PWN celebrated our 10th anniversary at the SPEAK UP! 2018 National Leadership Summit for Women in April, 2018. Photo by Johnnie Ray Kornegay, III
Dear PWN supporters,

What a ride the last two years have been!

In December 2016, PWN staff gathered in a conference room in Oakland for our annual end-of-year planning and strategy retreat. Instead of our typical workplan-focused discussions, we took intentional time to process the gravity of the political and cultural moment we found ourselves in, asking questions like: What does victory look like in this context? What are our bottom lines? What will it take to protect our communities? And how far are we willing to go?

That robust conversation, followed by ongoing dialogue and engagement with our membership and board of directors, led to a revamping of our strategic priorities and our policy agenda to meet the urgency and opportunities faced by our community.

Based on input from hundreds of women living with HIV, in 2018, PWN released a new strategic plan and an updated, intersectional policy agenda that explicitly uplift racial, gender, and economic justice as central to our collective liberation.

In the last two years, we have launched a rapid response mobilization strategy that helped save the Affordable Care Act; leveraged our network of powerful community organizers to integrate voter engagement with issue-based organizing work; created a yearlong Policy Fellowship to build a robust bench of prepared policy advocates; and deepened our political education work on race and gender.

In the process, we cultivated a robust presence in 19 states, won state-level policy campaigns, nearly doubled our staff size and budget, deepened our relationships with partners, helped anchor new and emergent efforts to advance racial justice and accountability in the field, and diversified our funding sources.

We couldn’t be prouder of what our members and staff have accomplished in the last couple of years. And it would not have been possible without your support.

We are grateful that you have stuck with us. When women, including women of trans experience, living with HIV are safe and free, all of us will be safe and free.

PWN is in this for the long haul. Thank you for sticking with us.

¡Adelante!

Naina Khanna
Executive Director
Positive Women’s Network - USA (PWN) was founded by 28 diverse women living with HIV* in June 2008. Founding members included women born outside the U.S., monolingual Spanish speakers, and women of trans experience, with one common thread: all were community leaders living with HIV.

PWN’s founders had a deep desire to create a unified voice for women with HIV across the United States and to uplift meaningful representation by Black, brown, and low-income women with HIV in decision-making spaces.

Eleven years later, we are over 3,000 members strong and growing throughout the states and territories, with six state chapters (in Colorado, Louisiana, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Texas) and mobilizable networks in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, and Virginia.

*Note: Positive Women’s Network – USA defines self-identified women living with HIV as including women, people of trans experience, non-binary and gender nonconforming people living with HIV who choose to be part of PWN’s membership body.
**Our mission:** To prepare and involve women living with HIV, in all our diversity, in all levels of policy and decision-making.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership Development</th>
<th>Trained over 1,000 women living with HIV in advocacy &amp; organizing skills</th>
<th>Trained over 10,000 community members on intersectional policy issues, racial justice, trans justice, and reproductive justice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advancing Racial, Economic &amp; Gender Justice</td>
<td>Created over 100 economic opportunities for people living with HIV</td>
<td>Co-convened Black United Leadership Institute (BULI), HIV Racial Justice Now, and Trans-Centered Reproductive Justice meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrative Shift</td>
<td>Created multimedia series by &amp; for women living with HIV viewed over 10,000 times</td>
<td>Increased the presence of women living with HIV in mainstream media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizing &amp; Basebuilding</td>
<td>Grew from 6 regional chapters to an active base in 19 states</td>
<td>Reached over 10,000 voters in 5 states in the 2018 election cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Defeated repeal of the Affordable Care Act 3 times</td>
<td>Reformed HIV criminalization laws in 2 states (Colorado &amp; California)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During 2017-2018, PWN went through an intensive strategic planning process with our members to deeply consider how we will know that we are moving towards the vision outlined above. In the pages that follow, you will see how your support is getting us there.

By building collective power as women living with HIV and centering the voices and priorities of Black, Latinx, transgender, and low-income members, we will transform systems, policy, and culture towards liberation of our communities.

Positive Women’s Network - USA envisions a world where all self-identified women living with HIV can live long, healthy, and dignified lives, free from stigma, oppression and discrimination.

As a result of PWN’s work, in the next five years, we will see:

» A large and growing cohort of Black, Latinx, and trans women living with HIV with strong leadership skills for public and private activism and advocacy.
» An elevated racial, gender and economic justice lens in our work and the HIV field.
» Effective, rapid mobilization of our growing base on urgent issues in an increasing number of states and Congressional districts.
» Passage or protection of policies that support women living with HIV and our communities.
» Repeal or failure of harmful policies.
» Visible representation of issues and analysis important to women living with HIV.
Jessi Mona of Houston joined the PWN Policy Fellowship in April 2018. When she learned about proposed changes to Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage that would impact people with HIV, she helped organize a community response, and flew to D.C. to provide testimony at a Congressional briefing. Today she is helping to lead the PWN Texas chapter’s rapid response team, coordinating mobilization from the local HIV community during legislative session.

**PWN** builds advocacy, organizing, policy analysis, and strategic communications skills for our base through ongoing and one-time trainings, including:

- our year-long Policy Fellowship for women living with HIV
- policy, organizing, and communications member workgroups that meet monthly;
- a Black women living with HIV workgroup;
- a Dismantling Racism workgroup;
- in-person and web-based trainings.

As a result, our members are taking leadership roles on planning councils and in issue-based advocacy campaigns in their states. They also bring their skills, knowledge, and analysis into paid employment positions, to the Boards of Directors they serve on, and into other work in the HIV community.

**SPEAK UP! 2018**

**NATIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

PWN’s SPEAK UP! 2018 National Leadership Summit brought together 350 women living with HIV from 25 states, Canada, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia for four days of focused leadership skills-building, led largely by our constituency:

- 80% of presenters were people living with HIV;
- 85% of presenters were people of color;
- 90% of presenters were women, including women of trans experience.

Content included day-long intensives on policy advocacy, strategic communications, and electoral organizing, as well as political education, professional development, and community organizing sessions.

**JESSI MONA CARTWRIGHT-BIGGS**

**LEADING THE FIGHT TO PROTECT PATIENT CHOICE**

Jessi Mona of Houston joined the PWN Policy Fellowship in April 2018. When she learned about proposed changes to Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage that would impact people with HIV, she helped organize a community response, and flew to D.C. to provide testimony at a Congressional briefing. Today she is helping to lead the PWN Texas chapter’s rapid response team, coordinating mobilization from the local HIV community during legislative session.
PWN is committed to centering the voices, power and leadership of communities most impacted by the domestic HIV epidemic. In practice, that means:

- **Within our work, we elevate and support leadership by and analysis from Black, Latinx, trans, and low-income women living with HIV.**
- **We prioritize alliances with efforts and organizations led by people living with HIV and by Black, Latinx, and trans communities.**

PWN organized a monthly Black women living with HIV workgroup focused on building life skills, addressing gender based violence and creating supportive space for Black women’s leadership. As attacks on immigrant safety and health care access have escalated, PWN has led calls for expanded sanctuary in HIV spaces, generated comments to oppose proposed changes to public charge determinations, and participated in demonstrations for immigrant rights and dignity.

- **In July 2017, PWN and Counter Narrative Project co-convened a national meeting to advance racial justice in the HIV movement, which led to the formation of the HIV Racial Justice Now coalition. Photo by Johnnie Ray Kornegay, III.**

- **PWN helped organize the Black United Leadership Institute, a 2-day meeting to elevate Black leadership in the HIV criminalization response, as a pre-conference to HIV Is Not A Crime III Training Academy in June 2018. Photo by Jennie Smith-Camejo.**

- **In January 2018, PWN and Positively Trans co-convened a national strategy meeting to identify opportunities to advance reproductive justice for people of trans experience living with HIV through policy and clinical practice. Photo by PWN staff.**
Organizing & Mobilizing

From Washington, DC, to state legislatures, PWN is fighting to protect and expand health care access, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, reproductive freedom, voting rights, and the social safety net. Much of our organizing work happens through member-led chapters and our State Leads.

Health care is a life-or-death issue for PWN members, who put everything on the line to help kill three attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Members and chapters organized phone banks to contact legislators, mobilized for creative direct action, visited district offices, and hosted rallies and speak-outs.

Key:
- Current PWN chapter
- Current PWN State Lead
- Strong PWN membership base

PWN Colorado member Mary Jane Maestas and ally Cris Sardina protest ACA repeal efforts on Capitol Hill, July 19, 2017. Photo by TW Collins.

PWN Pennsylvania members and allies organized a protest against attempted ACA repeal September 26, 2017. Photo courtesy of PWN Pennsylvania.

Florida state lead Alecia Tramel organized to pass Amendment 4, restoring voting rights to 1.4 million Floridians with felony convictions. Photo courtesy of Alecia Tramel.

Alabama state lead Katie Willingham has been organizing people with HIV in her state to take action on health care access, SNAP, and more. Photo courtesy of Katie Willingham.

Virginia state lead Deidre Johnson co-founded a statewide coalition to end HIV criminalization and mass incarceration. Photo courtesy of Deidre Johnson.
In our new strategic plan, PWN formally integrated electoral organizing as a key strategy. During the 2018 midterm cycle, PWN piloted and tested strategies to integrate electoral organizing in the field, reaching over 10,000 voters from communities often disenfranchised in the political process.

PWN provided funds, training, and coaching to chapters in Colorado, Louisiana, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas to support integration of nonpartisan voter registration, education, engagement, turnout, and candidate outreach into their issue-based organizing.

We also released a #PWNVotes toolkit, along with a five-part webinar series, to help our base understand voting rights and regulations in their states and to encourage broader integration of electoral organizing into the HIV community.

“I am most proud of my work reaching out to folks who are traditionally left out of electoral organizing: by registering and educating voters in community correctional facilities, homeless drop-in centers and shelters, and medication-assisted treatment facilities in Colorado—people who often didn’t even know they had the right to vote.”

- Rica Rodriguez, PWN Colorado

Rica Rodriguez performs an HIV test and registers a new voter.  
Photo courtesy of Rica Rodriguez.
**ALL ELECTIONS ARE LOCAL
REACHING NEW & LOW-TURNOUT VOTERS**

» **PWN Colorado** registered nearly 300 voters, knocked on 800 doors, and phone banked 2300 voters. On Election Day, they gave rides to the polls and brought water, snacks, and food to help folks stay in line to vote.

» **PWN Louisiana** tabled at HBCUs and collaborated with Black Greek organizations and local clinics to register young voters in high priority precincts.

» **PWN Pennsylvania** registered hundreds of new voters at block parties and on buses. They also canvassed and phone-banked voters in Philly and nearby Lancaster county.

» Through door-knocking, lit drops, phone banks, and non-traditional get-out-the-vote efforts, **PWN Texas** contacted nearly 5,000 voters in Dallas and Houston with information about what was on their ballot and the early voting process. On Election Day, they gave rides to the polls and monitored polling places to ensure access for voters with disabilities.

» **PWN New York** registered new voters and collected pledges from voters at community events like Pride. They texted, emailed, and called their voter lists, helping voters understand their ballots, check their registrations, and find their polling places.

Dallas area PWN members passed out over 4,000 nonpartisan voter guides in low-turnout precincts and subsidized housing communities to educate our folks about what was at stake on the ballot. We had conversations with more than 800 voters, texted 150 voters, and gave over a dozen rides to the polls on Election Day. I am so proud of our work.

- PWN Dallas Member

#PWNVOTES

PWN Denver registering and educating voters before the 2018 midterm elections. Photo courtesy of PWN Denver.

PWN Dallas registering and educating voters before the 2018 midterm elections. Photo courtesy of PWN Dallas.

PWN Pennsylvania registering and educating voters before the 2018 midterm elections. Photo courtesy of Waheedah Shabazz-El.
PWN members speak about their work successfully modernizing HIV criminalization statutes in California and North Carolina at HV Is Not A Crime III Training Academy in June 2018.
Photo by Jennie Smith-Camejo.

PWN’s policy staff support members, state leads and chapters on advocacy campaigns and produce materials and resources to support engagement of our base on timely policy issues, such as a monthly newsletter on relevant policy developments, factsheets, and educational webinars. PWN also partnered with the Sero Project to produce the HIV is Not a Crime (HINAC) Training Academy in 2016 and 2018.

Policy staff also lead and supervise PWN’s flagship Policy Fellowship program, helping build a bench of women and people of trans experience living with HIV who are ready to lead in the policy arena.

PWN South Carolina
ORGANIZING TO END HIV CRIMINALIZATION

PWN’s South Carolina chapter has built an intersectional statewide coalition to decriminalize HIV, led primarily by Black South Carolinians living with HIV. In the last two years, they have developed a robust network of 14 HIV decriminalization ambassadors; reached over 800 community members with information about the harmful effects of HIV criminalization laws; and have identified potential legislative champions.

In the process, they also established a women’s working group at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and rewrote DHEC’s HIV 101 training to destigmatize the language used.

PWN South Carolina delivered trainings to people living with HIV about criminalization.
Photo courtesy of PWN South Carolina.
In July 2018, following more than a year of dialogue with members about priorities, PWN released a new, intersectional policy agenda to guide our proactive and reactive advocacy at the state and federal levels. The agenda envisions transformative solutions and integrates a number of priorities that directly touch our members’ lives. Learn more about our policy platforms at pwn-usa.org/policy-agenda.

**Universal Health Care**
Universal health care means high-quality, holistic healthcare regardless of gender identity, race, immigration status, or ability to pay.

**Ending Violence Against Women Living with HIV**
Women living with HIV deserve to be free from interpersonal, community, and structural violence.

**Economic Justice**
Women living with HIV deserve financial security.

**Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice**
We have the right to decide what to do with our bodies, our sexuality, our families, and our reproductive futures.

**Trans Rights, Safety, and Justice**
People of trans experience deserve safety, acceptance & freedom to thrive.

**Ending Criminalization**
Liberate our communities from policing and borders. Sanctuary for all.
When women living with HIV are present in media coverage of the epidemic at all, it is most often either a victim narrative or within the frame of personal responsibility. Rarely do portrayals dig deeper into the root causes or the specific ways women are affected by HIV.

PWN has committed significant time and resources into preparing and supporting women living with HIV to be counterpoints to those unhelpful narratives, as well as providing a platform for sharing their voices:

- A cohort of PWN member spokespeople meets monthly by videoconference for training and practice in messaging, framing, and media skills. They are given media opportunities as they arise as well as assistance in writing and pitching op-eds.

- The Communications Action Team meets monthly to build skills in media, social media, and other communications, and to provide input and feedback for PWN’s communications products.

- Our #PWNSpeaks blog features over 100 blog posts by dozens of women living with HIV. Many have been re-published by other media outlets.

#PWNcares is an interactive multimedia series developed by and for women living with HIV, supported through funding from ViiV Healthcare’s Positive Action for Women grant.

16 women living with HIV, including women of trans experience, were interviewed for 8 short videos covering topics of interest and concern for recently diagnosed women. The videos were premiered beginning in fall 2017 in “virtual coffee table chats,” where participants were able to ask questions anonymously of the women in the videos and share their own experiences.
PWN is proud to have a staff team that is majority people of color and majority women living with HIV and a Board of Directors comprised 100% of women living with HIV, the majority of whom are Black and Latinx.

PWN’s Board was recognized at the 2018 Speak Up! Summit.
Photo by Johnnie Ray Kornegay, Ill.
Our funding partnerships are meaningful to us because they are grounded in shared values and priorities, and infused by relationships built upon trust, respect and a commitment to deep collaboration to achieve PWN's vision: a world where women and people of trans experience living with HIV thrive, free from all forms of stigma, discrimination and oppression.

A core group of funders has provided longstanding support to PWN that has created a platform of stability, helping us to take courageous risks and supporting us to develop a firm foundation from which to realize the many victories and accomplishments we highlight in this annual report. These long-term funding partners are Elton John AIDS Foundation, Ford Foundation, If/When/How, and the MAC AIDS Fund.

Our work has been deepened and strengthened by big picture and high-impact funding from the Ford Foundation and Groundswell Fund that places it within a larger domestic and global context of movement work to drive social change; by multi-year commitments by the Ford Foundation, Groundswell Fund, If/When/How, Levi Strauss Foundation, and Glaxo SmithKline/ViiV Healthcare; and by critical investments by AIDS United and Gilead Sciences.

We are thankful to those who sponsored our 2018 SPEAK UP! 10th Anniversary National Leadership Summit for Women Living with HIV: Amida Care, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, AIDS United, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Common Counsel Foundation, Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, Elton John AIDS Foundation, GMHC, Groundswell Fund, Housing Works, Levi Strauss Foundation, MAC AIDS Fund, NMAC, and ViiV Healthcare. We are deeply grateful to Johnnie Ray Kornegay III and Mark S. King who generously shared their time and talents to document this historic event.

We also were gratified to be part of several funded partnerships in 2017-2018:

- **Building Leaders of Color (BLOC)**, a collaboration with NMAC, Thrive SS, Transgender Law Center, and the U.S. People Living with HIV Caucus;
- **HIV Justice Worldwide**, supported by the Robert Carr Network Fund to advance a global HIV decriminalization movement;
- with the Sero Project, production of the third HIV is Not a Crime Training Academy;
- with UCSF Women's HIV Program, development of a model of trauma-informed primary care and Butterfly Rising, a trauma-informed leadership intervention.

On behalf of all of our members, we are deeply appreciative of your generous support and belief in our work. Thank you!
The generosity of our supporters fuels PWN’s work and our ability to respond to planned and emergent community needs.

During this two-year period, PWN’s revenue and staff grew significantly. PWN provided paid employment or contracting opportunities to more than 40 unique people living with HIV, the majority of whom were Black people, non-Black people of color, and low-income people, as well as dozens more who received stipends or honoraria for their work with PWN.

Positive Women’s Network-USA is proud to be fiscally sponsored by Movement Strategy Center (MSC), a 501(c)3 organization that works to build a progressive movement by increasing the capacity of individuals, organizations, alliances and sectors to be more strategic, collaborative and sustainable. MSC’s full audited financials can be viewed at https://www.guidestar.org/profile/20-1037643

* PWN’s fiscal year runs July 1-June 30. Revenue includes multi-year grants.
THANK YOU!

We are so thankful for our 2017-2018 donors. Because of your support, we have the flexibility to respond rapidly to emerging needs on the ground.

Gabriel Arkles
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Thank you to the following groups who generously supported us through grants or fee-for-service contracts in 2017-2018:

AIDS United
Anonymous
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Common Counsel Foundation
Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation
Elton John AIDS Foundation
Ford Foundation
Gilead
Groundswell Fund
If/When/How
Levi Strauss Foundation
MAC AIDS Fund
National Minority AIDS Council
Robert Carr Network/HIV Justice Worldwide
Sero Project
UCSF Women’s HIV Program
ViiV Healthcare

A tremendous thank you to the organizational supporters of our SPEAK UP! 2018 Summit:

Affinity Health Center
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Harm Reduction Coalition
Institute of International Education
Project Inform
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
The Sero Project
The Well Project
Thrive Alabama
Whitman-Walker Health
Women Together for Change
Volunteers:

PWN's work is possible only because of our incredible, dedicated volunteer base consisting of members, allies, accomplices, and key partners. We are deeply grateful to all PWN chapter officers (past and present) and members, as well as PWN state leads, policy fellows, and spokespeople, who commit hundreds of hours per year to ensure the voices, perspectives and priorities of women and trans people living with HIV are heard loud and clear. Our policy coaches, strategy advisors, and key partners have provided content expertise and generously mentored our members and staff. PWN's board members – past and present—have dedicated countless hours, blood, sweat, and tears, to building a robust, accountable, and sustainable organization. And PWN's membership base can always be counted on to show up to save healthcare, to protect immigrant rights, and to stand for justice. There are too many of you to individually name, and we could not be more grateful. You fight for all of us. We see you and we love you.

Partnerships and Alliances:

Generative, collaborative partnerships create the context for our vision to thrive. PWN is proud to serve as an active member of the Black United Leadership Institute, HIV Racial Justice Now, the U.S. People Living with HIV Caucus, the AIDS United Public Policy Committee, the Act Now End AIDS Coalition, the Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition, HIV Justice Worldwide, the Radical Communicators Network, and to have partnered with the Sero Project on the production of HIV is Not a Crime III. Through these formations and many others, we work in deep alignment with organizations who share our values and commitment to fight for justice. We are grateful to our partners for their thought leadership and vision, and for their ongoing support for PWN and our members. We look forward to another decade of authentic, values-based partnerships.

Thank you!

PWN was proud to present on a panel with the SERO Project, Thrive SS, the Levi Strauss Foundation, the U.S. People Living with HIV Caucus, and New York Transgender Advocacy Group at the Funders Concerned About AIDS Philanthropy Summit, October 29, 2019.

Photo courtesy of Funders Concerned About AIDS
Your investments have allowed us to nurture a growing base of leaders, to win campaigns against impossible odds, and to create a supportive space for people living with HIV to lead.

We are so thankful. Please help us spread the word about these opportunities to keep PWN strong.

**BECOME A MONTHLY SUSTAINER.**
Maximize your impact 365 days a year! Your monthly commitment will help sustain PWN’s crucial work preparing and supporting women living with HIV to be effective advocates and community organizers and will give us an income we can rely on.

Visit [actblue.com/donate/pwn](http://actblue.com/donate/pwn) - and make it recurring!

**USE YOUR CORPORATE MATCH.**
Does your employer offer a corporate matching gift? Many companies small and large will match your donation to a 501(c)(3) like PWN--sometimes by 2:1 or even more! That means your gift can go twice as far.

Call our office at 510.698.3811 and ask for Naina for assistance.

**LEAVE A FIERCE LEGACY.**
Consider including PWN in your planned giving. Your estate can help ensure that women living with HIV continue to have a voice for many years to come.

Call our office at 510.698.3811 and ask for Naina for assistance.

*PWN brought a cohort of 50 women living with HIV to the 2018 Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit. Photo by Jennie Smith-Camejo.*