REGIONAL ORGANIZING 2016 WEBINAR SERIES PART I

INTERNALIZING PWN PRIORITIES THROUGH A HUMAN RIGHTS LENS

WWW.PWN-USA.ORG
PWN-USA is the only national organization in the U.S. that is led by and for women living with HIV.

Founded in 2008, PWN-USA is a national non-profit organization devoted to organizing, mobilizing, advocating and developing leadership among the 300,000 women living with HIV in the U.S. The mission of PWN-USA is to prepare and involve women living with HIV, in all our diversity, including gender identity and sexual expression, in all levels of policy and decision-making:

- Combating HIV-related stigma and demonstrating that HIV-positive women are part of the solution;
- Training and supporting HIV-positive women leaders;
- Creating and sharing tools for women and HIV advocates; and
- Mobilizing for strategic campaigns to change policies

PWN-USA applies a gender equality and human rights lens to the HIV epidemic to achieve federal policies grounded in the reality of women's lived experiences.
Presenters

**Arneta Rogers**
Repro Rights & Justice, Legal Fellow

**Waheedah Shabazz-El**
Regional Organizing Director
Training Outline

• Human Rights Defined
• Knowing your Rights
• Human Rights Framework
• Human Rights & HIV
• Human Rights Advocacy:
  • Gender Lens
• PWN-USA Policies
• Home work- Human Rights Action
Human Rights Defined

Arneta
Human Rights Defined & Principles

- The rights that someone has simply because he or she is a human being & born into this world.
- *Inherent
- *Inalienable
- Core Principles:
  - Dignity
  - Equality
  - Non-discrimination
  - Universal(ity)
  - Interdependency
  - Indivisibility
  - Inalienability
  - Empowerment
  - Accountability
Five Primary Human Rights Categories

- Civil Rights
- Political Rights
- Economic Rights
- Social Rights
- Cultural Rights
Civil and Political Rights

- Right to life
- Freedom from discrimination
- Freedom of speech and belief
- Right to due process of law
- Right to vote and participate in government

We are familiar with these (protections) rights
Details: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- Right to health
- Right to housing
- Right to food
- Right to education
- Right to work
- Right to social security

We don’t often realize we even have these rights
Know your rights

• When you have rights . . .

  – You hold a claim to that right – it is your legal right.

  – The government is accountable for that right being upheld.

  – The government has a duty to provide certain things to make sure your rights are upheld.

  – The government has a duty to stop doing things that prevent your rights from being upheld.

  – Moves advocacy around your civil and economic/social rights from optional to mandatory.
Human Rights & HIV
Our analysis indicates that HIV is a symptom of larger structural or human rights injustices.
STRUCTURAL FACTORS

• Structural factors put women at increased risk of violence, poverty, and HIV acquisition.

• These same factors lead to poor health outcomes after HIV diagnosis for women living with HIV.
Why the HIV epidemic is a human rights crisis
HIV and Human Rights in the U.S. South: An Environment of Risk

- Most poverty
- Weakest safety net programs
- Failure to invest in HIV/AIDS
- Criminalized HIV exposure
- Most uninsured
- Most prisoners
- Abstinence-based sex education
- Hostility toward LGBT people

All factors have a severe impact on minorities

Copyright Human Rights Watch
Human Rights Framework
Using a Human Rights Approach in Advocacy

• Framing our issues as human rights establishes a mechanism for government accountability and encourages public participation in the decisions that affect our lives.

• Focuses on underlying causes of a problem.

• Offers positive alternative solutions and vision for stakeholders.
Example “Using a Human Rights Approach in Advocacy for Health Care”

• Health Care
  
  • Emphasize that HIV prevention, care, and treatment programs are not discretionary benefits to be provided and/or taken away by local and federal governments, but a basic human right that must be fulfilled.
  
  • The conversation becomes not what is or is not affordable, but what is necessary to fulfill people’s human rights to health: available, affordable, accessible, acceptable, and quality
Polling questions
PWN-USA applies a gender equality and human rights lens to the HIV epidemic to achieve federal policies grounded in the reality of women's lived experiences.
Gender Lens: Changing Reality

• To identify the conditions in need of change to advance women and girls.
  {PWN-USA RW research Project }

• To produce the greatest lasting impact in the lives of women and girls.
Improved outcomes begins with the protection of human rights for women

- Education
- Economic Justice
- Health and Reproductive Rights
- Housing
- Nutrition
- Political Representation
- Safety and Security
Social Justice

• Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. Peace is not possible where there are gross inequalities of money and power.
Using a Human Rights Approach

Framing our issues as human rights establishes a mechanism for government accountability and encourages public participation in the decisions that affect our lives.
Making a connection to Human Rights in our Advocacy

Make the connection between the structural factors that may have caused us to be MORE vulnerable to contracting HIV with the inconsistencies and/or violations of our social, economic and cultural rights.
HIV is Preventable--only in an ideal world
Taking on the entire blame of contracting feeds internal stigma

Compromises our civic responsibility to challenge government policies making us feel inferior, and lets our government – our decision-makers-- off the hook of having to even address the social & economic factors that contributed to us contracting HIV in the first place.
POLICY PRIORITIES

What do we want?
Meaningful involvement of women living with HIV!

When do we want it?
NOW!!
PWN-USA (6) Policy Areas

1. HIV Criminalization
2. Economic Justice and Employment Rights for people living with HIV
3. Women-Centered Care
4. HIV Prevention Justice
5. Sexual Rights & Reproductive Justice
6. Ending Violence Against Women & Girls
1. Repealing HIV Criminalization
Criminalization Policy Recommendations

Criminalization:

Criminalization does not address root problems: People may be afraid to disclose their status for a number of reasons including the very real fear of intimate partner violence, fear of discrimination and HIV-related stigma, and lack of information about living with HIV.

PWN-USA RECOMMENDS:

Poverty may lead to HIV but HIV may also lead to poverty
PWN-USA RECOMMENDS:

- Develop policies/programs that support women’s rights to work and to be paid a living wage, regardless of HIV status
- Reform policies and programs that incentivize people to get sicker or to be unreasonably poor before achieving eligibility for access basic services like housing, medication, medical care and support services
- Compassionate policies that support HIV+ individuals transitioning back into the workplace
3. Securing Women-Centered Care
Securing Women-Centered Care
Recommendations

PWN RECOMMENDS

• Utilize tools such as the HIV stigma index to measure and evaluate how stigma impacts communities and to reduce stigma over time in healthcare settings as well as among the general population.

• Implement stigma reduction curricula for all personnel in healthcare settings providing care to HIV-positive people.

• Develop and test social marketing campaigns to reduce stigma and change attitudes towards people living with HIV.

• Integrate sexual and reproductive health and HIV to achieve better prevention and care outcomes.
Prevention Justice is a call for institutionalizing an effective HIV prevention approach that recognizes the structural factors that affect people’s lives and put them at risk for HIV in the first place. For women in particular, prevention justice has unique nuances.
• Telling women to abstain or asking women to use a condom is not enough to protect women from HIV.

• Women will be safe from HIV when the overall quality of our lives and the lives of our loved ones is uplifted and when we have a variety of ways to protect ourselves, including methods that don’t require our partner’s knowledge or consent.
for women living with HIV, this means upholding our full spectrum of sexual and reproductive rights
Reproductive justice for HIV-positive women means upholding our full spectrum of sexual and reproductive rights, including our right to choose when and how to be sexual and when or whether to have children and the information to make an informed decision. Reproductive Justice also extends to parenting and custody rights, which are often taken away from women living with HIV.
6. Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Living with HIV

End to the many different forms of violence faced by all women, including physical, emotional, psychological, religious, sexual, institutional, and economic violence, and the trauma that violence leaves in its wake.
Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Living with HIV - Recommendations

Bold Federal Leadership:
• A number of federal agencies

Service Integration:
• Improve health outcomes standardizing routine intimate partner violence screening
MIPA

Meaningful Involvement of Women Living with HIV

- HIV Criminalization
- Economic Justice and Employment Rights for people living with HIV
- Women-Centered Care
- HIV Prevention Justice
- Sexual Rights & Reproductive Justice
- Ending Violence Against Women & Girls
2016 Campaign Planning
Counting on your participation in webinars

Roadmap to Launching Successful Campaigns

Skills Building Webinar Series
PWN-USA

Choosing a Good Issue Campaign
Messaging your Campaign

Strategy Charts

Building Partnerships

National Summit

All webinars reviewed – at next local regional meetings

Positive Women’s Network USA
Sisterhood - Solidarity - Action
www.pwn-usa.org
Homework
Exercise #1 of 2
Capacity Building for Campaigns

ACTIVITY
Prepare chapter members to be a part of your local campaigns.

All webinars reviewed – at next local regional meetings

COMMIT

Yes and Yes
BECAUSE YES IS MORE FUN THAN NO.
Homework

EXERCISE # 2 OF 2
Capacity Building:
APPLYING PWN POLICIES TO BUILD CAMPAIGNS

ACTIVITY
Which PWN Policy approach can be applied to build a campaign plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem or Structural Factor</th>
<th>Which PWN Policy</th>
<th>What do we want</th>
<th>What do we want</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women are getting sicker and dying faster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encouraged to have hysterectomy procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homelessness</td>
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<td>Policing &amp; incarceration of PLHIV</td>
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<td>Repeal stigmatizing HIV criminalization laws</td>
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<td>Lack of employment an/or equal wages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trauma - past &amp; present (incl. PTSD)</td>
<td>End Violence against women &amp; girls</td>
<td>IPV screening</td>
<td>Trauma informed Care</td>
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Thank you for your attention

Presenters
Arenta Rogers
arneta.rogers.pwnusa@gmail.com

Waheedah Shabazz-El
wshabazz@pwn-usa.org

References
• https://www.nccs.net/the-responsibility-of-citizens.php
• www.pwn-usa.org