

# SALAMANDER TRUST

[www.salamandertrust.net](http://www.salamandertrust.net)



**Salamander Trust**  
TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT HIV

## Another full year of activities...

Salamander Trust is delighted to share with you another full year of activities. These include our on-going support of our 900-strong Community of Practice across 100 countries around the world; our new support for the development and launch of WECARe+, the new network of women living with HIV in Europe and C Asia; our joint coordination of the Women's Networking Zone at the International AIDS Conference in Vienna in July 2010; and our work at the 55<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women in New York. We also have more terrific work from our Associates to share.....

## Inside.....

### Stepping Stones

Featuring recent work with our partners in Central America and the Pacific.....

### WECARe+

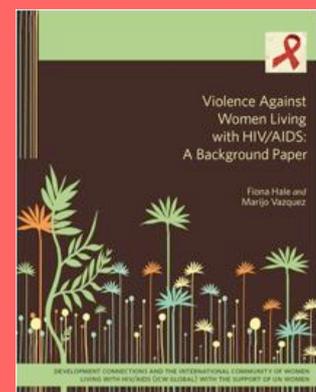
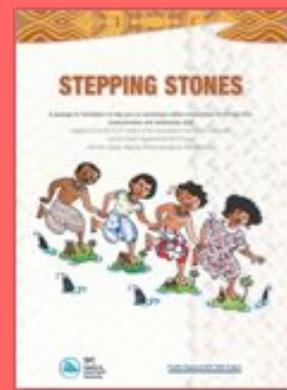
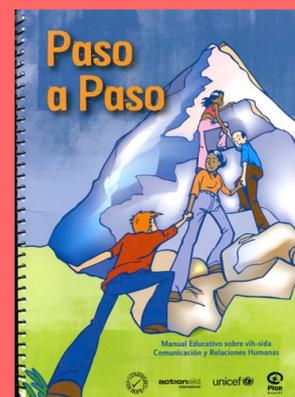
Our support for the development and launch of this new network

### Our Associates

...highlighting the ground breaking work of our Associates

### WNZ Vienna

Our work with the ATHENA Network and others in this packed event



### Introducing WECARe+....

WECARe+ is the new network of women living with HIV in Europe and Central Asia. It was formed at a meeting held in Vienna in October 2009, convened by Salamander Trust together with the ATHENA Network and kindly hosted by AIDSHilfe Wien. This meeting brought together around 30 women living with HIV and our supporters from across the region in our first meeting to plan for the International AIDS Conference, held in July 2010 in Vienna. At this meeting, women from across the region met and shared their experiences of living with HIV. This was the first regional meeting of its kind and many moving stories were shared. (See, for example, <http://hivpolicyspeakup.wordpress.com/2009/11/13/women-in-europe-vienna-2010-and-beyond/> ; <http://www.opendemocracy.net/sophie-dilmitis/only-positive-woman-in-vienna>; <http://www.womeneurope.net//resources/MujeresAdelanteWECARearticle.pdf> ). After this meeting, it was decided to launch a multi-language website to share our work across the region. This website



was created and is hosted by Salamander Trust, with enormous volunteer support – for the translation work especially – from women living with HIV across the region. (See [www.wecareplus.net](http://www.wecareplus.net)). You will see that we have posted a lot more information on this site, referred to later in this annual report. Thank you to Ford Foundation (through IIE) and IPPF for funding the meeting!

### Preparing for the Vienna International AIDS Conference.....

Salamander Trust unexpectedly became the lead European organization to collaborate with the ATHENA Network and several regional HIV organizations to develop the Women's Networking Zone in the free Global Village of International AIDS Conference, held in Vienna in July 2010. AIDS 2010 attracted around 25,000 delegates. This is an immense opportunity to showcase the work of many women's rights organizations around the world who work on the intersections of gender, HIV, sexual and reproductive rights, an end to violence against women and human rights. To



organise such an event is both a tremendous honour and a huge commitment, involving many months of careful discussions, detailed planning, fund-raising, designing, liaison, logistics – and implementation. Salamander Trust was delighted to work on this programme with a core coordinating team led by Tyler Crone, Coordinator of the ATHENA Network, together with Alice Welbourn, Amandine Bollinger and Luisa Orza (Salamander Trust Associate). The Coordinating Team was guided by a Steering Committee of: Wiltrut Stefanek (PULSHIV, Austria), Sabine Lex (AIDS Hilfe, Austria), Harriet Langanke (Gemeinnützige Stiftung Sexualität und Gesundheit, Germany), Andrea von Lieven (IAVI, Germany, and Founder member of WECARe+), Wezi Thamm (Founder member of WECARe+).

**The Women’s Networking Zone in action....**

Since the main AIDS Conference programme is only accessible to those who have paid the huge registration fee or those very few who have been able to win scholarships, the Global Village, where the Women’s Networking Zone (WNZ) is located, provides an opportunity for anyone to walk in off the street to see and learn something of the conference. *“inspiring and informative,” (politician, Austria).*

Over the years, the WNZ has also become a key locus for **cutting-edge debates and interactive presentations** which are largely missing from most of the sessions in the main conference. *“I love the content of the stuff you’re doing and I think the subjects that you’ve covered are phenomenal,” (WNZ visitor, South Africa).*

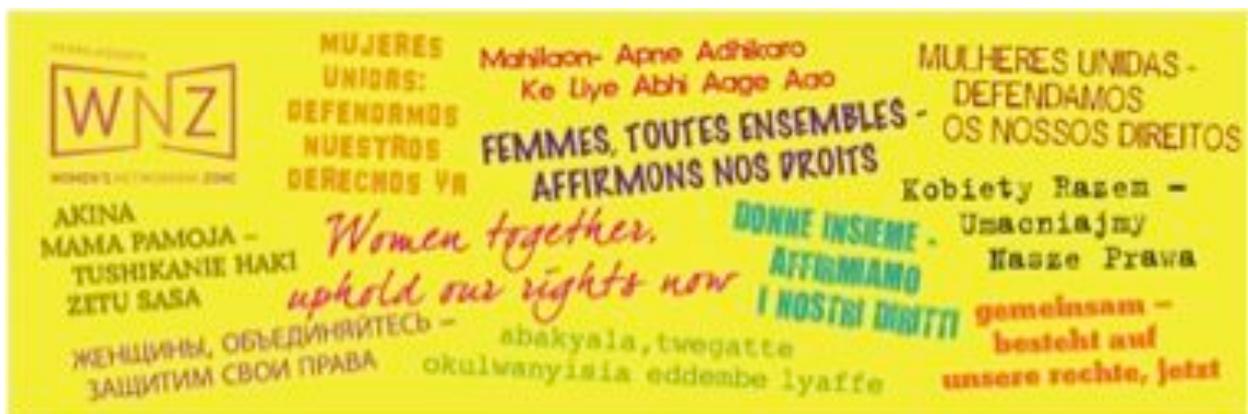
As one organizer of the main conference put it: *“this is where the real conference is happening – what happens inside is often just death by power point.”*

As well as covering some key front line issues facing women around the world, the WNZ also provided a welcome fun and non-threatening space for informal meetings and engagement: *“I was especially struck and moved by the huge issues facing women, including young women, in E Europe and C Asia around drug use,” (WNZ Coordinating Team member, UK); “It’s so colourful and the line with the bras and everything – I think it’s so cool,” (WNZ Visitor, Germany).*



**With special thanks to all our donors:**

- Abbott
- European Commission
- Ford Foundation
- Global Coalition on Women and AIDS
- International AIDS Society
- IPPF
- Stop AIDS Now!
- UNAIDS
- United Nations Development Fund for Women
- United Nations Development Programme
- Women for Positive Action



### The Human Rights March

Salamander also worked with others to contribute to women's involvement in the Human Rights March. Amandine Bollinger liaised with the march organizers to identify two tremendous women living with HIV as speakers at the final rally: Rolake Odetoyinbo and Silvia Petretti. Amandine also organized a samba group to lead the women's section of the march. Around 10,000 people took part in the march throughout the streets of historic central Vienna. The messages of the march were certainly heard loud and clear.



### Documenting the WNZ events

Salamander is very keen to document all that we do, so that it is as widely accessible as possible to others who cannot afford to come to these hugely expensive events, or who have visa problems. Therefore, we posted as many of the presentations from the WNZ as possible and related materials on the [www.wecareplus.net](http://www.wecareplus.net) website on the "Vienna 2010" page.

### Huge thanks to our many co-workers and volunteers.....

The WNZ is a massive collaborative effort. Apart from our many donors and our key collaborators (see page 3), we also thank Aziza Ahmed, Irina Avdeeva, Maria de Bruyn, Nazneen Damji, Sophie Dilmitis, Bernadette Fischler, Susana Fried, Kreena Govender, Fiona Hale, Jantine Jacobi, Maria Jonas, Johanna Kehler, Heidemarie Kremer, Eugenia Lopez, Shari Margolese, Holly Murphy, Angelina Namiba, Anca Nitulescu, Leah Okello, Deena Patel, Silvia Petretti, Kristan Schoultz, Mirjam Schweigkofler, Jane Shepherd, Jacqui Stevenson, Sophie Strachan, Lauren Suchman, Ida Susser, Belinda Tima, Eleanor Townsend, Marijo Vazquez, Zonnie Woods for all their voluntary time and efforts.

# 50.50

inclusive democracy



### The WNZ in openDemocracy...

Alice Welbourn was invited to Guest Edit the 50:50 pages of openDemocracy for the duration of the Vienna Conference. In total, we published 23 articles about the conference before, during and after the event. openDemocracy has a global general readership of about 200,000, so this was a great opportunity for us to bring all our issues to a new audience. On one weekend our articles were placed as the lead material on the whole site, which is a huge accolade. Please visit [http://www.salamandertrust.net/index.php/News/Open\\_Democracy/](http://www.salamandertrust.net/index.php/News/Open_Democracy/) to access the articles.

### Was it all worth it???

We think so! Salamander always considers the value of our work carefully. Therefore our two co-coordinators, Amandine Bollinger of Salamander Trust, and Salamander Trust Associate Luisa Orza, respectively compiled and wrote highly detailed monitoring and evaluation reports of the whole event. Please view these reports for yourself at [www.wecareplus.net](http://www.wecareplus.net) at the top of the "Vienna 2010" page.



### Once the WNZ activities were over....

Amandine Bollinger was able to turn her attention to the Coordination of the Stepping Stones Community of Practice, a network of 900 organisations – mainly locally based – around the world, who are using the Stepping Stones training programme in about 100 countries.

Amandine has compiled a full 15-page report about her activities: see [http://www.salamandertrust.net/resources/SteppingStonesActivityReport2010\\_2011FINAL.pdf](http://www.salamandertrust.net/resources/SteppingStonesActivityReport2010_2011FINAL.pdf)

*Participants at a Stepping Stones workshop in Ecuador:*



*“It used to be difficult for us to manage the household money, because whenever I received money I would spend most of it on alcohol and leave only a little for my wife. But after this training I’ve realised that was destroying me and my family. Thank God – we have now decided to manage all the household money together.”* **Male participant, Rwanda.**

### Some quotes.....

*“Before Stepping Stones, boys and girls in my village didn’t really talk closely. If the boys did talk with us it would be about rude stuff or trying to get us to sleep with them. The six weeks we spent doing Stepping Stones brought the boys and girls together. I think we are more like friends now and they don’t seem to always call rude things out to us. I think Stepping Stones made them see us more as people rather than just girls to have sex with.”*

*“My husband never cared about women’s sicknesses. If I had a stomach ache and he wanted sex he would just have it. Now my husband tries to understand me as a woman. He talks to me more about women’s sickness and if I don’t feel like sex he is more understanding.”*

*“Even though I am married with four children, I didn’t know much about sex and the different names and styles. After Stepping Stones and through talking with other women I have learnt a lot about sex and the different styles. My sex life with my husband is now much better.”*

All these quotes (and more) come from the Fiji 2010 Country Progress Report submitted to UNAIDS:

[http://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/monitoringcountryprogress/2010progressreportsubmittedbycountries/fiji\\_2010\\_country\\_progress\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/monitoringcountryprogress/2010progressreportsubmittedbycountries/fiji_2010_country_progress_report_en.pdf)

Stepping Stones is published by Glen and Alison Williams at Strategies for Hope:  
[www.stratshope.org](http://www.stratshope.org)

### The work of our (other) Associates....

Salamander Trust Associates Fiona Hale and Marijo Vazquez have co-researched and written some key documents this year which have been widely hailed as valuable and ground breaking documents.

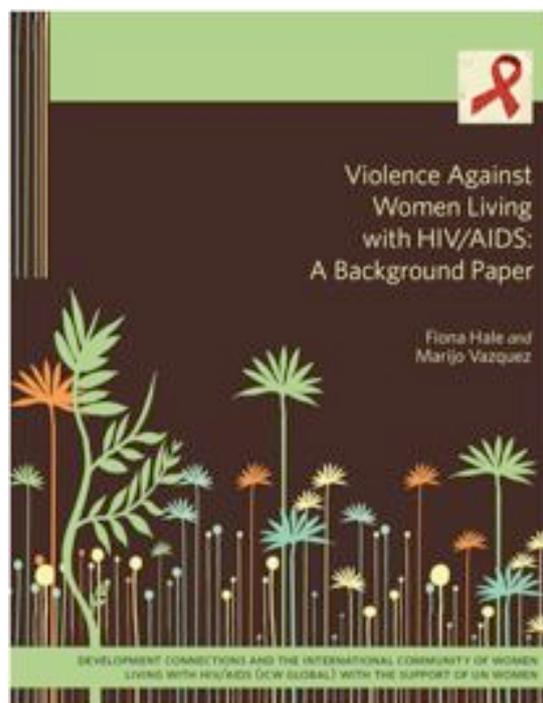
These include: **“Women, stigma and HIV: A review of the published literature 2005-2010.”** This document was commissioned by IPPF, who described it as a: *“really focussed, clear and an engaging read!”*



*Marijo Vazquez*



*Fiona Hale*



This work was followed by research, online presentations and a report on violence against women living with HIV, commissioned by Development Connections, ICW Global and UNWomen.

Olive Edwards, Founding Coordinator of the Jamaican Network of Women living with HIV said:

*“When we first talked about gender-based violence, I thought it was just that women were not comfortable with talking because it would entail admitting to abuse. However when we introduced the research on GBV and the paper by Fiona and MariJo at the start of the e-consultations, women admitted that they had not thought about it. They learn to exist and survive, or have even other women label them as aggressive virago, man haters, wicked, for not accepting the norm. The process for change has started and much work lies ahead.”*

These reports and presentations can all be accessed on the Associates tab of the [www.salamandertrust.net](http://www.salamandertrust.net) website.

### Policy Brief signed by over 60 networks of women living with HIV...

In March 2011 Salamander Trust prepared, coordinated and, with leading women living with HIV from around the world, presented a policy brief signed by 60 networks living with HIV worldwide, to Michel Sidibe, Executive Director of UNAIDS at the 55<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women in New York. You can read about the Policy Brief, which calls for meaningful investment in women living with HIV at:

[http://www.womeneurope.net/index.php/page/Policy\\_Brief\\_2011/en](http://www.womeneurope.net/index.php/page/Policy_Brief_2011/en)



On this webpage you can also listen to video shorts from Anandi Yuvraj, Lydia Mungherera, Violeta Ross, Zhenya Maron and Inviolata Mbwavi, about why this Policy Brief is important to them.

### Satellite Session, 55<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, New York, February 2011

Alice Welbourn moderated a panel session co-hosted with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, entitled "More than Money: Investing in Women and Girls." Speakers included HE Vabah Gayflor, Liberia; Lydia Mungherera, Uganda; Violeta Ross, Bolivia; Ebony Johnson, USA and Roberta Clarke, UNIFEM, Caribbean. The report is on the same webpage.

### OTHER EVENTS.....

#### Stepping Stones Pacific...

Amandine was invited to their regional workshop. See page 5 for more details.

#### UNAIDS/UNFPA/UNWomen

High Level Consultation on the Sexual and Reproductive Rights of Women living with HIV, New York. Alice chaired one session. See

[http://www.womeneurope.net/index.php/page/Policy\\_Brief\\_2011/en](http://www.womeneurope.net/index.php/page/Policy_Brief_2011/en) for details.

### MORE KEY SALAMANDER PEOPLE...



Luisa Orza, Co-Coordinator of the WNZ, Salamander Associate

Amandine Bollinger, Salamander Trust Research Officer, Coordinator of the Stepping Stones Community of Practice



### FINAL WORDS.....

This has been a tough year for funding, for us as it has been for everyone. Nonetheless, we have managed to keep going to produce high quality documents, events and guidance with our training materials. We pride ourselves on maintaining consistently high standards of work according to time and budget and we are extremely grateful to everyone for supporting the work that we have done.

### FUNDING SUMMARY REPORT

(provisional figures, to be finalized shortly)

Balance from previous accounts:  
£5,525

New Income 1 April 2010-31 March 2011: £121,820

Expenditure by 31 March 2011:  
£111,206

Balance 31 March 2011: £16, 139

**A Pie Chart, showing a breakdown of how we have spent our grants, will be added in here shortly, once the accounts have been finalized.**

### OUR DONORS.....

We would like to express our deep thanks to our funders this year:

Abbott  
Anonymous  
CAFOD  
European Commission  
Ford Foundation (through IEE)  
Global Coalition on Women and AIDS  
International AIDS Society  
IPPF  
Stop AIDS Now!  
UNAIDS  
UNDP  
UNIFEM  
Women for Positive Action

### OUR PARTNERS.....

We are extremely grateful to all our partners for all their on-going support and collaboration.

In particular we would like to thank Glen and Alison Williams of Strategies for Hope and Tyler Crone of the ATHENA Network.

Huge thanks also to all our global Stepping Stones partners, from whom it is always such a joy and inspiration to hear.

### Salamander Trust Associates

Fiona Hale, Luisa Orza, Marijo Vazquez and Maria Zuurmond are especially thanked for all their tremendous collaborative work.

### Our website and finance support

Daniel Fletcher of Ginzola and Richard Dodds of Working Finance are to be thanked for keeping our websites and accounts ship-shape.

### Salamander Staff

Amandine Bollinger, Research Officer and Coordinator of the Stepping Stones Community of Practice, has done a tremendous job, overhauling the 3-language Stepping Stones website and developing the support for its users worldwide.



**Salamander Trust**

TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT HIV