Orientation Meeting of Advocates for the Caribbean Coalition on Women, Girls and AIDS

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Addressing the needs of Women and Girls in the global context of HIV and AIDS

In response to the increasing numbers of women and girls affected by HIV globally, UNAIDS led the formation of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA) in 2004.
The Caribbean Coalition on Women, Girls and AIDS (CCWA) was then launched in November 2005 with the purpose of functioning principally as an advocacy body for improved AIDS programming for women and girls. The CCWA is a broad coalition of women from a diversity of backgrounds pledged to vigorously challenge all aspects of female vulnerability to HIV.
The CCWA is a joint effort of UNAIDS and UN WOMEN (formerly UNIFEM), with the Advisory Body comprising of membership from:

- Institute for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies (IGDS, UWI)
- Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA)
- Caribbean Regional Network of People living with HIV (CRN+)
- Caribbean Vulnerable Communities (CVC)
- Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP)
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM).
What guides the CCWA

The Human Rights Conventions and Principles underlying the work of the CCWA include:

- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (**CEDAW 1979**) 
- International Conference on Population Development (**ICPD Plan of Action, Cairo, 1994**) 
- The Beijing Platform for Action, 1995 
- Millennium Development Goals (**MDGs 2000**) 
- United Nations General Assembly Special Session (**UNGASS 2001**)
The CCWA has four thematic areas:

1. Reducing violence against women and girls
2. Preventing HIV infection, particularly among adolescent girls, by improving access to reproductive healthcare
3. Promoting universal access to prevention options
4. Supporting women’s caregiving work within the household and community, and seeking to promote women’s leadership in the AIDS response.
Strategies of the CCWA

Advocacy

The CCWA will speak out on the key issues that women and girls face which make them more vulnerable to HIV infection and lobby for policy, legislative and programmatic changes to improve the AIDS response for women and girls.
Strategies of the CCWA

**Evidence and policy guidance**

Critical knowledge and programmatic gaps will be identified through research which will inform convening agencies about key issues surrounding HIV and women and girls.
Strategies of the CCWA

Country-level action

The CCWA will support innovative and creative initiatives at country level designed to result in long-term improvements in AIDS programmes for women and girls.
Objectives and Activities of the CCWA

Objective 1 - Promote increased and targeted advocacy on the gender dimensions of HIV and AIDS to increase awareness and an environment for greater accountability focused on the specific vulnerabilities of women and girls

– Leadership Development Training and community-based consultations with positive women’s organizations, service providers, national partners and others in the HIV response to reach consensus on modalities of cooperation for advocacy outreach by the coalition

– Support to functioning of national coalitions for gender advocacy during the project period through the provision of material and technical assistance.
Objective 2 - Develop and use the media and internet services to outreach to youth (males and females) on issues related to identity, sexuality, decision-making and risk taking behaviours.

– Training workshops for youth on gender-responsive, rights-based social communications and media strategies with a focus on internet skills building
Objective 3 - Contribute to and support the ongoing work of the Caribbean Persons of Influence as advocates at both national and regional levels in the Caribbean on HIV prevention issues for women and girls, especially among policy-makers.

- Regional capacity building and planning workshop for CCWA Advocates

- Facilitation of attendance of advocates at key national and regional meetings
Objective 4 - Strengthen innovative approaches to address the issues of the gender-based violence and its link to the spread of HIV infection among women and girls in order to determine the most relevant interventions that are needed and promote their incorporation into key policy frameworks

– Country-level research to identify gaps in linking gender-based violence to the spread of HIV infection among women and girls

– Development of advocacy and policy briefs for national and regional dissemination
Objective 5 - Leadership capacity development for young women (including those living with HIV) to lead advocacy for behavioural and cultural change consistent with gender equality and for human rights responsive HIV prevention programming

- Young Women's Leadership Training that builds the capacity of young women to be leaders in decision making around safe sex and advocates for women’s rights and sexual and reproductive health

- Piloting of community-based outreach in communities targeting young women, including out of school and unemployed young women
Objectives and Activities (continued)

**Objective 6 - Strengthen the economic security of women living with HIV**

- Economic empowerment programmes for women living with HIV through business development training.

- In partnership with small business development institutions provide start-up grants for competitively selected business projects by positive women/groups in project countries.