

At International AIDS Conferences there are **persistent disparities** in the representation of networks of women and trans people living with HIV. We are **underrepresented in scholarships, as speakers and abstract presenters,** and as co/authors of abstracts.

Our **vast expertise** is sidelined within HIV research.

WEPED402

How can the International AIDS Conference value and enhance the expertise, leadership and participation of women and trans people living with HIV as equal partners in research?

Background

The **2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS** commits to community leadership, including supporting community-led monitoring and research.

Women and trans people living with HIV and our networks have vast experience and expertise.

Is this recognised in global agenda setting platforms like the International AIDS Conferences (IAC), which aims to **increase knowledge exchange, advocacy, and community engagement?**

Methods

We collected data on women and trans people living with HIV at AIDS2022 through:

- ❑ Data requests to IAS for numbers of women and trans people living with HIV as invited speakers, abstract presenters and scholarship recipients at AIDS2022.
- ❑ Review of AIDS2022 abstracts to determine how many were co/authored with/by representatives of networks/organisations of women and trans people living with HIV.
- ❑ Analysis of data to assess representation trends.

Results - speakers and scholarships

	Total	Women living with HIV	Trans, non-binary and gender non-conforming people living with HIV	Trans women living with HIV
Invited Speakers	173 (100%)	16 (9%)	2 (1.2%)	1 (0.58%)
Abstract presenters	2540 (100%)	59 (2.4%)	9 (0.37%)	0
Scholarships	1602 (100%)	97 (6%)	27 (1.7%)	9 (0.6%)

Authors

M. Tholanah¹, C. Chung², K. Dunaway³, J. Ouma⁴, S. Strachan⁵, W. Thamm^{6,5}, S. Petretti⁷, R. Mbewe⁸, B. Kasadha⁹, N. Policek¹⁰, L. Kwardem⁸, M. Rattue⁸, F. Murau⁸, T. Otieno¹¹, L. Wanjiku Njenga¹², O. Edwards¹³, S. Shahi¹⁴, M. Vazquez¹⁵, A. Welbourn¹⁶, E. Bell¹⁷, F. Hale¹⁷, The POWER Group

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¹Making Waves, Harare, Zimbabwe, ²Transgender Law Center, Oakland, United States, ³International Community of Women living with HIV (ICW), Buenos Aires, Argentina, ⁴Global Network of Young People living with HIV (Y+), Machakos, Kenya, ⁵The Sophia Forum, London, United Kingdom, ⁶Hillingdon AIDS Response Trust, Hillingdon, United Kingdom, ⁷Positively UK, London, United Kingdom, ⁸4M Mentor Mothers Network, London, United Kingdom, ⁹University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom, ¹⁰European AIDS Treatment Group, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, ¹¹Athena Network, Seattle, United States, ¹²Positive Young Women Voices, Dandora, Kenya, ¹³The Jamaican Community of Women living with HIV (JCW+), Kingston, Jamaica, ¹⁴ICW Asia Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand, ¹⁵Making Waves, Gijon, Spain, ¹⁶Salamander Trust, London, United Kingdom, ¹⁷Making Waves, London, United Kingdom

Results - Abstracts:

- Only 3 of 120 oral abstracts at AIDS2022 were co/authored by organisations of women and trans people living with HIV. All 3 specifically focused on health, wellbeing and lives of women and girls living with HIV, with 2 focused on trans women living with HIV.
- 24 posters were co/authored: these all directly address key issues of women and girls and trans people living with HIV.
- 99% of abstracts at AIDS2022 were authored by academics, medical institutions, governments, international agencies, NGOs, pharmaceutical companies, with no co-authors from organisations of women and trans people living with HIV.
- 9% of oral abstracts (n=11) had community co/authorship that included but was not limited to women and trans people living with HIV

Conclusions

We call upon the International AIDS Society to:

- ensure women and trans people living with HIV in **speaking and leadership roles** at IAC and monitor this.
- promote **community co/authorship in research** (e.g. through abstract and review instructions) to **amplify diversity of expertise** in the global HIV response.

