



REFLECTING REFLECTING

the Changing Needs of Women and Girls Related to

HIV/AIDS:

The Revision Process for the Blueprint for Action on Women and Girls and HIV/AIDS

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ISSUES

- Launched World AIDS Day 2005, the Blueprint for Action on Women and Girls and HIV/AIDS (Blueprint) is a comprehensive strategy to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic among women and girls in Canada and globally.
- The original document included needs and demands related to
 - Legal, Ethical, Human Rights
 - Research
 - Stigma/Discrimination
 - Diagnosis/Treatment
 - Prevention/Education
 - Care/Support.
- Five years later, this living document is being revised to reflect issues and demands originally missed and capture new issues that have arisen.

DESCRIPTION

- Blueprint's 14 National Steering Committee (NSC) members represent diverse populations from across Canada, including youth, women from endemic countries, Aboriginal, francophone, and incarcerated women.
- Identifying the need to update the Blueprint document, the NSC began their own revisions and subsequently requested input from national and international leaders with diverse expertise, including in sexual and reproductive health rights, youth, and global issues affecting HIV+ women.
- The draft revised document was presented to a focus group of Canadian women for further feedback as a satellite at the 2010 Canadian AIDS Society Skillsbuilding Symposium.
- Revisions have been made in the following areas:
 - additional background on and demands concerning incarcerated and institutionalized women
 - Indigenous peoples
 - criminalization
 - sexual and reproductive health rights
 - female-controlled prevention methods
 - youth
 - aging with HIV
 - harm reduction
 - microfinance and income generation
 - male circumcision
 - trans women.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Comprehensive outreach to HIV/AIDS organizations, organizations working in women's health and individual HIV+ women from diverse communities is important to produce a meaningful document reflective of current, lived realities.
- While there are common issues for all, there are discreet issues for certain communities, which can only be gleaned through their inclusion from the outset.

NEXT STEPS

- Finalized March 2010, the Blueprint will be used to inform the questions and the report cards measuring responses to Blueprint demands.
- The revised Blueprint and Canadian report card, along with report cards from other participating countries, including Norway, will be launched at IAC2010.