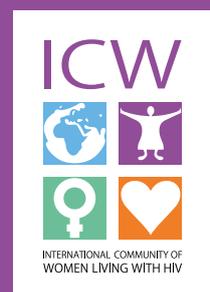




UN 59TH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

NARRATIVE REPORT
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My Womb! My Decision! Reproductive Justice Activism CSW59

International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW)

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Narrative Summary

The 59th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59) marked the 20 year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This year was particularly interesting as it also marks the end of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) that were set in 2000 and were meant to be reached by 2015. With many of the goals only partially met, governments, civil society and other stakeholders have been feverishly discussing what to do next. These discussions are called the Post 2015 Development Agenda, which will result in the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ICW has been active in these discussions at varying levels and highly involved since 2014. Our main concern is that women living with HIV are being left out of the discussion and we need to be included in order to ensure that our rights are included within the SDGs. Despite having MDG 5, which clearly stated a separate goal for HIV, Malaria, Tuberculosis and other communicable diseases, in the SDGs, HIV will likely be included only as a subsidiary target under a larger health goal. While no one is sure what the fate of HIV is in the SDGs, we are highly concerned that women living with HIV are being forgotten.

At CSW59, ICW strategically aligned with the Women's Global Network of Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) and the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+) to ensure that women were registered and able to gain access to the UN grounds. While ICW was not able to fund all the registered participants, the Global and regional offices supported members to search for resources. ICW had over 20 advocates in attendance inclusive of 4 Global Office staff. To ensure participation, members pooled resources to stay in collective housing, cooked community dinners and established other cost effective ways to maximize participation.

ICW created a plan of action in an attempt to spread our message and maximize visibility at CSW59. For this we created t-shirts that read "LOVE POSITIVE WOMEN" on the front and "Keep us on the Agenda" on the back and a set of 3 different 1.5" pins that read "LOVE POSITIVE WOMEN: Keep us on the agenda," "My Body! My Rights!" and "I AM ICW." Collectively we distributed 75 t-shirts and 1000 pins to diverse stakeholders. We wore these proudly at our 4 side events, 10 panel presentations, over 20 unique of stakeholder meetings, and more than 35 sessions, as well as around the streets of NYC during the International Women's Day March. In addition to this we distributed the materials to our partners and country delegates, including the First Lady of Kenya, and shared pictures of people wearing the t-shirts and pins on social media.

As a collective force, ICW was one to be reckoned with. While we still feel like there is work to be done, we were encouraged by the spirit in the air and the commitment of the team.

Highlights of Advocacy Actions and Important Events

ICW had a team of 8 that marched in the **International Women’s Day March** on March 8th. During the march we wore the “LOVE POSITIVE WOMEN” t-shirts, which made us the focus of social media and individual photos.

ICW participated in the **UNAIDS End Review Agenda for Women, Girls, Gender Equality & HIV** during CSW59 on Thursday, March 12th. Together with members of World YWCA, ATHENA, GESTOS and other partners we reviewed the Agenda as a tool and talked about the successes, challenges and dreams for the future. It was noted that participation in the room was low, and we need commitments from our partners to ensure that women and HIV are on the agenda and prioritized moving forward.

The Positive Women in the Ukraine hosted a session at CSW59 titled – **One Step Back? Positive Women Speak About Beijing and Coping with Challenges to Women’s Health in Times of Conflict** on March 12th. In this session they reminded participants of the brutalities of war and highlighted the fact that there are stock outs of ARVs, lack of social supports, and increasing numbers of women and girls contracting HIV in the country. They call on governments and the international community to help support them at this time.

ICW partnered with ATHENA, Link Up, AIDS Alliance, AIDS Legal Network and Access Chapter 2 for the second year in a row to host a session at CSW59 titled **From Criminalization to Agency: African Women’s Voice on HIV and Human Rights**. This dynamic and interactive dialogue featured the voiced of women from Ethiopia, South Africa, Nigeria and other places around the world talking about the Beijing Declaration 20 years later. We called for a stronger united movement where the rights of all women in all our diversity are respected equally. Aminat Alli talked specifically about some of the work that ICW West Africa has been doing in Nigeria with WGNRR to link the SRHR and HIV movements.

ICW partnered with Visual AIDS and the Jane Mitchell Foundation to host a WERRRSHOP titled **My Body! My Rights! Intergenerational Banner Making Workshop**. This workshop had 40 participants that jointly collaborated to create banners with messages that spoke to the power of women and reproductive justice. These powerful banners were then carried to other events through out the week and will live in the ICW office for future events. Jointly 5 banner pieces were created with messaging that spoke to the collective power of women, reproductive justice, and reminders that all communities are impacted by HIV.



March 13, 2015
*My Body! My Decision! Intergenerational
Banner Making Workshop CSW59*

My Womb! My Decision! Reproductive Justice and Activism was a collaborative public event at Cooper Union with the Global Action for Trans* Equality (GATE). In this session a panel of Justus Einfeld (GATE), Marama Pala (ICW/Global Indigenous Working Group on HIV), Teresia Njoki Otieno (ICW), Karen Stamm, Co-founder of Committee to End Sterilization Abuse (CESA) and moderated by Jessica Whitbread (ICW) engaged in a community dialogue to discuss cross movement experiences with reproductive justice with audience members [<https://youtu.be/wSLbLKmmaso>].

Teresia Njoki Otieno spoke on the **High Level Session: Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls**. The panel highlighted ways in which particular groups of women are tackling multiple forms of discrimination and working toward change through advocacy, awareness raising, and interventions. Teresia spoke to a packed room that was also attended by many government representatives.

ICW hosted a session in the UN Building that further drove our agenda of sexual and reproductive health and rights for women living with HIV. This session titled **Forced and Coerced Sterilization: A global violation of the human rights of marginalized women and transgender people** featured panel moderator: Malayah Harper, Chief, Gender Equality and Diversity Division, UNAIDS with panelists included: Teresia Njoki Otieno, ICW, Justus Einfeld, GATE, Andrea Parra, Action Program for Equality and Social Inclusion (PAIIS), Camila Gianella, Centre on Law & Social Transformation, and Lydia Guterman, past manager of the Campaign to Stop Torture in Healthcare. Advocates working on issues of forced and coerced sterilization and forced contraception have long recognized a need to break down the silos of groups working to end this practice and build solidarity among populations of women experiencing forced and coerced sterilization with the goal of sharing strategies and sparking collaborative efforts. There is an urgent need to gather and address the lack of progress on ending this practice in the light of global awareness of the problem impacting diverse communities of women and to scale-up efforts to address this critical human rights violation. [<http://bit.ly/1GtGrq3>]

The **UNAIDS Strategy Consultation Meeting** was attended by Jessica Whitbread and L'Orangelis Thomas (CYWAG). ICW was vocal about the need for women and girls to be at the forefront of the HIV response and UNAIDS needs to take a bold stance on human rights and create a clear plan of action with allocated resources.

UNAIDS hosted a **Breakfast Session: Fast-tracking the end of AIDS among Women and Girls. "Stock take on where we are and the way forward on HIV, SRHR and the Means of Implementation"** where Marama Pala spoke about the leadership of women living with HIV and the importance of women and HIV being included in the SDGs.

Global Fund Consultation was attended by Marama Pala, Olena Stryzak, Lillian Mworeko, and Lydia Mungherera, who represented three different Global Fund regions, inclusive of the Global voice through the ICW International Steering Committee Members. The five strategic goals were briefly discussed with emphasis on the indicators and the outcomes that were analysed and feedback was given. Well attended group with two community delegates to GFTAM, ICWSA, Athena, GF Secretariat, UNWomen, and others.

ICW Participation Table

Below is a chart of the events, meetings and other actions that ICW participated in:

Events

Date	Number of ICW attendees	Notes
IWHC Advocacy in Practice Training		
March 6-7	1	This was a 2 day intensive training to navigate CSW and the politics of the UN using feminist frameworks. (See appendix I)
PGA High Level Debate on Gender Equality		
March 7	1	ICW did not have physical representation but Rebecca Matheson was on the Steering Committee.
March for International Women's Day		
March 8	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICW marched in our t-shirts. • Were interviewed for sound bites by 5 people and in many photos and tweets.
Opening Session with Ban Ki Moon/ Formal intergovernmental session		
March 9	3	Discussion to open the 59th CSW.
African Regional Caucus		
March 9	2	Basic training on CSW and political processes from NGOCSW, breakout groups (by region) on priority areas.
Adolescent Girls: The Promise of Beijing		
March 9	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues relating to adolescents, especially child marriage. • Lack of SRHR services, education. • One of the panelists linked HIV and child marriage. • Panelist shared experience of a child that was married early and started mentoring program.
Women's Empowerment and Financial Inclusion hosted by the Kenyan Mission		
March 10	1	Economic empowerment of women.
Realizing Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment beyond the Post 2015 Development Agenda		
March 10	2	Looking at strategies to enhance gender targets in the SDGs.

Date	Number of ICW attendees	Notes
Women's Empowerment Programme		
March 10	3	Session was led by the WEP and had Hilary Clinton speaking about the importance of gender equality. ICW attempted to gain access to the full day multi stakeholder meeting the following day but it was not possible.
High-Level Taskforce for ICPD: Are we really leaving nobody behind? Equality and Sexual and Reproductive Rights for All		
March 10	3	Talked about violence, abuse, child marriage. Linking child marriage to unsafe abortion and unsafe pregnancy, stigma, child sexual abuse, and HIV, violence, assault.
Freedom of Religion and Belief and Human Rights		
March 11	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking religion and belief and human rights together • People talked about how is religion especially Islam does not say women should be not be empowered economically • E.g. how the Prophet Muhammed first wife was a trader and last wife was in a political position • Speaker talked about CEDAW general recommendations.
Family Peace and Security – UN Federation of Peace from Morocco		
March 11	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of Women in Peace and in the peace process and the absence of women in the vision making. • Conflict between family and professional life “tax” companies that make war.
Positive Women Speak Out about Beijing and Coping with the Challenges to Women's Health in Times of Conflict		
March 11	12	Led by the Ukrainian Women's Network there was a moving discussion on internal displacement, lack of resources, and treatment gaps.
UNAIDS End Review Consultation: Agenda for Women and Girls		
March 12	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks from Sheila Tlou (Director, UNAIDS Eastern and Southern Africa) and Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda (Secretary-General, World YWCA). • Collectively went through 3 groups (1. generating and using evidence; 2. translating political commitments into action; and 3. creating an enabling environment) and discussed successes/opportunities, challenges/gaps, ways forward (post-2015) and recommendations.
From Criminalization to Agency: African Women and Human Rights		
March 12	6	Side event co-hosted by ICW, Athena, Sonke Justice, AIDS Legal. Aminat Alli spoke and talked about the SAN project in Nigeria, issues related to discrimination and violence, and what she hopes to see in 20 years. (See appendix II)

Date	Number of ICW attendees	Notes
Kenyan Mission Briefing		
March 12	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sharing session about the First Lady Side Event and Kenyan. • Follow up on the Post 2015 discussion.
Women Peace and Security Agenda – Ukraine side event		
March 12	10	A discussion of how conflict affected lives of families in Ukraine during the recent war. A personal life story of a woman going through difficult times with her children as her husband was detained by war loads.
African Views parallel session on AVAWA (Anti Violence Against Women’s Act)		
March 13	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of African Views (AV) international representatives. • Official launch of Anti Violence Against Women’s Act. • Introduction of Anti Violence Against Women’s Association. • Discussion on key findings of existing laws on violence against women in African Countries.
UNAIDS Breakfast: Fast-tracking the end of AIDS among Women and Girls. “Stock take on where we are and the way forward on HIV, SRHR and the Means of Implementation”		
March 13	1	The main objective of this breakfast meeting was to provide an opportunity for participants from civil society to discuss key aspects of fast tracking a gender responsive HIV and SRHR response and discuss risks and opportunities in terms of the Means of Implementation to support the SDG goals. (See Appendix III)
Kenya Mission to UN: Beyond Zero Campaign on Maternal and Newborn Health, hosted by HE Margaret Kenyatta, First Lady of Kenya		
March 13	3	Sharing of the beyond zero campaign strategy by the First lady of Kenya on ensuring no mothers die when giving birth and equipping rural communities with mobile MCH clinics and delivery services.
My Body! My Decision! Intergenerational Banner Making Workshop		
March 13	14	ICW co-hosted banner making session with Visual AIDS and the Jane Mitchell Foundation.
Kenya delegation reception		
March 13	2	Networking dinner organizer for and by the Kenya delegation
Indigenous Women’s Side Event		
March 13	1	A gathering of Indigenous women at CSW. Attended by Marama Pala.
Intergenerational Activism Side Event		
March 13	1	L’Orangelis Thomas spoke at the ATHENA led event on women in the HIV activism from a young person’s stance.

Date	Number of ICW attendees	Notes
Consultation on Gender Equality and the Global Fund Strategy		
March 14	3	The five strategic goals were briefly discussed with emphasis on the indicators and the outcomes that were analysed and feedback was given. Well attended event with 2 community delegates to GFTAM, ICWSA, Athena, GF Secretariat, UNWomen, and others.
"Tortured Femininity" Film screening and reception about the Conflict in the Ukraine		
March 14	6	Film screening and discussion with Ukrainian Positive Women's Network
My Womb! My Decision! Reproductive Justice and Activism		
March 16	10	ICW co-hosted in partnership with GATE. This session related the local NYC experience to the global one. It was hosted in Cooper Union and was open to the public.
Changing Social Norms to Achieve Gender-Equality Expectations and Opportunities"		
March 16	1	Discussing gender equality issues as pertaining to reproductive justice, coerced and force sterilization for cisgender women living with HIV and trans-men and women, stigma-based discrimination on the behalf of healthcare providers, including general practitioners, OB-GYN and more.
Gender based Violence – Defense forces of Ireland/ Irish Consortium		
March 16		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women peace and security Agenda discussion. Decision making of abused women is severely compromised. • Gender based violence limits womens' ability. Discussion about family friendly policies to be enacted. • Gender training for troops. • Shared context from DRC Congo – girl ambassador for peace project. • Show case of a video about Somali women prosecutors.
AVAC 'Cure' Research Training		
March 17	6	Discussion and skills building about the 'cure' and how it impacts women living with HIV. Also discussed was the importance of psychosocial support vs cure finding, linking advocacy work to action and challenges to getting cure. Follow up is a Advocacy Workshop for all ICW members April 8th.
Realizing the Rights of Marginalized and Disadvantaged Women and Girls		
March 18	6	Teresia Njoki Otieno spoke about reproductive justice. (See Appendix IV)
Forced and Coerced Sterilization		
March 18	6	ICW co-hosted event on Forced and coerced sterilization. Over 200 participants attended.

Date	Number of ICW attendees	Notes
UNAIDS NYO Strategy Consultation		
March 18	2	Stakeholders consultation by UNAIDS for their upcoming Strategic Plan. ICW led the discussion on gender and meaningful engagement of all self-identifying women living with HIV.
Harm Reduction Side Event		
March 19		Indigenous Women – discussion on the rising infection via IDU rates with Indigenous women globally. Talking about possible interventions for rural and complicated cultural settings. Have more work to do with Allan to provide more context.

Partners Meetings

Date	Number of ICW attendees	Notes
WGNRR		
March 9	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on alternatives to the Youth Forum. • Review of Budget.
Kolkata Rista (India Trans Network) www.kolkatarista.org		
March 10	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on movement building and engagement of trans women in national networks of WLHIV. • Discussion of joint event at ICAAP.
GATE		
March 9	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about future collaborations re: FSP. • Discussion about joint sessions on reproductive justice and sharing resources between networks.
ICW Team Meeting		
March 10	8	Review of the week and strategy meeting.
Visual AIDS		
March 10	2	Review of Love Positive Women and future partnership collaborations.
Post 2015 Women's Coalition General Meeting		
March 11	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision Statement (still opportunity to sign on). • Small group work: identified priority areas/opportunities for engagement in upcoming agenda.
Meeting with Athena and other stakeholders at Ford Foundation on WNZ		
March 13	2	Meeting was to discuss joint work at IAS and IAC in Durban. How to collectively move forward with the Women's Networking Zone.
AVAC		
March 11	3	Follow up meeting to discuss joint projects and increasing women's involvement in setting the research agenda.

Date	Number of ICW attendees	Notes
Ford Foundation		
March 13	2	Updates on the organizational growth and internal structures created, relations with the regional chapters and strategic intents moving forward.
Women's Major Group General Meeting		
March 14	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gauged group engagement in post-2015. Discussions on implementation, financing for development, climate change, indicators. Mapping of country positions.
ICW Team meeting		
March 15	5	Review of the week and strategy meeting.
ICW Team meeting		
March 16	7	Review of the week and strategy meeting.
NGO Board		
March 18	2	Review of ECOSOC status
UN Women meeting		
March 18	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates on ICW global office transition. Engagement of ICW on the country access to treatment reviews. Post 2015 highlights. Global office to submit proposal to UN women to support specific activities.
ICW Team meeting		
March 18	10	Review of the week and strategy meeting.
Human Rights lawyer meeting and DOJ		
March 20	1	Pacific Islands – worked with a previous fellow to the Pacific Island AIDS Foundation around the cultural and important environment and climate change issues in the Pacific and the impact on people living with HIV.
Ford Foundation		
March 20	2	Discussion of the grant reporting requirements due by the 15th of April 2015.
Meeting with SWOT and the HIV Law & Policy		
March 20	1	Discussion about a global criminalization campaign inclusive of sex worker decriminalization.

Media

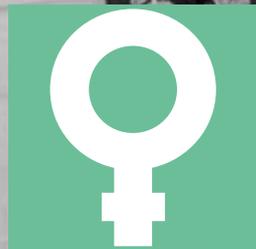
Number	Notes
Tweets	
Unknown	ICW had active multiple tweeting at each of the attended sessions.
Facebook Posts	
12	
Statements	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint statement with GNP+ (See Appendix V). • Joint Statement with WGNRR (See Appendix VI). • International Women’s Day Statement/Poster (See Appendix VII). • Beijing +20 Statement for CSW (See Appendix VIII).
Sign Ons	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICASO statement – ICW co-drafted this. • Youth Statement.

Nothing for Us,
Without Us!

I am



ICW



Appendix I: From Criminalization to Agency: African Women's Voices on HIV and Human Rights

Speaking points from Aminat Alli-Agboola's speech

The relationship between HIV/AIDS and human rights is highlighted in three areas – Increased vulnerability; Discrimination and stigma and impedes an effective response.

“I know of a woman living with HIV who went to [an] antenatal [clinic and] at the point of delivery, [the doctor] went through the files and when he saw her file he said ‘This one, am not touching her.’ She was on the stretcher already and in labor. He said ‘It’s a positive case... I didn’t leave my house to come and do a positive case today. I am not prepared.’ The woman was left on the stretcher.”

This was a statement of a woman living with HIV in Nigeria... And we have severally cases like that. The International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW) West Africa and ICW Global in partnership with Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) is currently implementing a project that aims to build a SRHR/ HIV advocacy coalition in Nigeria to identify and develop efforts to create policy and practical change around key SRHR concerns for women living with HIV in Nigeria. The statement was from the research conducted among women living with HIV on sexual reproductive health and rights and in particular violations of SRHR in Nigeria.

Some of the key findings of the research indicated that women living with HIV regularly experience institutional discrimination and violence, including denial of rights, particularly rights to autonomy, informed consent, and confidentiality. There is also lack of mechanism to obtain redress for rights violations which is not only happening in Nigeria but affects women living with HIV around the world. There is also the need to address gender-based violence and provide more support to women dealing with violence as a result of their HIV status.

Women living with HIV have been denied SRHR services because of their HIV status and they have also experienced Gender based violence. When they are subjected to this kind of attitude, women will attempt suicide; endure because of their children; keep it to themselves, because no one will fight for them; but some will have the courage to report to human rights commission/police, public complain, seek for court charge, and human right groups. But sometimes when they report, justice is not served or takes a long time.

Marginalized populations, including LGBT and sex workers communities continue to face all forms of discrimination – from being brutally assaulted to rape to arrest and even murder. This is criminalization, recent times some MSM and volunteers of projects relating to LGBTI were fleeing the country because of fear. Laws also criminalize PLHIV; In Kenya as with many other countries throughout the world, transmission of HIV or any other life threatening sexually transmitted disease can result in imprisonment for 15 years to life.

Meaningful implementation of the Beijing Platform must incorporate the elimination of harmful laws such as these and the establishment and enforcement of laws addressing discrimination – for example signing the HIV and AIDS Anti-discrimination ACT 2014 in Nigeria into law. Laws such as these will go a long way in addressing criminalization. Please note that the protection and promotion of human rights are therefore essential in preventing the spread of HIV and to mitigating the social and economic impact of the pandemic.

As a young woman living with HIV, married with children, I will suggest the following as essential in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action – increasing the information reaching women and particularly young women and girls both living with HIV and not living with HIV; integrating SRHR services within the health facilities, ensuring youth/girls/women friendly services are available; inclusion in school curriculum; engaging men at all levels; Improvements to the Health Care System; addressing barriers created by partners (for example, in the northern part of my country, husbands should not prevent their wives from accessing treatment); Stopping Violence Against Women living with HIV and women in general.

In twenty years time, I want to see women living with HIV in decision making positions so that they will be able to influence laws and policies. I want to see women living with HIV more educated and not seeing their HIV status as a barrier to their education. I want to see a stronger voice and involvement of women living with HIV from themselves, their families, and their spouses in the decisions that affect their daily life.

Thank you all for listening.

Appendix II: CSW High Level Meeting: Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls

Speaking Points from ICW's Teresia Otieno's speech, March 18th 2015

Advances in HIV science have led some to anticipate the end of HIV epidemic—indeed many believe the worst of the threat is now over. However, women living with HIV around the world continue to experience persistent challenges to accessing medication and treatment and serious violations of their sexual, reproductive and human rights. For the over 17 million women currently living with HIV and the many women, young women, and girls who will face a new HIV diagnosis this year, the epidemic is far from over. Twenty years ago, the Beijing Platform for Action recognized the gendered aspect of the epidemic and the importance for global HIV strategic responses to address the particular needs and vulnerabilities of women, particularly young women and adolescents. The call to action issued by the original Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action in 1995 remains as urgent and as relevant today.

- Women living with HIV experience a range of obstacles to achieving their highest attainable standard of health, including violations of their sexual and reproductive rights. As a result, women living with HIV continue to receive substandard or harmful health care.
- Forced and/or coerced sterilization and abortion of women living with HIV remains a serious human rights violation occurring today.
- Maternal mortality rates remain high among women living with HIV, despite efforts that have reduced maternal mortality rates for many women around the world.
- Institutional, systemic, and intimate partner violence against women living with HIV is endemic and largely underreported and increases risk of HIV acquisition.
- Criminalization of non-disclosure, exposure, and transmission disproportionately impacts women living with HIV and undermines evidence-based public health strategies for prevention.
- Women living with HIV are not a homogenous group - in all our diversity we experience multiple oppressions, stigma and discrimination which are compounded for some of us by multiple marginalized identities. We must take decisive action to secure the rights of women living with HIV in all our diversity.
- Women living with HIV continue to face obstacles in engaging in global decisionmaking platforms and in ensuring that our needs and voices are heard. Nowhere is this clearer than in the continued lack of support and focus for research that reflects critical and ongoing concerns of women living with HIV around contraception and HIV risk as well as issues around HIV and aging that perhaps could not have been foreseen by the Beijing Platform in 1995.

Despite these obstacles, networks of women living with HIV continue to fight for sexual and reproductive health and rights, champion our rights to be free of all forms of gender oppression, and challenge systemic drivers of inequality around the world. As the only global network for and by women living with HIV, the International Community of Women Living with HIV, founded in 1992, envisions a world

where all women living with HIV live free of gender oppression, realizing and claiming our full rights inclusive of sexual, reproductive, legal, social, economic and health rights. As we reflect on the many challenges still facing women living with HIV after 20 years, our clarion call **Nothing for us without us!** has never been more relevant or more necessary.

Networks of women, and particularly women living with HIV, are uniquely positioned and empowered to identify and address stigma, discrimination, and the intersecting needs of marginalized women. The global discourse and target to “End AIDS” by 2030 will not mean an end to HIV. Realizing the principle of GIPA—Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV—is critical to ensure effective implementation the new SDGs. Critically, we must ensure the meaningful involvement of women living with HIV and other directly impacted women and girls within the decisions that affect our lives.

Communities most affected by the implementation of the SDG outcomes, including women living with HIV, must be involved in the decision-making process—it is not solely about governmental decision-making on global priorities, but also about ensuring that people living with HIV and other directly impacted communities maintain a role in program design, selection of interventions, and other decisions that directly affect our lives. The involvement of directly impacted women leads to improved uptake and programme effectiveness and efficiency, reducing loss to follow-up and resulting in greater accountability within the HIV response.

Women living with HIV hold unique insights and ability to develop innovative solutions to problems. It is critical to create and maintain alliances with partners who respect the agency, autonomy, and wisdom of women living with HIV to lead advocacy, deliver services, and support women. Partners must ultimately ensure that those efforts are recognized and supported. Strategic partnerships should come from directly communities of women living with HIV themselves. Peer support has played a key role in building capacity and providing sustainable support for networks of women living with HIV to hold systems accountable and to monitor and evaluate programming.

As we reflect on the 20th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, evaluate our collective achievements, and work as an international community to forge a new set of global priorities post-2015, we must maintain a continued focus on access to care, treatment and support, prevention of stigma and discrimination, and increased attention to securing sexual, reproductive, and human rights and protections for women, young women, and girls living with HIV. Women living with HIV, in all our diversity, must remain at the heart of movements for change.

Appendix III: ICW and WGNRR Joint Statement

Submitted by at the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 9-20, 2015)

We the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights and the International Community of Women Living with HIV, welcome the opportunity to represent at the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women over a thousand organizations and individuals worldwide who are committed to advancing sexual and reproductive rights.

Although the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action marked a significant turning point in global efforts for gender equality, and considerable gains have been made in securing rights for women all over the world, the human right of all women and girls to "have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality"¹ has yet to be fully ensured.

Women and girls living with HIV are particularly vulnerable to human rights violations while seeking sexual and reproductive health services—including the denial of rights to autonomy, bodily integrity, informed consent, and confidentiality. For the over 17 million women currently living with HIV and the many women, young women, and girls who will face a new HIV diagnosis this year, the epidemic is far from over. The call to action issued by the original Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action in 1995 remains as urgent and as relevant then as it is today.

As a global community, we must address the intersecting needs of women living with HIV, and prioritize the sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women, including women living with HIV. This includes but is not limited to ending the criminalization of HIV transmission, as well as forced and coerced treatment and sterilization, and eradicating violence against women in all its forms, in order for us to make strides toward economic, reproductive, and social justice.

Member States, we urge you as world leaders to continue to meaningfully integrate sexual and reproductive rights into the Beijing framework and the Post-2015 development agenda, with explicit recognition of the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls, including those who are living with HIV, as well as committed efforts to integrate and ensure comprehensive HIV and sexual and reproductive health services for all. We must not forget the lessons learned from the twenty years of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Critically, we must ensure the meaningful involvement of women living with HIV and other directly impacted women and girls within the decisions, policies, and programmes that will affect their present and future lives.

1 See Beijing PfA para 96.

Appendix IV: Oral Statement

Submitted by ICW and GNP+ at the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 9-20, 2015)

Honourable Chairperson,

I welcome the opportunity to represent today the Global Network of People Living with HIV and the International Community of Women Living with HIV. Our networks recognize and support the key role of women living with HIV to evaluate the progress made in the 20 years since the Beijing Declaration and seek to chart a course for sustainable development goals that reflects the needs and rights of all people living with HIV.

The global discourse and target to “End AIDS” by 2030 will not mean an end to HIV. For the over 17 million women currently living with HIV and the many women, young women, and girls who will face a new HIV diagnosis this year, the epidemic is far from over. The call to action issued by the original Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action in 1995 remains as urgent and as relevant today.

Although the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action marked a significant turning point in global efforts for gender equality, and considerable gains have been made in securing rights for women all over the world, women living with HIV continue to experience a range of obstacles to achieving their highest attainable standard of health, including harmful gender norms, stigma, discrimination and a range of inequalities. We continue to experience persistent challenges to accessing quality treatment, care and support and serious violations of our sexual, reproductive and human rights, including forced and coerced sterilisation.

We call on the global community to ensure comprehensive, quality, and dignified health care for women and girls living with HIV in all our diversity and to promote the universal right of all people living with HIV to access affordable, reliable, comprehensive, and sustainable care, treatment, and support and to make choices about their own health.

We must not forget the lessons learned from the MDGs or since the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action twenty years ago. Critically, we must ensure the meaningful involvement of women living with HIV and other directly impacted women and girls within the decisions that affect our lives.

We demand that those most affected by the implementation of the SDG outcomes, including people living with HIV, are involved in the decision-making process—it is not solely about governmental decision-making on global priorities, but also about ensuring that people living with HIV and other directly impacted communities maintain a role in program design, selection of interventions, and other decisions that directly affect our lives. Thank you.

Appendix V: Statement on Beijing +20

For Women Living with HIV, the Beijing Platform of Action Remains as Relevant and Urgent Today as it was 20 Years Ago

Advances in HIV science have led some to anticipate the end of HIV epidemic—indeed many believe the worst of the threat is now over. However, women living with HIV around the world continue to experience persistent challenges to accessing medication and treatment and serious violations of their sexual, reproductive and human rights. For the over 17 million women currently living with HIV and the many women, young women, and girls who will face a new HIV diagnosis this year, the epidemic is far from over. The call to action issued by the original Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action in 1995 remains as urgent and as relevant today.

As we reflect on the 20th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, evaluate our collective achievements, and work as an international community to forge a new set of global priorities post-2015, we must maintain a continued focus on access to care, treatment and support, prevention of stigma and discrimination, and increased attention to securing sexual, reproductive, and human rights and protections for women, young women, and girls living with HIV.

Women living with HIV experience a range of obstacles to achieving their highest attainable standard of health, including violations of their sexual and reproductive rights, such as refusal by service providers to provide accurate and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, tools, and services; conditional access to services, including coerced and forced sterilization, forced and coerced abortion, and injectable hormone administration; and stigma, discrimination and detrimental and judgmental treatment from care providers, including misinformation and violations of confidentiality and the right to informed consent. As a result, women living with HIV continue to receive substandard or harmful health care.

Younger women are at particularly high risk of HIV acquisition and frequently face societal and legal barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health information, tools, and services based on age or marital status. Despite advances in maternal health care, which have resulted in reductions in maternal mortality rates for women around the world, and notwithstanding the global scale-up of efforts to prevent vertical transmission of HIV, maternal mortality rates for women living with HIV remain disturbingly high.

Harmful gender norms and inequalities continue to create stumbling blocks for women seeking to protect themselves from HIV. There is an increasing recognition of the linkages between gender inequality and increased risk of acquiring HIV. Institutional and domestic violence against women living with HIV is endemic and largely underreported. Women who experience domestic violence at increased risk of HIV acquisition and, in turn, women living with HIV are at increased risk of violence.

Criminalization of HIV status is on the rise, which undermines evidence-based public health strategies for prevention and disproportionately impacts women living with HIV. Poverty too has a disproportionate impact on women living with HIV and many face discriminatory policies in employment, education, marriage, insurance, bank loans, travel, and immigration. These challenges create significant barriers for women living with HIV in realizing our fundamental human rights.

Despite these obstacles, networks of women living with HIV continue to fight for sexual and reproductive health and rights, champion our rights to be free of all forms of gender oppression, and challenge systemic drivers of inequality around the world. As the only global network for and by women living with HIV, the International Community of Women Living with HIV, founded in 1992, envisions a world where all women living with HIV live free of gender oppression, realizing and claiming our full rights inclusive of sexual, reproductive, legal, social, economic and health rights. As we reflect on the many challenges still facing women living with HIV after 20 years, our clarion call **Nothing for us without us!** has never been more relevant or more necessary.

Women living with HIV continue to face obstacles in engaging in global decision-making platforms and in ensuring that our needs and voices are heard. Nowhere is this clearer than in the continued lack of support and focus for research that reflects critical and ongoing concerns of women living with HIV around contraception and HIV risk as well as issues around HIV and aging that perhaps could not have been foreseen by the Beijing Platform in 1995.

We call on the global community to ensure comprehensive, quality, and dignified health care for women living with HIV in all our diversity and to promote the universal right of all people living with HIV to access reliable, comprehensive, and sustainable care, treatment, and support.

Women living with HIV must be able to make informed decisions about their own treatment and care and stigma, discrimination, and other barriers must be eliminated in order to ensure that women living with HIV and other marginalized populations can receive the care they need and are entitled to.

It is imperative to ensure the sexual and reproductive rights of women living with HIV and to empower women to make informed decisions on matters related to their sexual and reproductive health and rights. We seek full realization of the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls living with HIV, including the right to have fulfilling sexual lives and express their sexual identities, the right to make autonomous decisions about whether we will marry and whether we will have children, freedom from all forms of violence, and the right to make those decisions with access to comprehensive information about our bodies, sexuality, and the full range of reproductive choices. We demand that the needs, perspectives, and voices of younger women living with HIV are central in global efforts to address HIV and achieve gender equality.

Women living with HIV must have access to appropriate and safe contraceptives, abortion, and pregnancy support services and the reduction of maternal mortality among women living with HIV must be prioritized. As a part of a full spectrum of care, we seek the increased availability of voluntary HIV testing, treatment, and counselling for all women and girls. We seek an immediate and universal end to forced and coerced sterilization and forced and coerced abortion. We demand respect by healthcare workers, families, and community members for women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.

We advocate for an end to the criminalization of HIV that oppresses women living with HIV. Laws that criminalize non-intentional HIV exposure or transmission must be repealed, particularly those that single out women living with HIV or people living with HIV for prosecution or increased punishment solely based on their HIV status. Criminal laws should only be used in extraordinary cases of intentional

exposure or transmission. Overly broad use of the criminal law results in unjust prosecutions and incarceration of people living with HIV.

We seek an end to all forms of violence against women as defined and experienced by women living with HIV. Institutional, systemic, and intimate partner violence against women living with HIV is endemic and largely underreported. Women living with HIV must be free from violence, coercion, stigma, and discrimination. We demand an end to all forms of violence against women and girls and call for the recognition of ways in which violence against women and other forms of gender-based violence impact the health and lives of women living with HIV.

We demand freedom from violence for all marginalized and vulnerable populations within communities living with HIV, including but not limited to, sex workers, members of the lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer communities, those who are internally and externally displaced, women living in conflict zones, women in prison, migrant women, and women living with disabilities. Violence against women must be accounted for and addressed in all efforts to respond to HIV.

Women living with HIV must have adequate resources and support to provide for their basic economic and social human rights, including the right to sustainable livelihoods, housing, sanitation, and adequate and clean food and water. We seek recognition of the right of women living with HIV to full property, insurance, and inheritance rights, including the right to enter into and sign contracts in their own name, the right to own and inherit property, and to access credit.

The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action marked a significant turning point in the global agenda for gender equality and set us on a path toward securing rights for women all over the world. As we envision the world we want for women 20 years from now, we must address the intersectional needs of women living with HIV, prioritize the sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women, including women living with HIV, end criminalization, coercive treatment, forced and coerced sterilization, and violence against women, and make strides toward economic justice. The International Community of Women Living with HIV issues a call to action to the global community to ensure that women living with HIV in all our diversity are at the heart of movements for change. **Nothing for us with out us!**

Appendix VI: International Women's Day Statement

See page 25.

International Women's Day 2015

ICW CALLS ON GLOBAL POLICY MAKERS TO **MAKE IT HAPPEN** FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS LIVING WITH HIV

International Women's Day is a time for women living with HIV to celebrate individual and shared acts of courage and determination by ICW members worldwide who play an extraordinary role every day in securing the rights of women living with HIV. It also a day to collectively reflect on the progress we have made together and the work left to be done to achieve equality and improve the lives of women living with HIV.

This year's theme, **Make it Happen: Encouraging Effective Action for Advancing and Recognizing Women**, envisions a world where every woman and girl can exercise her rights to participate in politics, to get an education, to decide whether and when to have children, to economic opportunity and to live free from violence and discrimination.

This year, International Women's Day will highlight the 20th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – a historic roadmap signed by 189 governments that sets the agenda for realizing women's rights. Although the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action marked a significant turning point in the global agenda for gender equality, substantial gaps persist for many women and particularly women living with HIV.

As we envision the world we want for women 20 years from now, we must address the diverse and intersecting needs of women living with HIV. This is the time to uphold ICW achievements, recognize challenges, and continue to prioritize issues that impact us most, including our sexual and reproductive health and rights, criminalization, coercive treatment, forced and coerced sterilization, and violence against women, and make strides toward economic justice.

Critically, we must ensure the meaningful involvement of women and adolescent girls living with HIV within the decisions that affect our lives. The International Community of Women Living with HIV issues a call to action to the global community to **Make it Happen** to ensure that women living with HIV in all our diversity are at the heart of movements for change. Together we can Make it Happen.



Rebecca Matheson
ICW Global Director



International
Women's Day





