



GENDER, DIVERSITY AND HIV/AIDS

Sun. 13 August 2006, 12:30 - 14:30 Skills Building Room 2

Make sure the needs of women and girls are included and addressed at this important international forum.

The Barcelona Bill of Rights states that as gender inequality fuels the HIV/AIDS pandemic, it is imperative that priorities for action and the global response to the crisis includes the specific needs of girls and women, as well as those of men and boys.

As you attend sessions at the XVI International AIDS Conference consider whether the speakers address gender in presentations, research questions, data collection and methods of analysis, or in findings, decisions and recommendations for action. Have speakers considered who has power in the household, in the community, in society at all levels? How do inequities in opportunities, rights, resources and authority affect women and girls, men and boys?

It is not enough to think about women and girls *after* policies are in place or programmes are up and running. It's not enough to think about males and females infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. We need to dig deeper. We need to understand how socially determined roles and responsibilities – gender -- shape risk and vulnerability to HIV and its consequences.



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GENDER, DIVERSITY AND HIV / AIDS CHECKLIST

- Has the speaker considered women, girls, men and boys separately in the policy, service or research described?
- Does the data collected distinguish between girls and boys, men and women?
- Were local women as well as men involved in developing the policy, service or research described?
- Have local equality-seeking organizations been consulted?
- Have issues of inequality – particularly the differences in social and economic power between women and men – been considered?
- Was the policy, service or research described developed with an awareness of and sensitivity to what is already known about gender differences in this area? For example, what are the effects of different patterns of work, family life and social expectations on women's and men's vulnerabilities to HIV/AIDS, and on their ability to get treatment?

Gender has been considered if:

- √ Research design, methods, and interpretation incorporate roles and responsibilities for females and males.
- √ Policy, planning and programming involves local men and women who will use the services or program and, if women and men have had an opportunity to speak freely in its development.
- √ The similar and different needs of girls and women, boys and men are taken into account.

For more information on gender and HIV/AIDS, visit:

www.acewh.dal.ca and www.pwhce.ca

Adapted in part from L. Donner, *Gender in Health Planning: A Guide for Regional Health Authorities* www.pwhce.ca/gba and from the AIDS 2004 Satellite Session, *Acting on Rights: Women and HIV/AIDS*

