

# **PAN-AFRICAN POSITIVE WOMEN`S COALITION**

**(PAPWC)**

## **Concept Paper**

### **Background**

The Pan-African Positive Women`s Coalition (PAPWC) was founded on Africa Day, (25<sup>th</sup> of May), 2012 at the inaugural summit of the GlobalPOWER Women Network Africa in Harare Zimbabwe. Considering the feminization of the epidemic on the continent, and disproportionate number of women and girls who are HIV infected and at risk of infection, PAPWC intends to champion the cause of positive women and girls on the continent with respect to their human rights, prevention, care, treatment, education and economic empowerment. In addition, their sexual and reproductive health needs will be promoted as an integral part of the HIV response.

To ensure that positive women and girls position themselves as a critical component of on-going efforts to address HIV, AIDS and SRHR, PAPWC will align with and promote existing policies and programs of key institutions and organizations such as Global-Power Women Africa Network, African Union, African Parliament, United Nations and other global, continental and regional bodies. It will provide leadership and build strategic partnerships to address human rights, implement policies, promote accountability and build the capacity of its constituencies so that the numerous challenges facing positive women and girls are better articulated and understood and appropriately responded to under existing global policy frameworks and program initiatives. These include the Millennium Development Goals, CEDAW, UNAIDS Accelerated Plan for Action on Women, Girls and Gender Equality, Maputo Plan of Action, CARMMA, Maseru Declaration, Abuja Declaration, 2010 High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS, SADC Declaration on HIV and AIDS, Global Plan of Action to eliminate new HIV infections in babies and keeping mothers alive and the newly adopted Harare Call To Action.

It is disheartening that thirty years into the HIV and AIDS epidemic, positive women and girls are yet to take their rightful place on the continent by way of providing leadership, identifying the issues, proffering solutions and spearheading appropriate responses with respect to their priority needs and challenges. This gap is exceedingly evident at regional and continental levels, where the voices and faces of positive women and girls are glaringly missing. PAPWC commits to changing this situation through learning from the lessons of years of organizing and networking by positive women at community, national and regional levels; but also by bringing a fresh sense of commitment, passion and urgency that are needed to complement the increasing momentum in coordinated responses, sense of ownership and leadership that Africa`s leaders and regional organizations are so evidently committed to.

### **Structure and Formation**

PAPWC is the brainchild of a core group of long-standing positive women activists (with diverse expertise and backgrounds (including medical, NGO leaders, advocates,) who attended the GlobalPOWER Women Network Africa Summit in Harare. The core group reached out to a significant number of positive women as well as experts and leaders in the field of HIV and SRHR to consolidate ideas for the formation of PAPWC. Consultations were held with delegates living with HIV from Kenya,

Rwanda, Botswana, South Sudan, Lesotho, Burundi, Madagascar, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Fifteen women were assigned to constitute the membership of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and Tendayi Westerhof from Zimbabwe was endorsed as the Convener of the RSC and activities. A smaller group of the founding members form the PAPWC Technical Working Committee, comprising of the following: Prudence Mabele, Boingotlo Gupta, Dr Lydia Mugerera, Tendayi Westerhof, Maryliza Amony and Dorothy Onyango. This interim RSC is expected to guide the affairs of PAPWC at the regional level.

### **Mission**

PAPWC will reframe the issues of positive women and girls on the continent and advocate for more effective responses through harnessing the untapped experiences, talents and lessons of positive women and girls and their organizations and bring them to bear on current regional initiatives and policies. It will contribute towards regional priorities including the elimination new HIV infections in women and girls, elimination of transmission from mother to child and the reduction of maternal mortality. Advocacy to promote access to comprehensive and integrated SRHR services and economic opportunities will form an important area of emphasis.

### **Vision**

African HIV positive women contributing towards a continent free from HIV and AIDS and one in which the sexual and reproductive health and rights and wellbeing of women and girls are realized through building a strong and effective regional movement championed by the voices and faces of powerful HIV positive women leaders and their allies.

### **Strategic Objectives**

- To be an affiliate member of the GlobalPOWER Women Network Africa and support the implementation of the Harare Call to Action.
- To partner with regional organizations to support the realization of the goals of key regional initiatives that respond to the HIV and SRHR needs of positive women and girls
- To build the knowledge and capacity of HIV positive women and girls to provide leadership in HIV and AIDS in prevention, treatment, care and SRHR.
- To promote African solutions to address harmful gender and cultural norms that fuel the spread of HIV and impinge on the rights and wellbeing of women and girls.
- To promote accountability at national and regional levels with respect to the commitments adopted by governments, the African Union and regional bodies, particularly as they relate to the needs of positive women and girls.
- To empower women living with HIV to acknowledge and uphold their rights and dignity and ensure that HIV and SRHR policies and programs do not infringe on their rights.

## Proposed Activities

1. Develop governance, policy and program documents (Organizational development, Constitution, membership, Terms of Reference for RSC, registration of organization, strategic plan, action plan/implementation plan, resource mobilization plan, monitoring and evaluation tools) and set-up structures for the coalition at regional and continental, levels and create database of the membership.
2. Mobilize at a pan-African level, women living with HIV beyond those represented at the GlobalPOWER Women Network AFRICA inaugural conference to join PAPWC and form country chapters.
3. Conduct planning meeting with members and stakeholders and to determine key priorities and strategies for PAPWC
4. Engage with AU, RECs, COMESA, UN family, GlobalPOWER Women Network Africa, Global Fund CCMs, National AIDS Councils, Parliamentary Portfolio Committees on Health, Parliamentarians Against HIV and AIDS to unlock policies and legislations that are hampering implementation of commitments made to respond to HIV and AIDS and SRHR for women and girls and determine parameters for partnerships.
5. Form strategic partnerships with funding partners and other regional HIV and AIDS, SRHR implementing organizations.

## Country Representatives

The following founding members will convene activities at national level to mobilize membership and involve other key stakeholders to ensure that PAPWC gains relevance at both national and regional levels.

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A full list of inaugural members is available upon request.

**PAPWC Contact Persons**

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