



Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
Schedule of Events

MEXICO YOUTH FORCE:
Youth Pre-Conference for the XVII International AIDS Conference
Centro Tlalotelco, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)
Mexico City, Mexico
31 July - 2 August 2008

At Mexico Youth Force, the youth pre-conference for the XVII International AIDS Conference, the Center for Health and Gender Equity is co-sponsoring and participating in four workshops.

Thursday, July 31

- 14:15-15:45 Workshop: Understanding Gender and HIV/AIDS
16:00-17:30 Workshop: Expanding Prevention Options for Women and Girls

Friday, August 1

- 14:00-15:30 Workshop: Creating an Advocacy Strategy and Plan

Saturday, August 2

- 9:00-10:30 Workshop: Understanding Public Policy

THURSDAY, JULY 31

Workshop: Understanding Gender and HIV/AIDS

14:15-15:45

Location: Auditorio

Description: This workshop will involve youth in a dynamic discussion around gender and its importance in addressing the HIV and AIDS pandemic. Participants will develop a framework for conceptualizing/defining gender, and examine gender inequalities, social norms, and accompanying health disparities that relate to HIV and AIDS in their own lives and communities. Participants will learn how gender and gender inequalities play a role in HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention, and will examine the intersections of gender and HIV/AIDS among women, sexual minorities and transgender persons. Youth will explore the issue of gender-based violence as both a cause of, and result from, HIV and AIDS. The workshop will conclude with a group brainstorming session about what youth can do to raise awareness about the gender implications of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Co-sponsors: Advocates for Youth, **Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)**, EngenderHealth, Juvenile Feminist Collective of Salvadoran Women, WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Disease)

Facilitators: Nickie Babayeva, Advocates for Youth; **Mogomotsi Mfalapitsa**, EngenderHealth; **Edith Esmerelda Cabrera Gonzales**, Juvenile Feminist Collective of Salvadoran Women; **Naina Khanna**, WORLD

Workshop: Expanding Female-Initiated HIV Prevention Options

16:00-17:30

Location: Sala 2

Description: Youth comprise almost half of all new HIV infections worldwide and are in need of improved knowledge about - and access to - a wider range of HIV prevention options. This is especially true for young

women and girls. In sub-Saharan Africa, almost three-quarters of young people aged 15-24 living with HIV are female. This workshop seeks to engage youth in an interactive session about existing and potential female-initiated prevention options, including female condoms, cervical barrier methods, microbicides, vaccines and oral pre-exposure prophylaxis. Through dynamic discussion, youth will also engage in a strategy session around the potential barriers and challenges young people face in accessing, using and advocating around HIV prevention. Youth will share information, tools and strategies on how to engage in advocacy to accelerate access to existing technologies and the development of future prevention options.

Co-sponsors: AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC), **Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)**, Global Campaign for Microbicides

Facilitators: **Deirdre Grant**, AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC); **Kimberly Whipkey**, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE); **Arwa Meijer**, Global Campaign for Microbicides

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Workshop: Creating an Advocacy Strategy and Plan

14:00-15:30

Location: Auditorio

Description: This session seeks to equip youth with the knowledge, tools and framework to effectively plan and implement an advocacy campaign around concrete, well-defined issues at the local, state, national, and/or international level. Through interactive presentations and discussion, participants will learn what elements to consider when planning an advocacy campaign, including: defining the issue(s); setting goals; mapping organizational and individual considerations; listing constituents, allies and opposition; creating key messages; and determining targets and tactics. Workshop attendees will practice their newfound knowledge and skills by working in teams to plan their own HIV/AIDS-related advocacy campaigns.

Co-sponsors: Americans for Informed Democracy (AID), **Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)**

Facilitators: **Courtney Matson**, Americans for Informed Democracy (AID); **Kimberly Whipkey**, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

Workshop: Understanding Public Policy

9:00-10:30

Location: Auditorio

Description: This workshop will allow youth to examine and respond to policy in the context of their local circumstances and experiences with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Participants will learn about the differences between law and interpretation and will gain the skills to deconstruct policy documents, debate interpretations and make clear, concise, and informed policy recommendations. With baseline public policy knowledge garnered from the workshop, it is hoped that participants will strengthen their advocacy efforts in their communities by employing effective policy recommendations and talking points.

Co-sponsors: Advocates for Youth, **Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)**, Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network

Facilitators: **Brian Ackerman**, Advocates for Youth; **Jamila Taylor**, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE); **Andrew Francis**, Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network