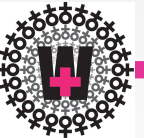


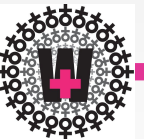
Coalition Building



MIPA- Meaningful Involvement of PLHIV

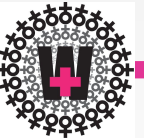
From UNAIDS, 1999, MIPA means...

1. recognizing the important contribution people living or affected by HIV/AIDS can make in the response to the epidemic
2. creating space within society for PLHIV involvement and active participation in all aspects of the HIV response.



There is no better way to cite the history of the PWA self-empowerment movement than to quote the principles articulated in Denver in 1983. They are as relevant and powerful today as they were then.

Self Identity
Recommendations for All People
Recommendations for PLHIV
Rights of People with AIDS

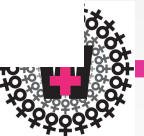


The Denver Principles

Self Identity; “WE ARE PEOPLE WITH AIDS”

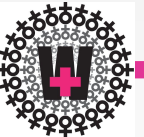
Recommendations for all People: 1. Support us in our struggle against those who would fire us from our jobs, evict us from our homes, refuse to touch us or separate us from our loved ones, our communities or our peers, since available evidence does not support the view that AIDS can be spread by casual, social contact. 2. Not scapegoat people with AIDS, blame us for the epidemic or generalize about our lifestyles.

Recommendations for PLHIV: 1. Form Caucuses to choose their own representative, to deal with the media, to choose their own agenda and to plan strategies.. 2. To be involved in every level of decision making and specifically serve on boards of director of provider organizations. 3. Be included in all AIDS forums with equal credibility as other participants, to share their own experience and knowledge. 4. Substitute low-risk sexual behaviors for those which could endanger themselves or their partner; we feel people with AIDS have an ethical responsibility to inform potential sex partners of their health status.



Rights of People with AIDS

1. To as full and satisfying sexual and emotional lives as anyone else.
2. To quality medical treatment and quality social service provision without discrimination of any form including sexual orientation, gender, diagnosis, economic status or race.
3. To full explanations of all medical procedures and risks, to choose or refuse their treatment modalities, to refuse to participate in research without jeopardizing their treatment and to make informed decisions about their lives.
4. To privacy to confidentiality of medical record, to human respect and to choose who their significant others are.
5. To die --and to Live --in dignity.



Building & Joining Coalitions

Coalitions are about building power.

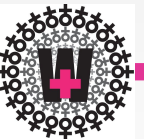
- To amass the power necessary to do something you can't do through one organization.
- A coalition is an organization of organizations working together for a common goal.
- They can be permanent or temporary
 - They can work on single or multi issues
 - They can be geographically defined - State of South Carolina
 - Limited to a certain constituency- PLHIV



Advantages

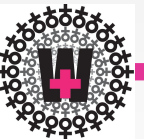
Win what couldn't be won alone

- Build an ongoing power base
- Increase the impacts of individual organizations
 - Not only does your involvement help to win the campaign, but you make the work you undertake more effective
- Develop new leaders-
 - experienced leaders can take on coalition leadership roles, thereby pening new slots for new leaders
- Increase resources -
 - may benefit from additional staff and money
- Broaden the scope
 - Coalitions may provide opportunities for your group to work on state and national issues.

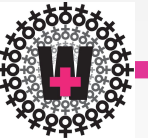


Disadvantages

- Distract from other work
 - If the coalition issue is not your main agenda item, it can divert your time & resources.
- Weak members may not be able to deliver
 - May get impatient with weaker groups inexperience and ability to deliver on commitments.
- Too many compromises
 - To keep the coalition together
- Inequality of power-
 - Larger stronger organizations may want more decision making power one organization{1 org = 1 vote}
- Individual organizations may not get credit
 - If all activities are done in the name of the coalition, groups that contribute a lot - often feel they do not get enough credit
- Dual tactics
 - some groups tactics are highly invisible and confrontational, others may be more subdued

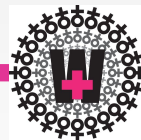


Starting a Coalition



Principles for Successful Coalitions

- Choose Unifying Issues
 - A common issue, not just a desire to work together on each others separate agendas, is a must.
 - A shopping list of issues will result in chaos and bad feelings.

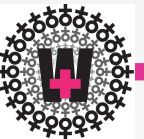


Understand & Respect Institutional Self Interest

All organizations must accomplish 7 basic functions if they are to survive.

1. Gain New members
2. Be perceived as powerful
3. Get media coverage
4. Build relations with other groups
5. Provide the members with an exciting program
6. Build internal morale
7. Gives its leaders a public role

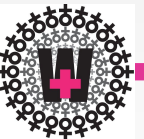
A successful coalition works to **help all of its members to accomplish these seven functions** and **avoids competing with its own members** as much as possible



Agree to Disagree/Play to the Center with Tactics/ Recognize that contributions vary

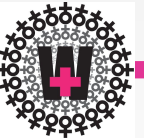
- Focus on your common agenda, the issues on which you agree.
 - Seldom do all member organizations of a coalition agree on all issues.
 - Agree to avoid the issues on which you do not agree --- if not then working together may be impossible.
- Play to the Center with Tactics
 - A strategy may be to have the more Radical group act independently and in their own name; This can make the coalition appear to be more reasonable.
- Recognize that contributions vary- bringing different strengths & weaknesses
 - One organization may be able to contribute large sums of money-- but unable to turn out its members
 - The opposite could be true for another organization
 - A 3rd group might have members in critical legislative districts, where no other group does

All can be essential to the success of the coalition effort and should be valued for the resources they bring



Structure Decision Making Carefully

- Those impacted the most usually want the most to say in decision making
 - In the case of the coalition you are forming people living with HIV and at risk for being criminalized are more than likely the most impacted:
 - HIV criminalization Ambassadors
- Those contributing the most usually want the most to say in decision making
 - Money, members, copy machine, meeting spaces, refreshments, most understanding of the impact of the issue
- This is often done through an informal understanding among the leaders
 - Some coalitions write it into the rules and give weighted votes to those organization which are most impacted by the issue --- or those with the most members, money or other characteristic.



Clarifying Decision Making

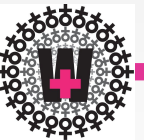
- A statewide coalition in large states often choose a working group or committee to meet with the staff of the lead organization
 - As long as the board is clear on how policy is set up and trusts the working group to check back at appropriate points
 - Whatever the decision making structure it should be clear to all coalition board members.



Distribute Credit Fairly

An organization's ability to raise money, recruit members, build power, attract staff, develop leaders and fulfill its vision depend directly on the amount of public credit it receives.

Rooted in basic survival instincts and changes in attitudes may not make it go away:



Nothing About Us Without Us

If the coalition issue is one of your main issues it is essential that you play a leadership role.

