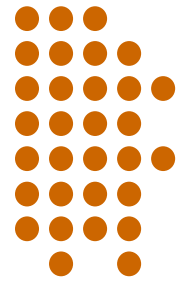




Development Connections International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS

Forum “Positive women free of violence”

<http://dvcn.aulaweb.org/course/view.php?id=30>



The Forum “**Positive women free of violence**” is a virtual community for interchange, dissemination of information, and support created by Development Connections (DVCN) and the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW Global). It serves people and organizations worldwide committed to the elimination of all forms of violence against HIV positive women and to the promotion of gender equality.

“Positive Women Free of Violence” bases its agenda on the recommendations emanating from the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2011, the Inter-American Con-

vention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (“Convention of Belem do Para”) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Voice, visibility and action

These are our core messages. We seek to contribute to the empowerment of HIV positive women and the eradication of the violence exerted against them, through information, interactive dialogue, support, dissemination of scientific evidence and collective action between different sectors and organizations. This Forum is a means to facilitate the interchange of ideas, opinions, experiences and resources.



“Each act of intra-family violence against a woman, a girl, an adolescent, is a way to destroy the society as a whole.

With violence in our homes, darkness extinguishes the sun. When there is violence in our communities, stigma and discrimination are transformed into a perverse form of social relation that prevents human bonds based on solidarity and love, which are indispensable in the quest to replace hate with peace and therefore, the opportunity to stop HIV/AIDS. If a Government decides that in its country more importance shall be given to actions against HIV/AIDS and less to buy military guns and equipment, that country will shine as a light in the worldwide concert.”

Patricia Perez - Chair,
ICW International
Steering Committee
(ICW Global)

Resources and activities

- 🌀 **Permanent virtual forum** on a diverse range of issues related to violence against positive women.
- 🌀 **Resource center** which includes documents on policies and international agreements, audio-visual resources, scientific articles, current projects and initiatives, as well as interviews in English and Spanish. It also incorporates a **collaborative library** where participants can upload links to documents and other resources on violence against HIV positive women, stigma and discrimination.
- 🌀 **News section** with updates on events, activities and initiatives around the world.



Participation rules
“Positive Women Free of Violence” is an open community that promotes education, support, collective construction of knowledge and the dissemination of information. It encourages sharing diverse opinions, presented in a respectful manner. We reserve the right to remove messages that are not in keeping with these values or that are objectionable, erroneous, threatening or defamatory. The opinions expressed in the Forum are the exclusive responsibility of their respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the point of view of DVCN and/or ICW Global.

Resources and activities

Virtual Self-help group and online counseling. These are limited to adult women (over 18) living with HIV. In the self-help group, positive women provide mutual support. The online counseling will feature weekly virtual meetings with synchronized dialogue among positive women and psychologists, medical doctors and lawyers. **Virtual counseling is based on standards** related to confidentiality, safety, privacy, autonomy, consent, communication with participants, evaluation of feasibility of counseling, referrals, and continuity of the service provision. These spaces are complementary to the on-site existing services at the country or local level.

How can you or your organization participate in the Forum “Positive Women Free of violence”?

- Register as a member/participant. The Forum offers the opportunity to participate in thematic discussions, comment on articles and receive our bulletins. Your voice is very important for the construction and the maintenance of this space!
- If you post messages in others blogs or forums on violence against HIV positive women, we will be happy to spread them through this Forum. Just send them to us at (info@dvcn.org)
- We have special interest in disseminating and making visible initiatives around the world on violence against women living with HIV. Feel free to send us information on projects, experiences, articles, events, campaigns, etc., in English and Spanish.

Help us to build an international directory of services for HIV positive women

A directory of services for HIV positive women can be an important tool to facilitate access and utilization by those in need. If your organization provides support (legal, medical, emotional, community mobilization, education, etc.), please fill out the form available at:

[http://www.dvcn.org/uploads/client_70/files/Directory_RegsitratonFormNov2011\(1\).doc](http://www.dvcn.org/uploads/client_70/files/Directory_RegsitratonFormNov2011(1).doc)

Language: Initially the Forum will operate only in Spanish, but it may also function in English at a future date.



Development
Connections

ICW Global



International Community of
Women Living with HIV/AIDS

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