



POSITIVE WOMEN'S NETWORK
USA

U.S. Positive Women's Network, a
project of WORLD
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PWN's MISSION AND VALUES

Our Mission

The mission of the PWN is to prepare and involve HIV-positive women, including transgender women, in all levels of policy and decision-making to improve the quality of women's lives, by:

- ✚ Combating HIV-related stigma and demonstrating that HIV-positive women are part of the solution;
- ✚ Training and supporting HIV-positive women leaders;
- ✚ Creating and sharing tools for women and HIV advocates; and
- ✚ Mobilizing for strategic campaigns to change policies.

The PWN applies a gender equality and human rights lens to the HIV epidemic to achieve federal policies grounded in the reality of women's lived experiences.

Our Values

As a national network of self-identified HIV- positive women, we value creating a supportive environment that fosters our eleven basic values: Self-Identity, Root Cause Analysis, Changing the Balance of Power, Prioritizing Impacted Communities, Sustainability, Meaningful Involvement, Allies, Herstory, Mentorship, Accountability, and Leadership Development.

Self-Identity

- ✚ We value explicitly being a network of self-identified HIV-positive women, inclusive of transgender women.

Root Cause Analysis: A Human Rights Framework

- ✚ We value the analysis that the HIV epidemic and its disproportionate impact on marginalized communities are symptoms of larger structural injustices – including but not limited to racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, and stigmatizing attitudes towards communities vulnerable to acquiring HIV.
- ✚ Specifically, we believe that the full human rights and dignity of HIV-positive people, all women, people of color, low-income people, sex workers, LGBTQ persons, and drug users must be upheld in order to prevent HIV infection and ensure a high quality of life for those living with HIV.

Changing the Balance of Power

- ✚ We recognize that creating sustainable long-term solutions requires changing who's in power and how power is held.
- ✚ We value building a new power base of women living with HIV in the U.S. We also value sharing power and consensus decision-making within our network structure.

Prioritizing Impacted Communities

- ✦ We value decision-making processes that prioritize those most impacted by the decision. Within our network, we value supporting the visible and meaningful leadership of HIV-positive women, especially women of color, low-income women, and women who face barriers accessing technology and/or information.

Sustainability

- ✦ We value sustainable solutions to problems and working in a way that is sustainable. We value paying and otherwise compensating HIV-positive women for their time, we also value work-life balance and creating work and volunteer environments for HIV-positive women that honor our whole beings.

Meaningful Involvement

- ✦ We value the leadership, participation, input, and perspective of all women living with HIV at every level of organizational and political leadership – including women at all places on the HIV disclosure spectrum and women at varying levels of literacy and technology access.

Allies

- ✦ We value the perspective and wisdom of people of any gender and any HIV status who supports our vision, mission and goals.

Herstory

- ✦ We value learning from the past. We honor the women and men who have walked this path before, including those who are with us and those who are not.

Mentorship

- ✦ We honor expertise within our network and outside of it, and we value fostering a supportive environment to learn. We also value sharing our knowledge and teaching others.

Accountability

- ✦ We value holding each other to a high standard of commitment and follow-through. We value taking input from as many members as possible before making decisions.

Leadership Development

- ✦ We value developing ourselves as more effective leaders, identifying and supporting new leaders, and creating space for emerging leaders.

