



Am I Lost to Follow up or Bullied Out of Care?

Date: December 3, 2015

Time: 11:00 – 12:00

Venue: Women Networking Zone ICASA 2015

Discussants: ATHENA Network: Luisa Orza; International Community of Women Living with HIV East Africa (ICW EA): Dorothy Namutamba; Pangaea Zimbabwe AIDS Trust: Gwendoline Gumbo; Salamander Trust: Sophie Dilmitis; Namibia Women's Health Network (NWHN): Jennifer Gatsi.

Background: The ATHENA Network, AVAC, and Salamander Trust with UN Women, undertook the first international study of care and treatment access for (and by) women living with HIV. This multi-stage review assessed the global status of access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) for women living with HIV. Currently, little is understood regarding access of women living with HIV to care and treatment across the lifecycle, in particular for adolescent girls and women not currently pregnant. This global review takes place at a critical point in the HIV pandemic where increased focus is placed on strategic investments in health - based on the specific national and regional epidemic contexts and commitments, in parallel with the rollout of new World Health Organization (WHO) treatment guidelines, which promotes early testing and treatment. The new WHO guidelines and UNAIDS' 90-90-90 Fast Track targets emphasize massive scale up of ART. Now more than ever it is imperative for women living with HIV to define the barriers and facilitators to making informed choices about commencing and remaining on ART.

This session: Women's voices - even though essential - are still often not heard. This session will amplify findings from community-based dialogues held in multiple countries, identifying challenges that must be addressed for effective ART programmes and services for women and girls with HIV.

Join us to discuss women's experiences with and views of barriers and facilitators to accessing ART. The session includes our findings, methodology and advocacy priorities from the community-based dialogues.