

WNZNairobi 2007

**THE WOMEN'S NETWORKING ZONE IN THE SOKONI:
A Forum for Women's Rights, Voices, Leadership, and Action**

Building From Toronto to Mexico City

The Women's Networking Zone carries forward the tradition of **Women at Durban**, an independent, parallel forum where community-based women participated in the XIII International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa; **Women at Barcelona** and **Mujeres Adelante** at the XIV International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, Spain where **Women at Barcelona** was an organizing umbrella within the conference and **Mujeres Adelante** was an independent, parallel forum for local community members; **Women at Bangkok** where the Thai Women and AIDS Task Force organized in the Global Village at the XV International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand; and the **WNZToronto** in the Global Village of the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada. We build from this shared history to create processes to increase women's participation and strengthen our leadership; to build platforms for critical gender and human rights issues; to develop tools for organizing; and to convene forums where community members engage global leaders, advocates, researchers, policymakers, and service providers.

The Women's Networking Zone (WNZ), similar to the WNZ convened at the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, was a forum for linking global and local actors; for amplifying independent voices; and for both developing and disseminating cutting-edge strategies to address women's and girls' rights in the context of HIV and AIDS. At the WNZ, we highlighted the leadership of HIV positive women; pioneering initiatives from around the world; community priorities for the global response to HIV and AIDS; and, neglected and contentious rights issues for women and girls. Our framework for the International Women's Summit was leadership – and we had leaders from around the world in the WNZ daily, such as Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, Secretary General of the WYWCA, from Kenya; Bev Greet, incoming Co-Chair of ICW, from Australia; and Claire Thiboutot, Founder of Stella, from Canada.

Highlights from the Women's Networking Zone included a discussion around and demonstration of female-controlled prevention methods; a feminist analysis of male circumcision trials by South African advocates; an introduction to new communication tools and technologies with a focus on community based women in the context of HIV; an exploration of alliance building between sex workers and HIV positive women; and global as well as regional networking. We hope that our discussions will move beyond Nairobi and continue to encourage collaboration among the global community of advocates for gender equity in the response to HIV and AIDS. **Join us as we continue to build alliances, advance women's rights, and move forward to Mexico City!**

WNZNairobi 2007 Partners



Working for Women's
Empowerment and
Gender Equality



Voices of
Positive Women



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