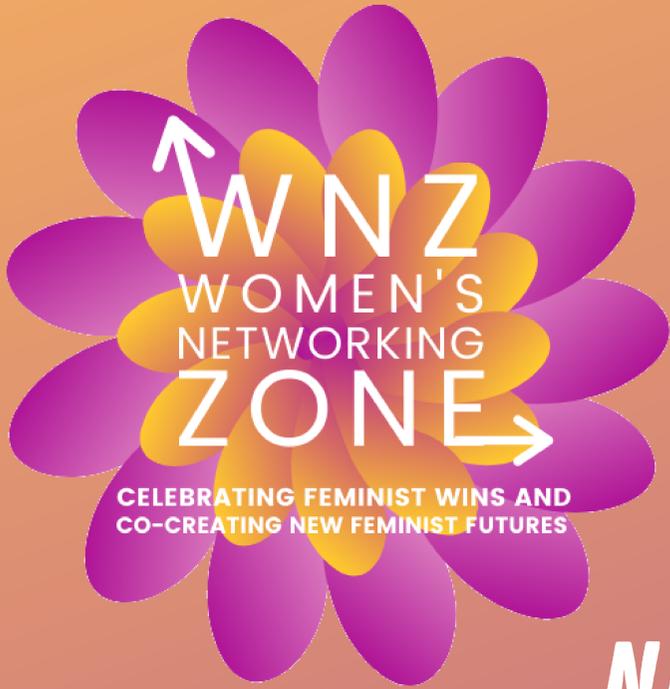




***WOMEN'S  
NETWORKING  
ZONE  
2020***

***BEIJING +25 STATEMENT***



***THIS COLLECTIVE STATEMENT HAS BEEN CO-CREATED BY WOMEN AND GIRL'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, FEMINIST NETWORKS, YOUNG WOMEN LED ORGANIZATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WORKING AT THE NEXUS OF GENDER AND HIV. THE ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSING THE STATEMENT ARE PART OF THE PLANNING TEAM FOR THE WOMEN'S NETWORKING ZONE.***



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Jamaica Community of Positive Women



YOUNG WOMEN EMPOWERMENT  
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INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV NORTH AMERICA



Positive Young Women Voices



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GIRL CHILD EXCEL



**CHANGE**

Sexual & reproductive health & rights for all.

**FRONTLINE AIDS**

**ROBERT CARR FUND** For civil society networks

**ICW** INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV

# WOMEN'S NETWORKING ZONE 2020



## BEIJING +25 STATEMENT

### ***WE RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF 2020 FOR WOMEN AND GIRL'S RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD.***

2020 is a landmark year. It marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, which set out a blueprint for gender equality and women's empowerment, and was one of the first to recognize the impact that the HIV epidemic has on adolescent girls and young women.

It is also the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution on women's peace and security and the 5th anniversary since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals that committed in Goal 5 to the empowerment of women and girls and gender equality. While there has been significant progress in the last 25 years, these historic commitments will remain unachievable unless structural barriers and harmful social norms are addressed.

These structural inequalities mean that many women and girls around the world still do not have the power to decide if, when and with whom to have sex or to negotiate safer sex. They are subjected to harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriages among others. They face sexual and gender-based violence; often have little access to education, health information and services; and face economic and climate injustice; as well as gender discrimination, which intersects with other forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, age, sexuality and other forms of discriminatory practice.

All of this increases the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV. Stigma and discrimination is still intense and widespread. This is despite advances in treatment and prevention, and recent scientific knowledge that U=U and that if those of us with HIV are supported to have an undetectable viral load, we can not pass on HIV. HIV is far from over for women and girls and AIDS2020 is a platform where this reality should be made clear to the world.



# WOMEN'S NETWORKING ZONE 2020

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The current COVID19 pandemic crisis is seeing the rolling back of advances and fuelling a push-back on the human rights of women and girls. With 10 years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we are seeing our sexual and reproductive health and rights contested under the banner of the COVID19 response. In addition, we are seeing funding for gender equality and women's rights decrease despite both epidemics - COVID19 and HIV - having deep-rooted gendered dimensions and impacts. We are seeing increases in domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence against women and girls around the world, increased burden of unpaid care work and loss of livelihoods. Access to our own bodily autonomy, choice over if and when to have an HIV test, access to HIV prevention methods and skills, harm reduction, safe shelter, care and treatment, contraception and safe abortion, and respectful maternal care are far from guaranteed. Women and girls living with HIV, women who use drugs, sex workers, young women and girls, transgender women, girls vulnerable to child and forced marriages, and other marginalised groups of women are still disproportionately affected by violence, abuse, stigma, discrimination and the withholding of rights.

it is important that women's rights and feminist activists continue to amplify the intersections between gender and HIV as the Beijing+25 review process culminates in 2020.

***AS WE EMBARK ON CO-CREATING THE FIRST EVER VIRTUAL WOMEN'S NETWORKING, WE WANT TO REAFFIRM THAT;***

- Women's movements around the world are resilient and will be resisting until the patriarchal system changes and gender equality and women's rights become a reality! Where change has happened, it has been because of the activism of women and the presence and resilience of feminist organising. We will acknowledge and credit the previous work done by feminist activist, movements and networks.



# WOMEN'S NETWORKING ZONE 2020

## BEIJING +25 STATEMENT

- The Women's Networking Zone will hold space for women and girls in their diversity, recognizing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence that women and girls face.
- The women's networking zone will embrace virtual organizing as the new normal, but be bold to highlight the entrenched inequalities, systems of oppression and structural barriers that continue to hold women and girls back, and the crucial need to address the gendered digital divide in an increasingly virtual world.
- We shall strengthen our resolve and commitment to raising our voices and challenging gender inequality. We will be strong advocates for sexual and reproductive rights and health of women living with HIV in all their diversities and through their life span. We recognize the links between HIV and discrimination and violence against women, and will work to raise awareness of these links and address all forms of violence against women and girls living with and affected by HIV.

### ***WE CALL ON ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO:***

End ALL forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including women and girls living with HIV. Commit to the full and meaningful participation of all women in all our diversities including women living with and most affected by HIV, trans women, adolescent girls and young women in decision-making on issues that affect our lives.



# **WOMEN'S NETWORKING ZONE 2020**

## **BEIJING +25 STATEMENT**

### ***WE CALL ON UN AGENCIES, GOVERNMENTS, DONORS, HEALTH PROVIDERS, NGO'S, VISITORS TO THE WNZ, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO:***

#### ***ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS:***

- Address the disproportionate impact of violence against women and girls, especially adolescent girls and young women, women and girls living with HIV, sex workers, transgender women, women who use drugs, and women with disabilities, who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.
- Recognise and value the expertise of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and women and girls who have experienced violence. Acknowledge the importance of our lived experiences to inform evidence-based approaches to address violence against women and girls and HIV.
- Fund programmes to end violence against women and girls which are evidence-based around what works for women and girls.

#### ***FUND OUR MOVEMENTS AND SUPPORT OUR LEADERSHIP:***

- Increase and ensure flexible, unrestricted and core funding for organisations and networks led by and for women, and especially young women, women living with HIV, sex workers, women who use drugs, and LBTQIA2S women. It is unacceptable that according to the OECD, only 0.5% of international aid earmarked for gender equality actually reaches women's rights organisations.
- Invest in a robust and accountable independent women's civil society that can support strong inclusive feminist movements.



# WOMEN'S NETWORKING ZONE 2020

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- Invest resources towards supporting a new generation as it builds a new movement of girl-activists, including girls and young women living with and affected by HIV, girls of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities, girls with disabilities who can demand greater accountability on sexual and reproductive health and rights from decision-makers.
- Champion cross-movement building and learning to maximise synergies between gender-responsive HIV-related advocacy and other movements focused on climate change, technology, and peace and security.

### ***UPHOLD OUR RIGHTS INCLUDING OUR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS:***

- Guarantee bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights, ensuring that women and girls in all their diversity have choice over HIV testing, and the agency to decide if and when to have sex, marry, and have children.
- Ensure equal access to education for girls including the integration of comprehensive sexuality education into school curriculums, providing the opportunity for all children and young people to have equal pathways to opportunities and to have the tools to control their sexual and reproductive choices, engage in discussion on sex, gender, rights, sexuality and sexual orientation taking into consideration evolving capacities. This includes funding and making available age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education for children in and out of school from age 5 in line with UNESCO international guidance.
- Increase access to adolescent and youth-friendly services to meet adolescents' girls and young women's priorities and needs for integrated sexual and reproductive rights and health and HIV services, including by removing age and marital status restrictions for adolescents to access these services.



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- Provide tailored sexual and reproductive rights and health packages that include HIV prevention, treatment and care, gender-based violence referrals,, respectful maternity care and an end to obstetric violence, disrespect and abuse, to reach marginalised women and girls living with or vulnerable to HIV. Implementation of these services should be guided by the WHO Guideline on the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Women living with HIV, and fall within national universal health coverage plans.
- Pursue law reforms to repeal and amend discriminatory laws and policies that criminalize women and girls of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, girls' access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, women and girls living with HIV, sex workers, women and girls who use drugs; and women and girls with disabilities.
- Overturn discriminatory laws that uphold inequality such as property and inheritance rights, to ensure that all women are equal to men in family laws.
- Commit to supporting gender transformative approaches in all programming to address harmful practices relating to our SRHR, including intimate partner violence, HIV-related stigma and discrimination, gendered and age-based power inequalities, female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriages and unions.
- Address economic injustice against women and girls and especially those living with and affected by HIV through better social protection and redistribution measures.

**RECOGNIZE IN WORDS, ACTIONS, FUNDING AND SUPPORT, THAT AS WOMEN AND GIRLS IN OUR DIVERSITY, WE ARE POWERFUL, WE ARE EQUAL, AND WE ARE EXPERTS. WE ARE THE FABRIC THAT BINDS GENERATION EQUALITY AND WE WILL REMAIN COMMITTED UNTIL EVERY WOMAN AND GIRL IS INCLUDED!!!**



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