

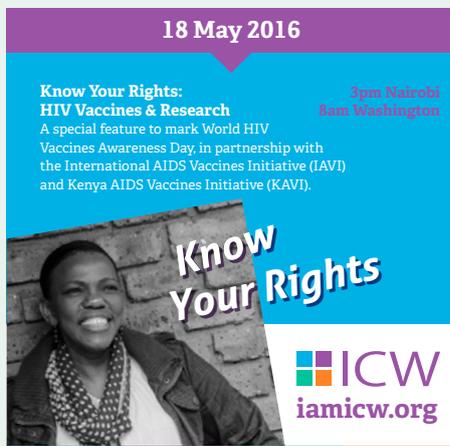
ICW Statement

18 May 2016

HIV Vaccine Awareness Day

INVEST IN HIV PREVENTION RESEARCH THAT RESPONDS TO THE NEEDS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

The International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW) joins development partners, policy makers, advocates and other stakeholders to observe the International HIV Vaccine Awareness Day which is marked annually on May 18th. Also known as **World AIDS Vaccine Day**, this day is an opportunity for HIV vaccine advocates to recognize and thank all of the thousands of volunteers, community members, health professionals, and scientists who work together to find a safe and effective preventive HIV vaccine.¹



Join our advocacy workshop entitled '*HIV Vaccines Research and Development*' to mark World HIV Vaccines Awareness Day, to be held in partnership with Kenya AIDS Vaccines Initiative (KAVI) and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) on **May 18, 2016** at **3pm NBO time/8am Washington D.C. time.**

To participate, please email your Skype ID or phone number to admin@iamicw.org

Historically, women have been underrepresented in AIDS vaccine research, and especially women living with HIV for whom vaccines may have a therapeutic effect.² This lack of involvement is partially a result of non-existent or ineffective recruitment strategies and inadequate financing to involve women in programmatic design and decision-making processes at all levels of the research process.

¹ <https://www.aids.gov/news-and-events/awareness-days/hiv-vaccine-awareness-day/>

² <https://www.aids.gov/hiv-aids-basics/prevention/prevention-research/vaccines/>

Ensuring women, including women living with HIV, participate in all levels of research development and implementation can help researchers recognize and overcome barriers such as sensitivities around HIV disclosure and stigma, and practical barriers such as child care and transport needs, as well as ensuring that technical jargon is accessible to all research participants.³

ICW calls on researchers and stakeholders to make deliberate efforts for equitable recruitment in research that support meaningful engagement of women and girls, and particularly, women living with HIV.

We urge researchers and other stakeholders in the scientific community to make deliberate efforts to support the engagement of women and particularly, women living with HIV in research. Our participation will ensure accountability mechanisms are in place for monitoring implementation of good participatory practice (GPP)⁴ and other ethical advisory mechanism followed during clinical trials. This will increase accountability, program effectiveness and have positive outcomes on research for all women and girls, especially, women living with HIV.

Call to Action

ICW demands gender equality in vaccine research!

ICW calls on the research community to ensure that women are equitably engaged in clinical research trials and to ensure that data collected is disaggregated by gender and age. Join ICW in calling for investment in preventive HIV research and holding governments and leaders accountable for ensuring the equitable participation of women and girls in research that is respectful of human rights and results in interventions that are realistic and responsive to our needs.

Advocate for investment in HIV preventive research

We urge all women living with HIV in all our diversity and our allies to act and urge national stakeholders in health and international community to invest in gender responsive research and support implementation of new HIV prevention technologies as a critical element to ending AIDS by 2030, reaching UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5.

Support community action for responsive HIV research

Actively participate in research going on within your community. Support peers to engage with researchers to ensure that women and girls effectively shape the research agenda. Participate in Community Advisory Groups (CAGs), which provide an opportunity not only for increasing the visibility and voice of women living with HIV, but also for collaborating with researchers and other stakeholders to increase the relevance and quality of research and promoting acceptance by communities.

³ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4302460/>

⁴ UNAIDS 2011; Good Participatory Practice; Guidelines for biomedical HIV prevention trials.

Share the information about the importance of preventive HIV vaccines research

We urge all women living with HIV in all our diversity and our allies to sensitise our communities on the importance of preventive HIV research, as well as on the development of new HIV prevention technologies. Sensitizing communities catalyses interest to participate and to be agents of change in supporting effective research.

To join in the conversation and have your voice heard – join our advocacy workshop on '*HIV Vaccines Research and Development*' on **May 18, 2016** at **3pm NBO time/8am Washington D.C. time**. This advocacy workshop is held in partnership with **Kenya AIDS Vaccines Initiative (KAVI)** and the **International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)** to participate, **please email your Skype ID or phone number to admin@iamicw.org**

#HVAD

#KnowyourVaccine

MAKE RESEARCH WORK FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS LIVING WITH HIV!

For more information please visit: **www.iamicw.org**

The International Community of Women Living with HIV, the first and only global network by and for women and girls living with HIV, has worked for over 20 years to address and support the challenges of, as well as collectively celebrate, all self-identifying women and girls living with HIV throughout the world.



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