



A UNAIDS Initiative

**The Global Coalition
on Women and AIDS**

**Empowering women,
fighting AIDS**

www.womenandaids.unaids.org

The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS was launched by UNAIDS in 2004 to respond to the increasing feminization of the AIDS epidemic and a growing concern that existing strategies did not adequately address women's needs.

A loose alliance of civil society groups, networks of women living with HIV, and United Nations agencies, the Coalition works at global and national levels to advocate for improved AIDS programming for women and girls.

The Global Coalition works on eight key issues:

- Preventing new HIV infections by improving access to reproductive health care
- Promoting equitable access to HIV care and treatment
- Ensuring universal access to education
- Securing women's property and inheritance rights
- Reducing violence against women
- Ensuring that women's care work is properly supported
- Advocating for increased research and funding for female-controlled HIV prevention methods
- Promoting women's leadership in the AIDS response

Global Coalition on Women and AIDS convening agencies:

Amnesty International
Center for Women's Global Leadership
Food and Agriculture Organization
Global Campaign for Education
Global Campaign for Microbicides
HelpAge International
International HIV/AIDS Alliance
International Center for Research on Women
International Community of Women living with HIV/AIDS
International Partnership for Microbicides
International Planned Parenthood Federation
International Women's Health Coalition
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Development Fund for Women
United Nations Population Fund
World Health Organization
World YWCA
Young Positives

**"All AIDS strategies
should pass the test:
does this work for
women?"**

***Dr. Peter Piot,
Executive Director, UNAIDS***



Keeping the Promise:
An Agenda for Action on
Women and AIDS



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- Worldwide, 17.3 million women are living with HIV – 48% of all adults living with HIV
- 76% of all HIV positive women live in sub-Saharan Africa
- Female HIV infections are on the rise in Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

Gender inequality and the low status of women remain two of the principal drivers of HIV.

Current AIDS responses do not tackle the social, cultural, and economic factors that put women at risk of HIV and that burden them unduly with the epidemic's consequences.

Today, women and girls:

- have less access to education and HIV information
- tend not to enjoy equality in marriage or sexual relations
- remain the primary caretakers of family and community members suffering from AIDS-related illnesses
- play little role in designing AIDS policies and responses

The world's governments have repeatedly declared their commitment to improve the status of women and acknowledged the linkage with HIV. But much more needs to be done.

That's why the UNAIDS-led Global Coalition on Women and AIDS is calling on national governments and the international community to:

- **Secure women's rights**
- **Invest more money in AIDS programmes that work for women**
- **Allocate more seats at decision-making tables to women**

Secure women's rights

- Ensure that laws – whether statutory, *de jure* or customary – protect women against violence and uphold their right to own and inherit property
- Invest in strategies to educate the police, the judiciary, social service providers, civil servants and community leaders about laws and their legal responsibilities
- Develop and fund programmes to improve legal aid services and other forms of support so that women can claim their rights.

Invest more money in AIDS programmes that work for women

- Review and adapt existing AIDS strategies to ensure they work for women
- Expand access to the services women need – including education, sexual and reproductive health, antenatal care, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, and antiretroviral therapy
- Close the funding gap for microbicide development and the female condom
- Drastically scale up support to caregivers.

Allocate more seats at the table to women

- Review the membership of national AIDS coordinating bodies to ensure meaningful representation of women and people with gender expertise.
- Invest more in training women, especially those living with HIV, to be effective advocates and leaders in the AIDS response.

