of women's and girls' human rights, comprehensively and inclusively, as a fundamental component of policies and programs to address HIV and AIDS;
- improve the life quality and longevity of women and girls living with HIV;
- ensure gender equity in HIV-related research, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, and support;
- promote and facilitate the leadership of women and girls, especially those living with HIV, in all aspects of HIV-related policies, programs, and research; and
- bridge the communities around the world that are addressing gender, human rights, sexual and reproductive health, and HIV.



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Introduction

Building on more than a decade of parallel organizing around International AIDS Conferences (IACs) since Durban 2000, ATHENA had its founding retreat in 2005 and formally launched in 2006. Ever since, ATHENA has been at the forefront of ensuring that a gender equality perspective is integrated into key international and national policy platforms that shape the global HIV response. ATHENA achieves this by:

- promoting, and facilitating, women's leadership and meaningful participation in agenda-setting and critical policy dialogues that feed into the development of, for example, national strategic plans (NSPs) on HIV;
- assembling subject-matter expertise (which includes the lived-experience expertise of women in all our diversity, especially from those most affected by HIV) and bringing this to bear in seminal policy formulation moments; and
- convening spaces – both physical and virtual – to provide a platform for often marginalized voices and themes.

ATHENA performs substantive policy work with partner organizations, and pursues 'movement-building' work through its convening function. Policy work has pushed a human rights and gender equality perspective in, for example, NSPs, pregnancy guidelines for women living with HIV, messaging around the relationship between hormonal contraception and HIV transmission, and the roll-out of medical male circumcision for HIV prevention. ATHENA utilizes key fora to create **physical** spaces for advocacy, dialogue, and networking (e.g. Women's Networking Zones at IACs and other international or regional conferences and forums).

To date, Women's Networking Zones have been held at AIDS2002, Barcelona; AIDS2006, Toronto; International Women's Summit 2007, Nairobi; AIDS2008, Mexico City; AIDS2010, Vienna; IAS Pathogenesis Conference 2011, Rome; ICASA2011, Addis Ababa; and, AIDS2012, Washington DC.

In its **virtual** form, ATHENA enables knowledge-sharing and policy analysis via our list-serv and collaborative working style. Our work has been looked to and utilized by United Nations partners, other global networks, national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community leaders and advocates.

2012 built on a highly successful previous year of policy work and key initiatives:

- **In Women's Words** – a regional and global advocacy agenda and accountability framework for achieving the goals of the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, developed through consultation with nearly 1000 women from over 95 countries¹;
- **Young Women's Leadership Initiative**, Rome 2011, with 15 participating young women from 12 countries²;
- **Community Innovation** – a series of case studies highlighting community-led approaches to addressing the linkages between HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls in all our diversity³;
- **Mainstreaming gender into national strategic plans on HIV in Southern and Eastern Africa**, with the Gender Equality and HIV Prevention Programme of HEARD at the University of KwaZulu-Natal; and
- **Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and engage men and boys to advance gender equality through national HIV strategies and plans**, with members of the UN Interagency Working Group on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV, and civil society partners, Sonke Gender Justice, MenEngage Alliance, HEARD, and Salamander Trust.

2012 saw the emergence of three clear strands to our global advocacy around HIV, women's rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights:

- 1 **Agenda-setting, policy formulation, and advocating for appropriate global resource flows.**
- 2 **Leadership and capacity-building of women in all our diversity – in particular young women, women living with HIV, and women from key affected populations.**
- 3 **Movement-building and knowledge-sharing. Physical and virtual organizing designed to build civil society demand for greater government accountability.**

1. In Women's Words is available at: <http://www.womeneurope.net/resources/InWomen'sWordsFinal.pdf>

2. For more information go to: <http://www.womeneurope.net/resources/YoungWomensLeadershipInitiativeRomeIAS2011FINAL.pdf>

3. 'Community Innovation' is available at: http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/document/2011/07/20110719_Community%20innovation.pdf



1

Agenda-setting, policy formulation, and advocating for appropriate global resource flows

ASSESSING COMMUNITY QUESTIONS AND PRIORITIES AROUND HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVE USE AND HIV RISK

In the light of new research spotlighting potential increased risk of HIV acquisition and transmission among women using certain forms of injectable hormonal contraceptives, there is a pressing need for more awareness of and engagement around the question of hormonal contraceptive use and HIV risk. Moreover, there is a need for those who are most affected – young women and women living with HIV – to garner more knowledge of what the science is telling us, to have the opportunity to raise questions and concerns, and to deliberate what are the implication for our health, welfare, and choices.

In response to this need, ATHENA, supported by UNAIDS, convened an 18-member global consortium of women's health organizations, networks of people living with HIV, and sexual and reproductive health and rights advocates, to conduct a global consultation into women's key perceptions, concerns, and priorities around family planning and HIV risk. The aim of the survey was to gather insights on what key community stakeholders *want to know* in order to inform a WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA consultation on developing key messages for service providers, service users, programs, and policy-makers on this vitally important issue for women's health.⁴

The consultation survey was circulated in four languages (English, Russian, French, and Spanish) and garnered the participation of nearly 400 respondents from across the world, including Latin America, North and Central America, the Caribbean, Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

1000 respondents to the virtual consultation for the High Level Meeting on AIDS (HLM), 2011

400 respondents to the virtual consultation for hormonal contraceptive use and HIV risk

95 countries responded to the HLM virtual consultation

40 countries responded to the hormonal consultation

9 languages HLM survey went out in

4. Further information on this issue can be found at: http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaidspublication/2012/JC2309_HIV_hormonal_contraception_en.pdf

Key issues that emerged were taken to a consultation convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Montreux, Switzerland, during May 2012. These include:

- Structural issues that present barriers to accessing a full range of high quality family planning methods, and realizing choice
- Lack of information and communication
- Gender, stigma and discrimination, and socio-cultural barriers

To address these issues, respondents of the consultation called for:

- Full information and the utilization of multiple communication channels
- Access and advancing real choice, including advancing women's ability to negotiate condom use
- Policy, programing, and strengthening women's agency

“What if progestogen-only injectable hormonal contraceptives are the only feasible birth control method for me, but I cannot safely and routinely access condoms, male or female, before intercourse? What are my options then? How do I protect myself?”

What women want and need: the essentials

- **Information and power** to enable women to make and enact informed decisions.
- **Accountability** of institutions, policymakers, and health care systems and providers to women.
- **Choice**, including increased access to a wider method-mix, available in an environment that supports dialogue and enables women to make the choices that suit them.
- **Investment** in new research, and in our networks and organizations, in order to address the realities of women's lives and responsiveness to our real needs for an environment of agency and protection.

“Give resources to women's groups and women living with HIV networks, to talk about these issues with their peers so that greater clarity is achieved to facilitate informed decisions with regard to their reproductive choices.”

“The problem is not the [WHO] messages, it's the [lack of] access to real choices in public health services (especially condoms, female condoms, and a range of contraceptive methods) to make real the possibility of choosing.”



Civil society partners

ATHENA in collaboration with: AIDS Legal Network, South Africa; Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA); AVAC; Balance: Promoción para el desarrollo y juventud, Mexico; Choices: Memphis Center for Reproductive Health, United States; GNP+; GNP+ North America; ICW Global; ICW Eastern Africa; ICW Central Africa; ICW West Africa; Jamaican Community of Women Living with HIV; Namibia Women's Health Network; Salamander Trust, UK; Sexual Health and Rights Initiative, South Africa; WAPN+; We-CARE+; WISH Associates, South Africa.



PUTTING WOMEN AND GIRLS AT THE HEART OF THE HIV RESPONSE IN ZIMBABWE

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by HIV in much of the world. This is especially true of the generalized epidemics of Southern and Eastern Africa, where 60% of people living with HIV are women and girls⁵; women and girls shoulder a disproportionate burden of care within the context of HIV and AIDS⁶; and gender-based violence is clearly recognized as both a cause and a consequence of HIV transmission⁷. Underlying all of these elements is gender inequality, which heightens the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV as well as fuels and is fuelled by the epidemic.

National strategic plans on HIV and AIDS (NSPs) have the potential to serve as influential instruments for articulating and supporting a gender responsive agenda for women, girls, and gender equality in the context of HIV, and yet to date this potential has not been fully met. The program 'From Talk to Action: Putting Women, Girls and Gender Equality at the Heart of the HIV Response' was born out of recognition of this potential, and the outstanding gaps and priorities in NSPs, and in line with Pillar 2 of the UNAIDS 'Agenda for Accelerated Country Action for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV' (the operational plan for the UNAIDS Action Framework for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV), "*Translating political commitments into scaled-up action to address the rights and needs of women and girls in the context of HIV*".

Since 2010, ATHENA has partnered with researchers at the Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (HEARD) to strengthen language, content, and approach of the next generation of NSPs on HIV and AIDS to comprehensively address women, girls, and gender equality; expand the knowledge of and engagement by women living with and affected by HIV in national planning processes on HIV; and, continue to foster regional networking, alliance building, and dialogue across civil society, in particular networks or organizations of women living with HIV.

5. UNAIDS (2008) *Report on the global AIDS epidemic*. Geneva: WHO and UNAIDS.

6. Akintola, O. (2009) Unpaid HIV/AIDS Care in Southern Africa: Forms, Context, and Implications. *Feminist Economics*, 14(4), 117–147.

7. Jewkes, R. et al. (2010) Intimate partner violence, relationship power inequity, and incidence of HIV infection in young women in South Africa: a cohort study. *Lancet*, 376, 41–48.

In 2012, HEARD and ATHENA continued to build on the international and regional roll-out of the 'Framework for Women, Girls, and Gender Equality through National Strategic Plans in East and Southern Africa', with focused in-country work in Zimbabwe.

Working with local partners, the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe, ICW Zimbabwe, SAfAIDS, the Zimbabwe Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+), and Zimbabwe AIDS Network (ZAN), the HEARD/ATHENA team conducted a two-phase pilot project to support in-country efforts to integrate women, girls, and gender equality into national policies and plans on HIV and AIDS:

- Establishment of a strategic partnership with relevant government departments, the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe and NGOs. This partnership formed the basis on which to carry out in-country support on relevant issues, and to unpack the NSP and gender and human rights issues to inform the workshop planning process;
- Workshop convened in collaboration with the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe, SAfAIDS, ZNNP+, and ZAN, with strategic partners and other relevant stakeholders to promote the potential for Zimbabwe's NSPs to advance, promote and protect women, girls, and gender equality in and through the HIV response.

“ The workshop has given participants the floor, to have a tool on how to address issues that have been dismissed in certain policies and challenged them to push further for such issues, including the long needed drive for advocacy strategies.”

PARTICIPANT

Partners

ATHENA and Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (HEARD) in collaboration with: National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe; SAfAIDS; Zimbabwe National Network of People Living with HIV (ZNNP+); ICW Zimbabwe; and Zimbabwe AIDS Network (ZAN).

Rolling-out the 'Framework for Women, Girls, and Gender Equality through National Strategic Plans in East and Southern Africa

8 workshops have been led by ATHENA to develop, introduce, and utilize the Framework

45 countries are using the Framework as an outcome of our work

20 national strategic plans on HIV have been analyzed

19 partners were involved in Framework development

10 policy analysis tools derived from the Framework



“ We began to include women living with HIV in the research and development of reports and records. We brought them in – conducting surveys and interviewing. Recommendations developed by us in different national documents (CEDAW and HIV in the Workplace) have been developed in conjunction with the participation of women living with HIV. It was the first time to happen in the country.”

TAJIKISTAN DELEGATE

“ We have been working with the key affected women such as sex workers and HIV positive women in our current project with the Global Fund Round (9). We have more coordination and cooperation with Myanmar Positive Women Network after the meeting. In addition, our organization have planned to focus more on gender-based violence and male involvement in the future. We have already planned and submitted the concept note, based on our country action plan, to the UN Trust Fund in partnership with Myanmar Positive Women Network.”

MYANMAR DELEGATE

INTEGRATING STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ENGAGE MEN AND BOYS TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH NATIONAL HIV STRATEGIES AND PLANS

Impact and needs assessment

The UN Interagency Working Group on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV,⁸ in collaboration with the MenEngage Alliance, Sonke Gender Justice, and ATHENA Network has convened two global consultations on *Integrating Strategies to Address Gender-based Violence and Engage Men and Boys to Advance Gender Equality through National Strategic Plans on HIV and AIDS*. The meetings aimed to review current NSPs, to assess the strengths and weaknesses of these plans with regard to addressing gender-based violence and engaging men and boys for gender equality (for example through community-based programs like Stepping Stones), and to develop country action plans for advocacy to address priority issues and gaps. The consultations were designed and undertaken in a participatory manner, which enabled a high degree of engagement from delegates, especially in terms of the leadership of women living with HIV, cross-country and regional sharing of experience, peer-to-peer and South-to-South learning, and the development of country action plans.

The first of these consultations was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 30 November–2 December 2010, and brought together participants from 14 countries across five regions. The second meeting was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 14–16 November 2011, bringing together delegations from 16 (new) countries.

From April to May 2012 ATHENA, with support from UNAIDS, conducted an impact and needs assessment to evaluate progress against country action plans developed during the meetings, and to map technical needs for moving further forward on country action plans. The purpose was to inform the on-going work of the UN Interagency Working Group on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV, and civil society partners to support past consultation participants; to highlight achievements, showcase successful programmatic and/or advocacy strategies, and share good practice; and, to inform future initiatives to advance policy and programming on addressing gender-based violence and engaging men and boys to advance gender equality through NSPs.

The assessment consisted of an on-line survey in which all participants of the Nairobi and Istanbul workshops were invited to engage; and, in-depth interviews with selected participations. These resulted in an overview report, and a compilation of case studies.

8. Includes UNAIDS Secretariat, Cosponsors (UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, ILO, WFP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO, WORLD BANK) and UN Women.

Due to the individual nature, context, stage, and trajectory of countries' HIV epidemics, *and* the differing perspectives of actors within country delegations, it was difficult to draw generalized finding from the assessment. However, what clearly emerged was the catalytic effect the meetings had on thinking, policy, and practice regarding the urgency to address gender-based violence as a cause and consequence of HIV, and the need to engage men and boys as agents of positive change to halt this violence, and bring about more gender equitable communities.

Some of the principle strategies that have been taken up as a result of the consultative meetings include:

- Policy and legal review by a gender consultant
- Strengthened language around gender equality and gender-based violence integrated into national policies, including in accountability structures
- Increased engagement and leadership of women living with HIV and other key affected women
- Further training on the engagement of men and boys as agents to halt gender-based violence and advance gender equality
- Increased partnership and cooperation between National AIDS Councils and civil society
- Engagement of traditional and faith leaders to address cultural factors which underpin gender-based violence, and encourage men and boys as positive change agents

“ In our National Strategic Framework for HIV we had identified gender inequality as one of the drivers of the epidemic ... but for some reason, when it came to developing programs ... we forgot that being a patriarchal society we need to get men involved if we want to stop the issues. It hadn't been something we even thought about.”

SWAZILAND DELEGATE

“ After the Istanbul meeting we managed, for the first time, to have an open face HIV positive women talking about HIV and gender-based violence issues, at conferences, on TV shows and awareness events. After the meeting we started to think more intensively on creating an HIV positive women's network and their greater involvement in decision-making and planning. At the moment, we have started by organizing monthly women's club meetings and self support groups.”

MOLDOVA DELEGATE

“ The NAA has engaged one civil society network, the Cambodia Community for Women Living with HIV and AIDS, as a key partner in the action plan. The significant change is to provide technical support to help them do resource mobilization.”

CAMBODIA DELEGATE

“ Our organization provides shelter both for women living with HIV and women confronting violence. We provide counseling and empower them. Vocational skills training has also been given. What I have done after the meeting is mainly raise an awareness on the linkages between gender-based violence and HIV to both staff, counselors and the clients.”

THAILAND DELEGATE

“ Through the EC project, my organization provides grants to HIV positive women networks to sensitize communities in women's property rights, provides technical assistance to partners and implementing partners, and further undertake capacity building to HIV positive networks to respond to their needs in a rights-based manner as well reporting of their implementation.”

KENYA DELEGATE

“ We held a seminar titled 'HIV and gender strategy' in Beijing in December 2011 and invited women living with HIV to tell their story, their worries and what they want. This is the first time that a women's network held a seminar to discuss women's issues in the AIDS area.”

CHINA DELEGATE

“The meeting was important. It’s good for understanding trends and to appreciate priorities and policy at implementation level. This meeting helped me to appreciate the need for evidence and identification of positive and creative strategies and approaches to dealing with gender-based violence in the context of HIV and AIDS.”

PARTICIPANT, JOHANNESBURG CONSULTATION



Regional Eastern and Southern Africa consultation to strengthen attention to gender-based violence in NSPs and other critical policies

Building on the consultative meetings held in Nairobi and Istanbul, the UN Interagency Working Group on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV, in partnership with ATHENA, HEARD, MenEngage Alliance, and Sonke Gender Justice convened a regional meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, in December 2012. The meeting aimed to review national policies, strategies and plans (including but not limited to NSPs), and assess the strengths and weaknesses of these plans with regard to addressing gender-based violence and engaging men and boys for gender equality; identify priority areas and gaps; and, develop country action plans to strengthen cross-cutting attention to gender equality, gender-based violence, and engaging men and boys in their national planning processes and forthcoming NSPs.

Six countries from Eastern and Southern Africa were represented at the meeting, namely: Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. Meeting delegates were drawn from government, specifically National AIDS Councils/Ministry of Health and Ministry of Gender or Women’s Affairs (or equivalent); networks of women living with HIV; civil society organizations addressing gender-based violence and women’s rights; civil society organizations working with men and boys to advance gender equality; and, relevant UN country offices. In total, 48 people participated in the meeting.

The meeting’s key focus areas – to move understanding of the linkages between HIV and gender-based violence from concept to practice – included:

- The meaningful involvement of women living with HIV (MIWA)
- Engaging men and boys for gender equality
- Working with communities: exploring the Stepping Stones model
- Multi-sectoral collaboration: introduction to the Together for Girls initiative
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV linkages within the context of gender-based violence
- Gender-based violence among key affected populations, such as LGBTI communities and sex workers

Each country delegation produced country action plans around these areas of strategic intervention. In addition, a virtual regional repository of national and regional evidence on the linkages between HIV and different forms of violence against women and girls was developed by Salamander Trust to inform relevant policies and programs for on-going exchange and mutual support and is accessible online at: http://www.salamandertrust.net/index.php/projects/gbv_workshop_johannesburg_dec_2012

SUPPORTING THE ROLL-OUT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNAIDS AGENDA FOR WOMEN, GIRLS, GENDER EQUALITY AND HIV

The UNAIDS Agenda for Accelerated Country Action for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV offers a set of strategic actions to achieve high-impact results for women and girls in the context of the HIV response. The UNAIDS Agenda addresses the rights and needs of women and girls in various settings and highlights opportunities to work with and invest in networks of women living with HIV and diverse women's groups, while engaging men and boys in reversing the HIV epidemic and achieving gender equality.

Regional consultation on women, girls, gender equality and HIV: Reviewing the UNAIDS Agenda

The UNAIDS Agenda commits to “*address HIV needs of women and girls and stop violence against women*” and recommends 26 strategic actions that countries can take to achieve this goal. The Agenda emphasizes the need to strengthen and broaden partnerships, build synergies between the women's rights movement and the HIV response, and actively engage men and boys for gender equality.

In October 2012, ATHENA and HEARD co-facilitated and co-hosted with UNFPA, Sonke Gender Justice, MenEngage and Promundo, a meeting to strengthen and broaden partnerships, build synergies between the women's rights movement and the HIV response, and actively engage men and boys for gender equality. The meeting aimed to share and review the UNAIDS Agenda, strengthen the understanding of the inter-linkages between HIV and gender-based violence, and explore innovative and promising strategies on male involvement.

The meeting brought together around 50 participants from 18 African countries. Key focus areas, highlighting the three pillars of the Agenda included:

- Building the evidence base;
- Integrating programming to address violence against women and the engagement of men and boys into NSPs; and
- Building leadership capacity among women living with and affected by HIV.

Mapping the HIV response for women and girls

With support from UNFPA, from August to November 2012, ATHENA undertook a global mapping of the activities and accountabilities carried out to date, in line with the UNAIDS Agenda. The research was designed to coincide with and provide complementary information to, a mid-term review of the Agenda. Both the mapping and the conclusions of the mid-term review were presented at the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting of December 2012.



Available online in 2013.

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE NEW FUNDING MODEL OF THE GLOBAL FUND

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria is a vital engine for investment in women's health and rights, particularly for women living with and affected by the three diseases. To date, this potential has been untapped and the Global Fund's existing commitments to gender equality and the protection and promotion of human rights (including women's rights and sexual and reproductive rights), as articulated in its Gender Equality Strategy and the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan have not been realized. With the launch of the New Funding Model, we see a critical opportunity to deepen and broaden the community of stakeholders who bring forward a gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health perspective to be engaged with the Global Fund globally and in recipient countries in a sustained, strategic, and informed manner.

ATHENA has been facilitating a growing coalition of civil society institutional and individual partners spanning women's rights, networks of women living with HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health in order to expand the cadre of stakeholders who are vocal, involved, and invested in the New Funding Model – and through doing so, to catalyze ongoing advocacy and engagement as well as strengthen investment in the health, rights, and dignity of women and girls in all our diversity that are living with and affected by HIV, TB, and malaria.





2

Leadership and capacity-building of women in all our diversity

YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE: YOUNG WOMEN TURNING THE TIDE @ AIDS2012

Although it is widely known that women are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS, their needs are often under-recognized and their voices under-represented as research and action agendas are created in the HIV response. This is especially true of young women, who have unique social and health needs, but who are rarely in a position to advocate for themselves in this arena. Recognizing the dearth of avenues currently open to young women for meaningful participation in the HIV response, the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA) and ATHENA launched the Young Women's Leadership Initiative (YWLI) to support a group of young women living with HIV to participate in a program at the International AIDS Society's 2011 Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention Conference, and at ICASA 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The YWLI@AIDS2012 constituted the third component of the Young Women's Leadership Initiative, in association with the Women's Networking Zone (WNZ). The initiative supported the participation of 12 national and international young women delegates at the 2012 International AIDS Conference in Washington DC. Through daily group debriefings, attendance at conference plenary sessions, mentorship, and participation in events organized by and for women living with HIV, these endeavours helped to create synergy and coherence within the group, enabled the young women to engage with global and regional research and policy agendas, and catalyzed longer term working relationships.

“ When I first was diagnosed, I really thought that I was all alone, facing this by myself. Being around other young ladies of different cultures set my mind to really believe in myself and gave me more courage and wisdom to fight this virus head on.”

PARTICIPANT OF YWLI@AIDS2012

37 young women have taken part in the YWLI

24 countries

36 platforms made available to participants

Among the activities that the YWLI@AIDS2012 enabled the YWLI participants to take part in, were:

- Meeting at the White House with local women leaders and philanthropists (including Alicia Keyes) to set agenda items for women living with HIV, and USA-related funding
- AVAC satellite, 'Start making sense: Weighing the evidence on hormonal contraception and HIV'
- Women's Networking Zone opening ceremony
- 'End of AIDS' march and rally
- World YWCA intergenerational dialogue on 'Sexual and reproductive health and rights for young women living with HIV'
- Community dialogue space 'Our voices' celebrating community leadership
- Action on AIDS press conference, 'Turn the tide towards women and HIV: Make waves to stop stigma, discrimination, and violence'
- WNZ session on 'The Global Plan: What does it mean for women's rights?'
- Press conference, 'The good, the bad, and the forgotten: Sexual and reproductive justice for women living with HIV'
- WNZ session on "Monitoring and evaluation in the context of women's rights"
- 'My 60-second dream at AIDS2012' (a series of short videos filmed throughout the conference, coordinated by the Salamander Trust and available at: http://salamandertrust.net/index.php/Resources/I_Have_a_Dream)



PHOTOGRAPH © JANE SHEPHERD



The opportunity to make links with key people and agencies to spread the word, art, and other types of communication in the world [is] so important to young people who were born with HIV; this type of linkage allows us to show in our countries and continue with the daily work of prevention, support groups and empowerment and how important it is that other people come to share their experiences and feel a little better, try to dispel myths and stigma of the population, and [gain] power [to] live with respect and equality."

YWLI@AIS2012 PARTICIPANT





3

Movement-building and knowledge-sharing

WNZ@AIDS2012: WOMEN'S RIGHTS TURN THE TIDE

The Women's Networking Zone (WNZ) is ATHENA's signature organizing event at International AIDS Conferences and other fora. The WNZ is a free and inclusive space where community members, advocates, policy analysts, decision-makers, service providers, and researchers share and learn together. The production and implementation of each WNZ reflect the diversity and reach of populations served by and at the helm of our advocacy, especially those living with HIV, and other key affected women, including young women, women who use drugs, lesbian, bisexual or transgender women, caregivers, and sex workers.

The WNZ@AIDS2012 involved the collaboration of 47 organizations, networks and coalitions made up the WNZ@AIDS2012 partnership, with sponsorship or in-kind support coming from 13 organizational entities.⁹

With an emphasis on work spearheaded by women living with and affected by HIV, and local community activism, the WNZ@AIDS2012 scheduled 75 sessions, of which 63 (87%) were run by or with networks of women living with HIV, and 34 (54%) were led by USA-based organizations, many of which are in the Washington DC area. Sessions by and for young women numbered 50 (63%), and sessions also focused on women in prison, women who inject drugs, transgender women, lesbian, bisexual, and other women who have sex with women.

The WNZ utilizes collaborative, inclusive, and democratizing processes to establish an agenda of priority issues. The unprecedented amount of scheduled activities at WNZ@AIDS2012 allowed for thematic threads to emerge around which to consolidate dialogue and advocacy on a number of pressing policy issues under the broad banner of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the context of HIV. These included:

- Gender-based violence, including violence against women living with HIV
- Forced and coerced sterilization among women living with HIV



The WNZ is always a very important space for us activists on women, feminism, HIV, and sexual diversity – it enhances our alliances with others, strengthens networks of support, care and nutrition for our everyday life. I found very inspiring conversations, leaders and sessions for getting deeper on our reflections. It's a space for us, by us, to connect, to understand, to build.” **WNZ PARTNER**

500

organizations have participated in WNZs

250

community-driven and women led sessions have been held

87%

of sessions were led by or with networks and organizations of women living with HIV

9. Financial and in-kind support gratefully received from: UN Women, Women for Positive Action, Open Society Foundations, STOP AIDS NOW!, Sonke Gender Justice, AVAC, The Well Project, Georgetown University WIHS Project, Community Education Group, World YWCA, Ipas, USC Institute for Global Health Program on Global Health and Human Rights, Salamander Trust, and Deutsche AIDS Gesellschaft e.V.

- Sexual and reproductive rights, in relation to the 'Global Plan towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping their Mothers Alive'
- Female condom advocacy
- Critical dialogues on HIV policy, accountability, and resourcing the HIV response
- Emerging science and the research landscape.

Mujeres Adelante

Mujeres Adelante, the daily conference newsletter on women's rights and HIV, has since Mexico become an integral part of the WNZ at International AIDS Conferences. Developed and produced jointly with the AIDS Legal Network, South Africa, the *Mujeres Adelante* has evolved to be a source of reference and advocacy on pertinent issues in the context of women's rights and HIV, as presented and discussed during (and beyond) international conferences.

During AIDS2012 in Washington DC, six daily editions of the *Mujeres Adelante* were produced and disseminated, covering a wide range of viewpoints and topics in the context of women's rights and HIV. In addition to the daily analysis of the plenary discussion, contributions in the daily edition of the newsletter provided a critical and rights-based analysis of ongoing and newly emerging debates exploring a wide range of issues, including:

- the implications of treatment as prevention and hormonal contraceptives for effective responses to women's realities and needs in the context of HIV;
- the adequacy of programs addressing the links of gender violence and HIV;
- approaches to, and the need for holistic programs focusing on care and support for women living with HIV;
- progress made and remaining challenges in the context of transgender vulnerability to HIV, the continuing criminalization of sex workers and its impact on the overall effectiveness of the HIV response;
- the need for women-centred harm reduction programs;
- the continued invisibility of lesbian women in the response to HIV;
- the impact of persistent HIV-related stigma and discrimination on both women's prevailing risks and vulnerabilities to HIV exposure, transmission and related violence and abuse; and
- the meaningful involvement of (and investment in) women living with HIV as a critical aspect of ensuring effective and rights-based responses to women and HIV at a global and national level.

Our partners in the WNZ@2012



women's rights turn the tide

Women's Networking Zone
AIDS2012 Washington D.C.



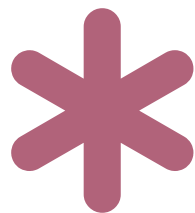
STRATEGIC THINK-TANKS TO END FORCED AND COERCED STERILIZATION AMONG WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV

Despite the long-term advocacy efforts of various women's and human rights organizations towards addressing and redressing rights violations in the context of sexual and reproductive healthcare, such violations continue to manifest in various parts of the world, in countries experiencing both generalized and concentrated HIV epidemics, without showing significant signs of abatement. However, the issue is gathering traction among international civil society and policy makers.

In partnership with STOP AIDS NOW!, AIDS Legal Network, and the Namibia Women's Health Network, ATHENA convened a strategic think-tank at ICASA, 2011. The think-tank mapped emerging trends at the intersection of sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV, with a specific emphasis on women living with HIV, to inform an issue brief and roadmap focusing on the issue of coerced and forced sterilization among women living with HIV, and related themes.

At the International AIDS Conference at Washington DC, 2012, a follow-up think-tank of women's rights advocates and activists was held in the Women's Networking Zone on the eve of the historic judgement in Namibia, in which the Namibia High Court ruled that three young Namibian women had been coercively sterilized. The court did not find adequate evidence to show that the sterilizations were carried out on the basis of the women's HIV positive status. The think-tank launched the issue paper *'Ourselves, their bodies: Assessing efforts to halt coerced and forced sterilization of women living with HIV'*, consolidated advocacy and learning to date, and planned the following next steps.

- Support greater engagement in the Global Working Group on forced and coerced sterilizations
- Forge closer partnerships, dialogue and exchange with the disability community to learn from and partner with them on the issue of forced and coerced sterilization
- Ensure engagement in the WHO consultation in developing a statement on forced sterilization (August–November 2012)
- React to the Namibia judgement decision of 30 July with support for the women whose cases are being heard, and advocacy to influence other cases that are coming up in Kenya and South Africa
- Develop a roadmap for collective advocacy around broader sexual and reproductive and health and rights concerns, using the issue of forced or coerced sterilization as leverage for improving healthcare delivery.



Key partnerships

This is not an exhaustive list of ATHENA partners and members, but serves to demonstrate the ways and extent to which ATHENA promotes the leadership and meaningful involvement of women living with HIV, and other networks and organizations of inadequately served populations of women. The tables list key partners and the areas of work in relation to which we have sought partnerships and collaborations.

PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
Argentinean Network of Women Living with HIV	Young Women's Leadership Initiative (YWLI) (Washington DC, 2012)
Blueprint Coalition	WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2006 WNZ Partnership, 2008, 2010, 2012
Bolivian Network of People Living with HIV	Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011
Cambodian Community of Women Living with HIV	YWLI (Washington DC, 2012)
EVA (Russia)	YWLI (Rome 2011, Washington DC 2012)
GNP+	YWLI Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk
Her Rights Initiative (South Africa)	NSP framework development and review
ICW Global	Member of ATHENA Steering Committee Member of ATHENA Steering Committee WNZ coordinating partner 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012 Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011 Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk
ICW Eastern Africa	YWLI Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk

PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
ICW North America	Member of ATHENA Steering Committee WNZ Coordinating Partner 2012
ICW Anglophone West Africa	YWLI Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011 Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk
Indonesian Network of Women Living with HIV	YWLI (Washington DC, 2012)
Jamaica Community of Women Living with HIV	Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011 Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs YWLI (Washington DC, 2012)
Malawi Coalition of Women Living With HIV and AIDS (COWLHA)	Community Innovation
Mama's Club (Uganda)	Member of ATHENA Steering Committee Community Innovation NSP framework development and review
Namibia Women's Health Network	NSP framework development and review Documenting and advocacy on forced and coerced sterilization among women living with HIV YWLI (Rome and Addis Ababa 2011, Washington DC 2012)
Network of Positive Women Ethiopians	YWLI (Rome and Addis Ababa 2011) WNZ Coordinating Partner, Addis Ababa 2011 Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of National Strategic Planning on HIV and AIDS
Positively UK	Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011
PozFem (UK)	Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011
Puls HIV (Austria)	WNZ Coordinating Partner 2010

PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
Salamander Trust	Member of Steering Committee WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2010 and 2011 WNZ Partnership, 2012 NSP framework development and review Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011 Integrating strategies to address gender based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs, 2010, 2011, 2012 Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs, 2010, 2011, 2012
SERES (Portugal)	Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011
South Africa Positive Women's Network	WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2014
SWAPOL	WHIPT 2009–2011
SisterLove (Washington, DC)	Community Innovation WNZ Partnership, 2012
Tajik Women's Network	YWLI (Rome 2011) Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs
US Positive Women's Network	WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2011 and 2012
Voices of Positive Women (Toronto, Canada)	WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2006
WAPN+	Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011
WECARE+	WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2010, 2011 Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011 Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk
Zimbabwe Network of Women Living with HIV	Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of National Strategic Planning on HIV and AIDS

PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
Networks and organizations of other inadequately served populations, including women who use/inject drugs; sex workers; lesbian, bisexual or transgender women; and grassroots women, including caregivers	
Caregivers Action Network	NSP framework development and review
Different Avenues (USA)	Community Innovation WNZ Partnership 2012
European Harm Reduction Network	Community Innovation
GALZ (Zimbabwe)	Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of National Strategic Planning on HIV and AIDS
Grassroots Women Trust	Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011 Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of National Strategic Planning on HIV and AIDS
GROOTS Kenya	Community Innovation Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011 WNZ Partnership, 2012
Harm Reduction International	WNZ Participation 2012
Huairou Commission	Community Innovation Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011 WNZ partnership 2010, 2012
ILGA	WNZ partnership, 2010, 2012
INPUD	Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011
Network of Sex Worker Projects	Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk
SANAC LBT sector (South Africa)	Community Innovation Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of National Strategic Planning on HIV and AIDS
SWEAT (South Africa)	NSP framework development and review
TAMPEP	Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs

PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
Other key partners	
AIDS Legal Network (South Africa)	Member of ATHENA Steering Committee WNZ partnership 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012 <i>Mujeres Adelante</i> newsletter 10 Reasons Why Criminalization Harms Women Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011 Documenting and advocacy on forced sterilization among women living with HIV NSP framework development and review
AVAC	WHIPT Project Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk WNZ Partnership 2010, 2012
Balance: Promocion para el desarrollo y juventud (Mexico)	Member of ATHENA Steering Committee WNZ Coordinating Partner, 2008 WNZ Partnership 2006, 2010, 2012 Community Innovation Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011 Virtual Consultation on Hormonal Contraceptive Use and HIV Risk
Gender Equality and HIV Prevention Programme, HEARD, University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa)	NSP framework development and review Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of National Strategic Planning on HIV and AIDS
Global Coalition on Women and AIDS	YWLI WNZ partnership 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011
Ipas	WNZ Partnership 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of National Strategic Planning on HIV and AIDS Community Innovation

PARTNER	AREA OF WORK
Sonke Gender Justice (South Africa)	NSP framework development and review Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs
STOP AIDS NOW!	WNZ Partnership 2008, 2010, 2012 NSP framework development and review Documenting and advocacy on forced sterilization among women living with HIV
UNAIDS	Community Innovation WNZ Partnership 2011, 2012 Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011
UNDP	Supported the development of a 2009 'best practice' model of community advocacy to document and address the coerced sterilization of women living with HIV in Namibia with the Namibia Women's Health Network Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs WNZ partnership 2008, 2010, 2012
UNFPA	Integrating strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality in NSPs WNZ Partnership 2008 Mapping of the HIV Response for Women, Girls and Gender Equality
UN Women	Advancing Women's Leadership and Participation in the AIDS Response, 2007–2010 Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011 WNZ Partnership 2002–2012
World YWCA	WNZ Partnership, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012 Virtual Consultation on Women and Girls towards the High Level Meeting on HIV, 2011 NSP framework development and review



Steering Committee and team

ATHENA's Steering Committee features diversity in professional and regional background, perspectives and experiences of the HIV epidemic, as well as technical know-how. Several members also represent networks of women living with HIV, and other key affected populations. Fifty percent of ATHENA's Steering Committee is comprised of women living with HIV. Current Steering Committee members are:

E. Tyler Crone (**Coordinating Director**, USA)

Louise Binder (Canada)

Dr Johanna Kehler (South Africa)

Shari Margolese (Canada)

Dr Lydia Mungherera (Uganda)

Lauren Suchman (USA)

Dr Ida Susser (USA)

Eugenia López Uribe (Mexico)

Dr Alice Welbourn (UK)

Rachel Yassky (USA)

SELECT STEERING COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES

E. Tyler Crone

A human rights lawyer by training, Tyler co-founded and directs ATHENA. Tyler has been working at the intersection of gender, human rights, HIV, and sexual and reproductive health and rights since supporting the US State Department preparations for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Since 2001, Tyler has worked extensively with civil society partners and UN family members to strengthen women's meaningful participation in the AIDS response, particularly by women living with HIV.

Tyler completed a NIMH Post-Doctoral Fellowship through the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS at the Yale University School of Medicine where her research focused on rapid law and policy analyses in India, women's leadership in the HIV response, and the role of intellectual property in access to essential medicines. Tyler has led numerous HIV, law and human rights initiatives, as a Visiting Lecturer and a Schell Human Rights Fellow at Yale Law School, and as a research scientist at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Brown University, received her MA in Population and Family Health

from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, and her law degree from Yale Law School with a focus on human rights and international law.

Louise Binder

Louise is a lawyer diagnosed with HIV in 1994 and a national and global leader working for human rights and treatment issues for women. After diagnosis her health worsened and she stopped working, but never gave up hope that treatments would be discovered before she died. Fortunately, in 1996 the advent of antiretroviral therapy turned her hope into reality and she has been generally healthy since starting medication. Louise dedicated her life to helping people living with HIV, co-infected and living with other diseases and disabilities. She has chaired the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation and Voices of Positive Women for many years. She co-founded the Canadian Treatment Action Council (CTAC) and chaired it for 15 years while it led successful campaigns to make treatments available to people with HIV and other related diseases. She co-founded the Blueprint for Action for Women and Girls and HIV/AIDS, a Canadian network that developed a manifesto of women and HIV issues and develops a report on government progress-to-date in meeting these goals every two years. Louise is on the International Steering Committee of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW) and is one of two North American representatives for ICW. Louise has been awarded with the Order of Ontario, the Queen's Jubilee Award twice, an honorary Doctorate of Laws from her alma mater, Queen's University, the Leadership Award from the Canadian AIDS Society, the Ontario AIDS Network Leadership Award and the City of Toronto Constance E. Hamilton, Metropolitan Church of Toronto Hero's Award.

Johanna Kehler

Johanna is a researcher and rights advocate and has worked on issues of human rights, gender and HIV for over 20 years. She received her PhD in Cultural Anthropology at Humboldt University, Germany, in 1992, based on research she conducted in rural areas of South Africa, the country she re-located to.

Johanna has worked for various human rights organizations, and since 2004 has been the director of the AIDS Legal Network (ALN). Johanna has served in various national structures, including the Human and Legal Rights Technical Task Team of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), and is currently the Chairperson of the Technical Expert Group of the SANAC Women's Sector.

She has a strong background in policy analysis and rights advocacy, and has worked on various projects highlighting gendered barriers to accessing rights and available resources; developed resource and training manuals on human rights and HIV; conducted research on stigma, gender violence and HIV; and written extensively on issues of human rights, gender, gender-based violence and HIV, exploring especially women's realities, risks and needs, based on and in the context of HIV.

Focusing primarily on the impact of legislative and policy provisions on women's risks and vulnerabilities to HIV exposure, transmission and related violence and rights abuses, Johanna has also been actively involved in research and advocacy activities at a national, regional and global level, including in the context of legislative trends towards criminalization of HIV exposure and transmission, provider-initiated HIV testing during pregnancy, coercive sterilization of women living with HIV in Namibia and South Africa, and prevention of vertical transmission of HIV.

Shari Margolese

Shari has been an active voice for people living with HIV since her diagnosis in 1993. As a mother, her advocacy and education efforts have often focused on the needs of women and families living with HIV. Shari has served as the National Women's Representative of the Canadian Treatment Action Council (CTAC) and as a volunteer with Voices of Positive Women, where she founded a ground breaking support group for HIV positive mothers in 1994. Currently, Shari is a steering committee member of Blueprint for Action Canada and ATHENA. Shari holds an appointment on the CIHR HIV/AIDS Research Advisory Committee (CHARAC) and she is a leading advocate for the meaningful involvement of people living with HIV in the research process. Shari is a freelance writer, public speaker, and community consultant with expertise in knowledge translation and community-based research. Shari has been awarded the Golden Jubilee Medal of Queen Elizabeth II and other honors for her contribution and dedication to the HIV community.

Lydia Mungherera

Lydia Mungherera is a medical doctor living positively with HIV. She has been a peer educator since 1998, and a treatment, gender, and human rights activist for HIV positive women. Her passion is the sexual and reproductive health and rights of mothers living with HIV. Lydia is a co-founder of ATHENA and more recently, a co-founder of the Pan African Coalition of Women Living with HIV/AIDS. Lydia founded the Mama's Club Uganda in 2004, which won the Red Ribbon award in 2008, to address the psycho-social needs and reproductive health rights of rural women living with HIV who are mothers. She has sat on numerous boards, and is a former global co-chair of the Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS.

Lydia has represented Africa as a member of the NGO Delegation of UNAIDS PCB, and was a member of the technical working groups that developed the UNAIDS Agenda for Women, Girls, Gender Equality, and HIV. Lydia is a current member of the National Maternal Child Health Cluster and Uganda's PMTCT National Advisory Committee and more recently, the National Task Force of the Option B+ implementation in Uganda. Lydia sits on the Steering Committee of the Africa MenEngage Alliance, and in partnership with Sonke Gender Justice has founded peer father groups to curb gender-based violence amongst couples while promoting a family-based approach to PMTCT.

Lauren Suchman

Lauren has been working with ATHENA in various capacities since 2005. Her background is in gender, reproductive health, and HIV and AIDS. She has worked with the HIV/AIDS Division of the Trang Provincial Department of Public Health (Trang Thailand), the Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group (Bangkok, Thailand), Health Counterparts Consulting (Bangkok, Thailand), and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation (California, USA). To support her work in Thailand, she received a Richter Summer Fellowship from Yale University in 2004 and the Cohen Public Service Fellowship from Yale University in 2005. In 2010, Lauren presented a poster entitled The Women's Agenda and HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe at the International AIDS Conference, Vienna, with Ida Susser. She received the Dorothy Keur Memorial Fund Student Research and Training Grant from Hunter College to support this work. She currently works as the project coordinator for the Social Position and Family Formation (SPAFF) Project at the CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College.

Lauren has her MA in Population and Reproductive Health Research from Mahidol University, Salaya, Thailand (2007), and she is currently pursuing a PhD in cultural anthropology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Ida Susser

Ida is a professor of anthropology at the Graduate Center, City University of New York and Hunter College, and adjunct professor of Sociomedical Sciences at the HIV Center, Columbia University. She has conducted ethnographic research with respect to urban social movements in the USA and challenges for women in the AIDS epidemic in New York City, Puerto Rico, and Southern Africa.

Ida's most recent books are: *AIDS, Sex and Culture: Global Politics and Survival in Southern Africa* (Blackwell 2009); *Rethinking America* (Paradigm Press 2009; co-edited with Jeff Maskovsky); and the forthcoming *Norman Street Revisited: Claiming a Right to New York City* (Oxford). Ida received an award for Distinguished Achievement in the Critical Study of North America from the Society for the Anthropology of North America (2002). She was also founding President of the Society for the Anthropology of North America (1993-6) and President of the American Ethnological Society (2005-7).

Ida was co-chair of the Social Science Track for the 2008 Mexico City International AIDS Society Conference and she is currently co-chair of the AAA Commission of World Anthropologies.

Eugenia Lopez Uribe

Eugenia has 15 years experience in the area of young people and women's sexual and reproductive education, health, and rights. She has worked with

UNFPA, Partners in Population and Development, The Japanese Organization of International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP), Programa IMSS-Oportunidades (Ministry of Health), the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM), The Population Council, Ipas México, and the Simone de Beauvoir Leadership Institute. Eugenia is also one of the founding members of DECIDIR, a voluntary group of young activists working for abortion as part of sexual rights and citizenship. In these different positions she has developed educational materials and coordinated national training strategies as well as international meetings for a wide range of stakeholders.

In 2007, Eugenia was one of the Mexican women who participated in the creation of the Alliance for Gender Justice at AIDS 2008, which sought to ensure the full participation of women, especially women with HIV, during the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City. Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y Juventud, the organization she is the Executive Coordinator of, was the local hub for organizing the Women's Networking Zone. In addition, Eugenia was the IAS local coordinator for the Global Village at AIDS 2008.

Eugenia is also a gay rights advocate and was one of the first women to marry – at a very public ceremony – when Mexico City introduced a civil registry for same sex unions in 2007.

In addition to her role at Balance, Eugenia is currently coordinating The MARIA Abortion Fund for Social Justice, which was created to help Mexican women outside of Mexico City come to the capital for a safe and legal abortion. Eugenia has an MA in Political and Social Studies.

Alice Welbourn

Alice is a writer, trainer, and activist with 30 years' experience in gender, health, and international community development. After being diagnosed HIV-positive in 1992, she wrote *Stepping Stones, a training manual on gender, HIV, communication and relationship skills*, a program originally based in Uganda, but now adapted and used across Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and Eastern Europe and the longest-running and most widely used program of its kind (www.stepsstonesfeedback.org). Stepping Stones addresses many different aspects of our lives, including gender norms, inter-generational relationships, reducing gender-based violence, psycho-social, sexual, economic, political and legal issues as causes and consequences of HIV.

Alice is a member of the UNESCO Global Advisory Group for sex, relationships and HIV education, and a former member of the Steering Committee of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA). She co-founded and chairs Sophia Forum, the UK chapter of GCWA (www.sophiaforum.net) and is the former International Chair of ICW. Alice regularly advises UNAIDS and WHO on various

issues related to gender and HIV and is a guest editor for Open Democracy (www.opendemocracy.net). She is also founder and Director of the Salamander Trust (www.salamandertrust.net). In July 2007, she was honoured with a Women Leading Change award by the World YWCA for innovative leadership in the response to HIV. Alice has her PhD from Cambridge University and is an Honorary Fellow of the Peninsula University School of Medicine and Dentistry, UK.

Rachel Yassky

Rachel is a lawyer and non-profit management specialist with over 20 years of experience in social justice program development, strategic planning and implementation. Her substantive focus has revolved around gender, health and human rights and questions of equity, with a particular emphasis on HIV and reproductive health. Rachel managed an HIV treatment initiative, a partnership between teaching hospitals in New York and Nigeria, and has provided technical assistance to agencies such as Amnesty International USA, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, Global Campaign for Microbicides, and Human Rights Watch. Technical practice areas include strategic planning, agenda-setting and policy formulation, analytical research and writing, organizational partnership-building, and grant writing. Rachel is co-founder of ATHENA and serves as its Finance Chair, and is also Strategic Advisor to Hope North, a Ugandan youth development NGO. Rachel received both her JD and MBA from Yale University.



2012 ATHENA TEAM MEMBERS

ATHENA operates with a virtual team so as to ensure our global reach and our ability to function as leanly as possible without the financial and administrative burden of office space and other costs associated with a physical organization. Moreover, it is a political choice for all of our team members to be deeply rooted in our local communities and for us to be able to function and deliver high impact and high calibre work in the context of our lives where we wear 'many hats'.

Our core team, funded only on a project basis at present, includes:

Tyler Crone, USA: a human rights lawyer and public health researcher with expertise in gender and HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights, providing overall management, guidance, and strategic direction.

Nono Eland, South Africa: current Chairwoman of the SANAC Women's Sector and HIV prevention and treatment expert, co-facilitating our national strategic planning work and training on women, girls and gender equality in Southern Africa.

Lauren Fok, South Africa: women's rights advocate who runs meeting logistics.

Ebony Johnson, USA: a sexual and reproductive health and rights champion and expert in HIV research, strengthening our alliances with networks of women living with HIV and leading our work with young women living with HIV.

Steve Letsike, South Africa: current Civil Society Forum Chair of SANAC and gender-based violence policy expert, leading our national strategic planning work and training on women, girls and gender equality in Southern Africa.

Luisa Orza, UK: an expert in participatory monitoring and evaluation and a writer in her own life, who co-chairs the Gender Working Group, and is a trustee, of the UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development, providing leadership and substance to ATHENA's many streams of work.

Zhenya Maron, Ukraine: member of We-CARE+ who leads all of our Russian translation and assists in our building bridges to Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Helena Nagombe, Namibia: youth HIV advocate and women's rights champion, providing leadership and peer mentorship to the Young Women's Leadership Initiative.

Jane Shepherd, UK: graphic designer, who makes our work possible with her vision and ability to deliver on the most impossible of timelines.

Lauren Suchman, USA: doctoral student and research associate for ATHENA.

MariJo Vazquez, Spain: former Chair of ICW and founding Chair of ATHENA whose Spanish and French translation and technical know-how makes our work accessible and our processes more inclusive.

Alice Welbourn, UK: founder of Salamander Trust and Stepping Stones who serves as an advisor to and trainer within most ATHENA projects.

Samantha Willan, South Africa: child rights expert, sexual and reproductive health and rights advisor and Director of the Gender Equality and HIV Prevention program at HEARD – our lead partner on strengthening the HIV policy framework for women, girls, and gender equality.

Rachel Yassky, USA: co-founder of ATHENA, a lawyer and business school graduate by training with gender and development expertise and a specific emphasis on organizational capacity-strengthening. Her knowledge, know-how and financial management has been fundamental to ATHENA's success.



Our 2012 donors and funding partners

ATHENA gratefully acknowledges the on-going partnership and support of:
Gender Equality and HIV Prevention Programme, HEARD, University of KwaZulu-Natal

Sonke Gender Justice

STOP AIDS NOW!

UNAIDS

UNDP

UNFPA

UN Women

and our 2012 Women's Networking Zone funding partners:

AVAC

Community Education Group

Deutsche AIDS Gesellschaft e.V

Georgetown University WIHS Project

Ipas

Open Society Foundations

Salamander Trust

Sonke Gender Justice

STOP AIDS NOW!

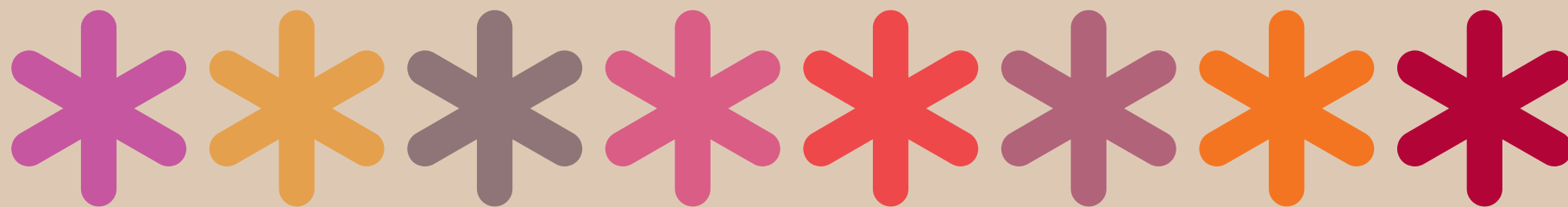
UN Women

USC Institute for Global Health Program on Global Health and Human Rights

The Well Project

Women for Positive Action

World YWCA



ATHENA

ADVANCING **GENDER EQUITY** AND **HUMAN RIGHTS** IN THE **GLOBAL RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS**

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