



THE HERSTORY OF THE WOMEN'S NETWORKING ZONE

In 2000, at the first International AIDS Conference (IAC) in Durban, a small group of women's rights advocates found that there was no place for women to meet. This led to Women at Durban 2000, Women at Barcelona 2002, and Women at Bangkok 2004. ATHENA grew out this parallel organizing and in 2006, with the Blueprint Coalition, held the first Women's Networking Zone (WENZ) in Toronto.

Women's Networking Zones are unique spaces for women and gender advocates – in all our diversity – to share experiences, showcase work, move the agenda and create new alliances between those otherwise unlikely to meet. We thank all collaborators and partners in this movement; one that places women and girls at the center of the HIV response and has contributed to the gains made to end AIDS. Mujeres adelante!



2006

AIDS2006 Toronto

IT'S TIME!

Launch of first WENZ. The 12 statements of ICW, the Blueprint Coalition's manifesto and the Barcelona Bill of Rights frame the week. Advocacy centers around the interconnectedness of women's rights – from motherhood, research and technology advances to having good sex.

2008

AIDS2008 Mexico City

ALL WOMEN, ALL RIGHTS!

Sharing our experiences and strengthening the global networks of women in the HIV response are high on the agenda, with women across Latin America leading the way. Mujeres Adelante, a daily newsletter on women's rights and HIV at the IAC, is produced in collaboration with ATHENA and AIDS Legal Network of South Africa.

2010

AIDS2010 Vienna

WOMEN'S RIGHTS HERE, RIGHT NOW!

Young women's voices take center stage. Women across the globe mobilize and network. Advocates and researchers establish that an absence of evidence does not equate to evidence of an absence when considering the woman-shaped gap in the research agenda.

2011

IAS Pathogenesis Conference, Rome

WOMEN'S RIGHTS HERE, RIGHT NOW!

Launch of Young Women's Leadership Initiative (YWLI) and ATHENA launches Community Innovation: achieving SRHR for all women through the HIV response. The WENZ builds bridges between scientific and women's rights communities. Zena Stein traces the microbicide journey back to her call in 1990 for HIV prevention methods that women can use. Advocates ask "Where the hell is the gel?"

2011

ICASA 2011 Addis Ababa

WOMEN LEADING THE WAY: STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S ROLES IN THE HIV RESPONSE

A hub for local and pan-African women, and young women through the YWLI. Sessions include young women's leadership; SRHR; the In Women's Words Action Agenda; and launch of In Women's Words Accountability Framework and Dialogue for African Action to translate the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS into reality for women and girls across the continent.

2012

AIDS2012 Washington DC

WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS TURN THE TIDE

Ambitious and active WENZ, bringing into focus how the issues affecting women of color in USA relate to issues facing women and girls globally. Priorities include: criminalization; unanswered questions on hormonal contraception and HIV risk; and reproductive justice for women everywhere.

2013

ICASA 2013 Cape Town

WOMEN AT THE CORE OF THE AFRICAN RESPONSE: NOW MORE THAN EVER

Program includes a strong YWLI collaboration with Link Up and WENZ. Young women living with HIV, and in all our diversity, lead and ask "When will realities on the ground shift for women?"

2014

AIDS2014 Melbourne

STEPPING UP

Session themes reflect the diversity of women's concerns: access to ART and health services; SRHR; discrimination and violence; criminalization and justice.

2016

AIDS2016 Durban

OUR LIVES! OUR TIME! POWERED BY OUR SOLUTIONS!

Women united from across the globe are at the center of an amazing tapestry of traditional leaders from Swaziland to partners from north and south. The WENZ presents a forward-looking agenda of innovative community-building and advocacy for HIV, gender equality and SRHR.

2018

AIDS2018 Amsterdam

STILL ADVANCING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The power, passion and purpose of young women shine through mentorship and shared learning! We celebrate a return to the birthplace of the International Community of Women living with HIV (ICW), created in 1992 when a group of courageous women stormed the stage to demand that women's voices, experiences and agency be recognized, heard and upheld in the global HIV response.



As AIDS2020 goes virtual for the first time in history due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reimagining what inclusive, meaningful participation looks like!