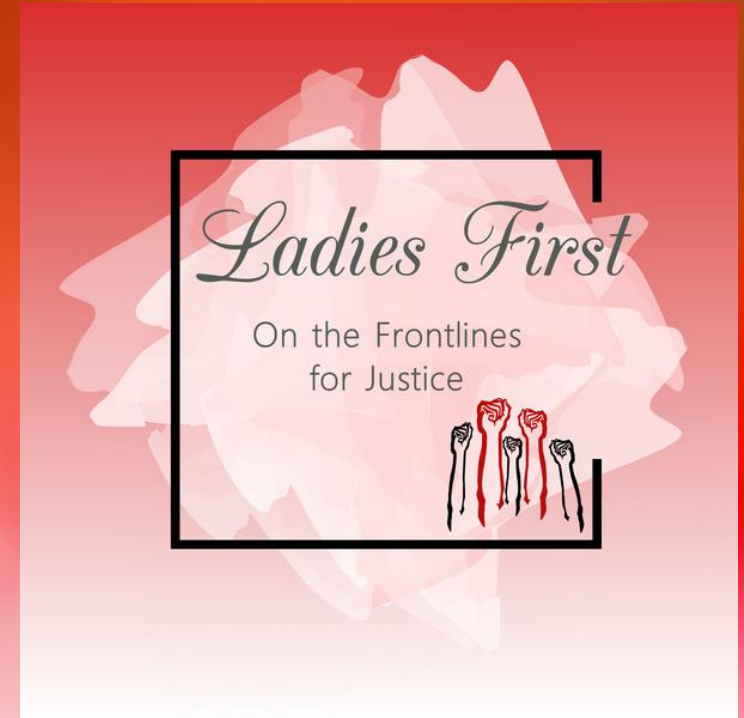


**Ladies First on the Frontlines for Justice
2-Day Conference 2024
United for Justice Advancing the Movement
for HIV Criminalization Reform and
Decriminalization**

**PWN Scholars Program
Best Practices Presentation**

**Impact of HIV Criminalization on
Individuals and Communities**



Ladies First

On the Frontlines
for Justice

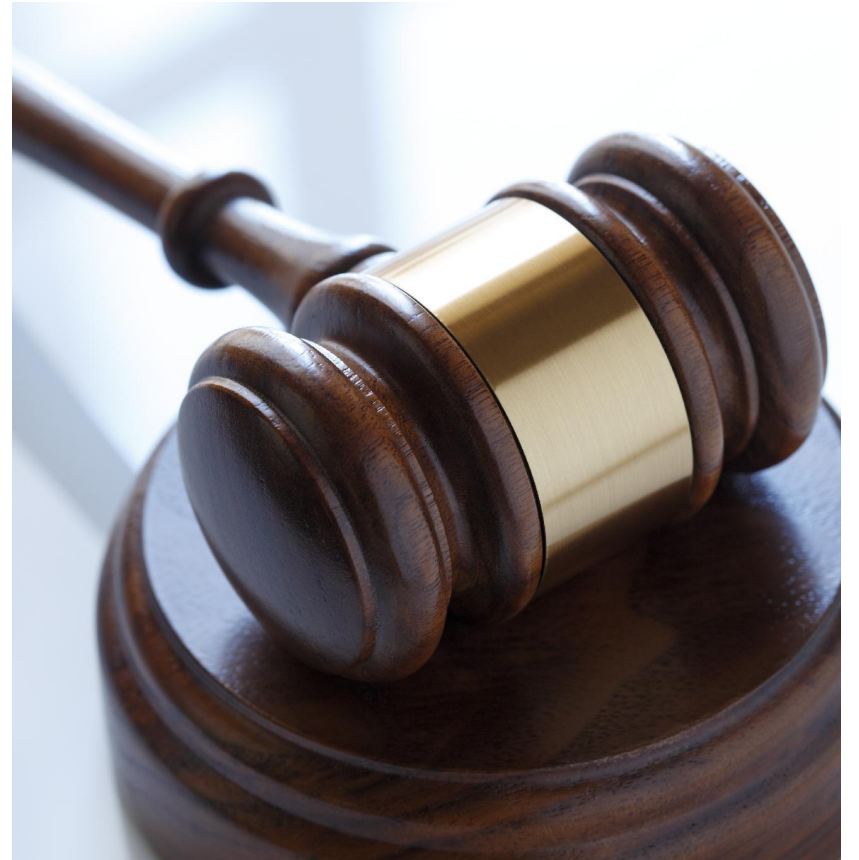


Who Is Ladies First on the Frontlines for Justice?

- Women-led HIV advocacy initiative
- Focused on HIV criminalization reform and decriminalization
- Centers women living with HIV and impacted communities
- Promotes education, awareness, and policy change
- Uses storytelling, dialogue, and community engagement
- Builds partnerships across states and organizations

Why This Project Was Needed

- HIV criminalization increases stigma
- Laws disproportionately impact marginalized communities
- Fear of prosecution discourages testing and disclosure
- Education and advocacy are critical to reform



Conference Overview & Presenters



Day One – Virtual

- Maryland & New York HIV law discussion
- Legal and advocacy panel
- Lived experience storytelling



Melanie Reese



Jose Velez

Day Two – In Person (NYC LGBT Center)

- Keynote speaker
- Panel discussions
- Video viewing **True (Not) Crime Story | Lashanda Salinas**
- Community strategy dialogue
- Resource tabling



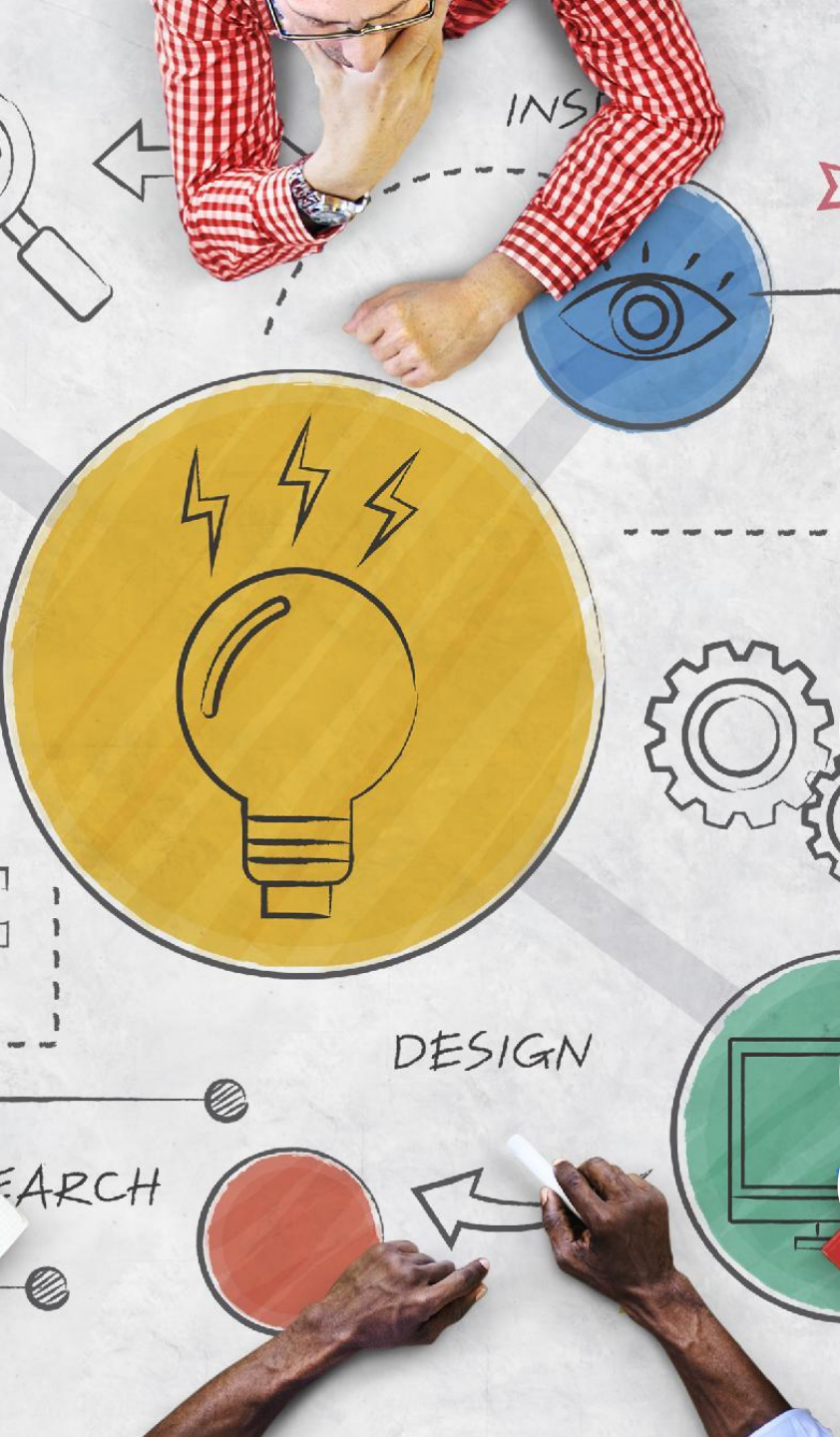
Robert Suttle



Milo Inglehart



Sallie J Thomas

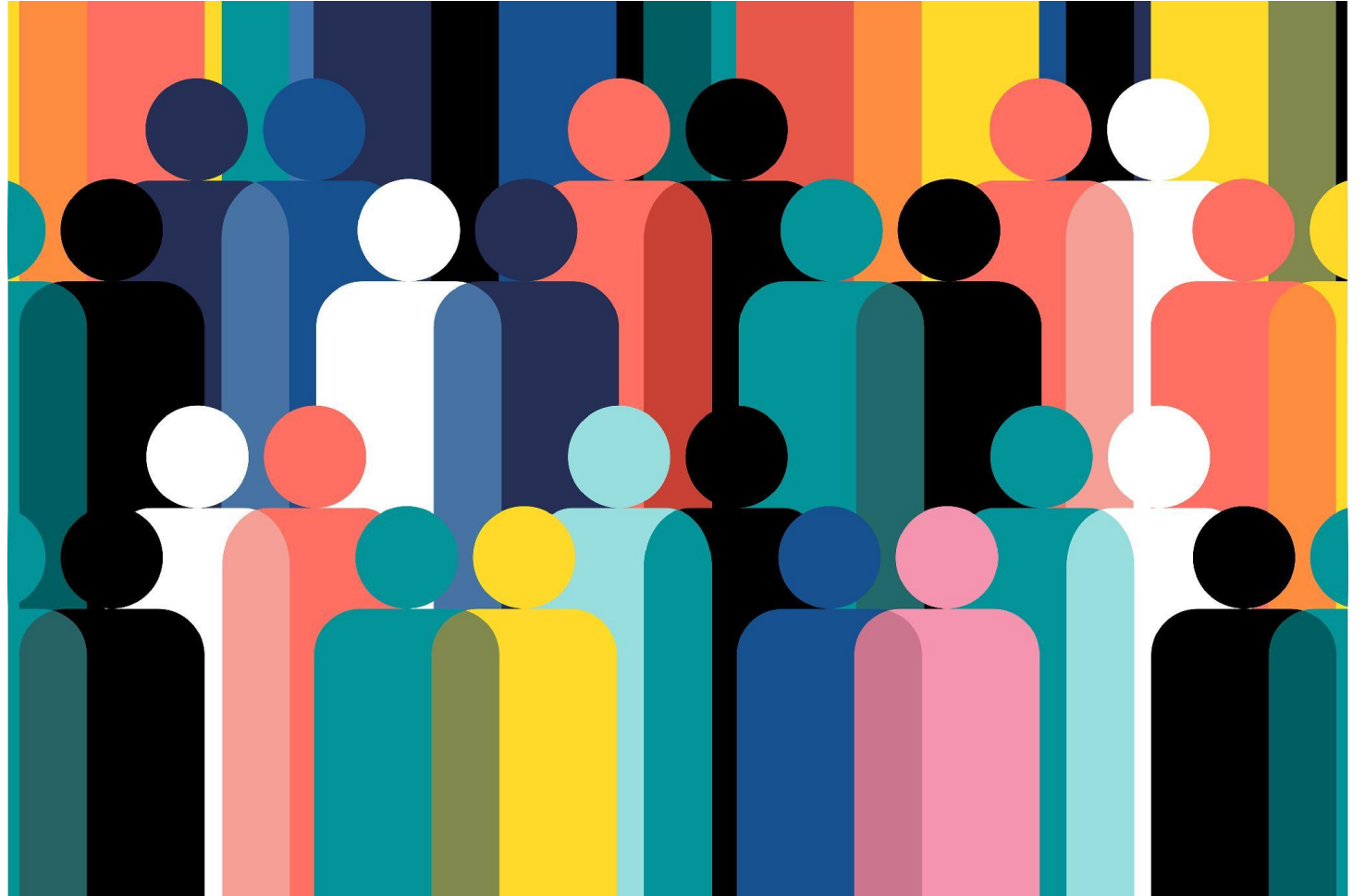


Planning & Resources

- Secured Health Not Prisons Collective funding
- Awarded up to \$7,500 for HIV criminalization/decriminalization education
- Payments processed through The Sero Project
- Coordinated virtual and in-person logistics
- Recruited speakers and panelists
- Hired peer outreach workers
- Developed outreach and promotional materials

Community Engagement

- Centered lived experience voices
- Created safe discussion spaces
- Encouraged audience participation
- Built cross-state advocacy connections
- Used storytelling to increase impact

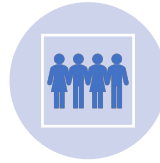


Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Limited access to some documentation
- Coordinated hybrid event logistics
- Adapted using available materials
- Learned importance of shared records
- Flexibility was essential



Best Practices for Advocates



Center impacted communities



Build partnerships early



Use hybrid event formats



Keep messaging clear and accessible



Document planning processes



Create space for dialogue



Outcomes & Impact

- Increased awareness of HIV criminalization
- Strengthened advocacy connections
- Encouraged cross-state collaboration
- Elevated lived experience leadership
- Created reusable advocacy framework

Key Takeaways

- HIV criminalization is a human rights issue
- Storytelling strengthens advocacy
- Community-led events create impact
- Collaboration builds stronger movements





Thank You

Questions?