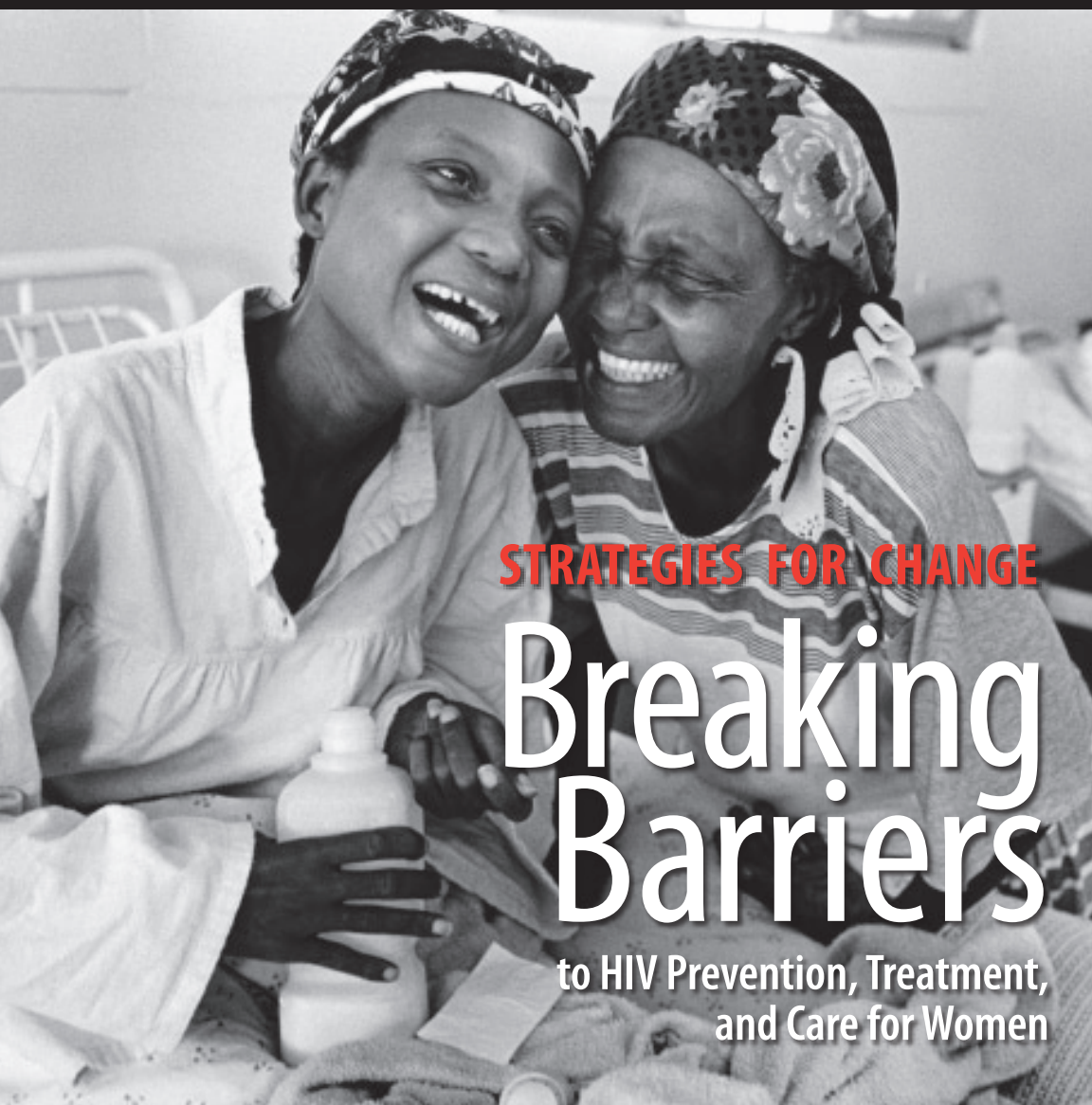




OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE  
Public Health Program

PRESENTS



STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE

# Breaking Barriers

to HIV Prevention, Treatment,  
and Care for Women

Saturday, August 2, 2008

09:00 – 17:30

Reception to follow

Sheraton Maria Isabel | Fiestas Room | Paseo de la Reforma 325 | Mexico City

The disproportionate impact of the AIDS pandemic on women and girls is clear. The additional barriers faced by women and girls in obtaining appropriate services and care—including stigma and discrimination, violence, lack of information, and poverty—have been well documented. Yet effective strategies to address these barriers and the underlying factors contributing to them have received less attention.

The Public Health Program of the Open Society Institute has convened this symposium, “Strategies for Change: Breaking Barriers to Prevention, Treatment, and Care for Women,” to share proven and promising initiatives that respond to the needs of women and girls. The symposium features a series of moderated discussions with HIV activists, women’s advocates, and health experts on innovative empowerment, legal, economic, and health services strategies for a more “woman-friendly” response to HIV. The symposium will draw attention to efforts to meet the needs of a broad range of women, including sex workers, drug users and women living with HIV, and to support their engagement in the development and implementation of the policies and programs that affect their lives.

# PROGRAM

8:00 – 9:00 **BREAKFAST**

9:10 – 9:30 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Françoise Girard, Director, Public Health Program,  
Open Society Institute

9:30 – 11:00 **EMPOWERMENT: POWERED BY WOMEN**

Moderator: Claudia Ahumada, World AIDS Campaign  
Melissa Gira, Desiree Alliance  
Siphiwe Hlophe, Swaziland for Positive Living  
Esther Mwaura-Muiru, GROOTS Kenya  
Sekar Wulan Sari, Stigma Foundation

11:00 – 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 – 13:00 **FROM PAPER TO PRACTICE: TAKING BACK THE LAW**

Moderator: Jonathan Cohen, Law and Health Initiative,  
Open Society Institute  
Corinne Carey, Consultant, Open Society Institute  
Catherine Mumma, Kenya Ethical and Legal Issues Network  
on HIV/AIDS  
Sibongile Ndashe, INTERIGHTS  
Elena Reynaga, Argentine Association of Female Sex Workers

13:00 – 14:00 **LUNCH**

14:00 – 15:30 **IT'S OUR MONEY: MAKING IT, TRACKING IT,  
SPENDING IT**

Moderator: Julia Greenberg, AIDS-Free World  
Julia Kim, IMAGE Project, Rural AIDS and Development  
Action Research  
Martha Kwataine, Malawi Health Equity Network  
Gabriela Leite, Davida  
Patricia Ndhlovu, Zambia Rainbow Coalition

15:30 – 16:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

16:00 – 17:30 **PATIENCE NO MORE: ADVANCING HEALTH CARE  
FOR WOMEN**

Moderator: Cynthia Eyakuze, Public Health Watch,  
Open Society Institute  
Cynthia Navarrete, Aproase  
Suzanne Maman, University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill / University of KwaZulu Natal  
Anna Shapoval, MAMA+

17:30 – 18:30 **RECEPTION**

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Claudia Ahumada** is the youth campaigns coordinator for the World AIDS Campaign. She graduated from Law School at University Diego Portales in Santiago, Chile, and also holds an Honors Diploma in Humanities. Ms. Ahumada holds a Master of Laws, with an emphasis on international law and reproductive health, from the University of Toronto, Canada. She has been involved in a variety of youth and women's sexual and reproductive rights for a number of years, advocating both at the local and international level. Ms. Ahumada is a member of the Board of the Directors of the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, of which she has been a member since its founding. She has also worked as a legal intern for the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), in Washington DC, as well as at the Center for Reproductive Rights.

**Corinne Carey** is currently Public Policy Counsel to the New York Civil Liberties Union focusing on reproductive rights and issues relating to HIV/AIDS. Ms. Carey was a researcher with the U.S. Program at Human Rights Watch, where she produced reports and engaged in advocacy on domestic human rights issues including the rights of people with criminal records, sex offender registration and community notification laws, and the evacuation of correctional facilities during Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Carey graduated summa cum laude from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law. Ms. Carey has represented drug users in cases affecting their rights to family, housing, and social support. She has also taught courses in law and urban problems and civil rights and civil liberties at New York University and Brooklyn College.

**Jonathan Cohen** is the director of the Law and Health Initiative at the Open Society Institute. He oversees a range of legal assistance, litigation, and law reform efforts to advance public health goals worldwide. Under his leadership, the Law and Health Initiative has developed a portfolio of grant-making on advancing women's legal empowerment in the context of HIV/AIDS. Mr. Cohen was previously a researcher with the HIV/AIDS and Human Rights Program at Human Rights Watch, where he conducted numerous investigations of human rights violations linked to AIDS epidemics in sub-Saharan Africa, southeast Asia, and North America. His research and advocacy addressed issues such as the trafficking

of girls into forced labor, the rights of adolescent girls to comprehensive HIV/AIDS information, and the impact of HIV/AIDS on girls' access to education. A Canadian lawyer, Mr. Cohen served as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada in 2001 and was co-editor-in-chief of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law Review. He holds degrees from Yale College, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Toronto Faculty of Law.

**Cynthia Eyakuze** is the project director of Public Health Watch in the Public Health Program at the Open Society Institute. In her current capacity, she seeks to strengthen meaningful and sustained engagement by infected and affected communities in the development, implementation, and monitoring of TB, HIV and TB/HIV policies, programs and practices. Before joining OSI, Ms. Eyakuze was the Director of the Francophone Africa Program at Family Care International, an NGO based in New York, and a Program Associate with the International Program of the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) and Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). Ms. Eyakuze holds a Master of Arts degree from Bryn Mawr College, and a Master of Public Health from Columbia University. In 2007, Ms. Eyakuze was the recipient of the Katharine Houghton Hepburn Fellowship in Women's Health from Bryn Mawr College.

**Melissa Gira** is the Social Media Coordinator for St. James Infirmery, the San Francisco-based community health clinic operated for and by sex workers. She has been a consultant with the Open Society Institute's Sexual Health and Rights' Project, in concert with Network of Sex Work Projects, on using blogging, podcasting, videoblogging, and online social networks for advocacy and movement building among sex workers. She is also a freelance journalist and writer, and the co-founder, with the U.S. sex worker network the Desiree Alliance, of the sex worker group blog Bound, Not Gagged.

**Françoise Girard** is the director of the Open Society Institute's Public Health Program. A lawyer by training, she was Senior Program Officer for International Policy at the International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC) from 1999 to 2003, with a focus on advocacy and policy development with UN agencies and at UN

conferences including ICPD+5, Beijing+5, the Special Session on HIV/AIDS and on Children, and ICPD+10. Ms. Girard has contributed articles to International Family Planning Perspectives, Reproductive Health Matters, the Journal of Women's Health and Law, Populi, and QCQ, among others.

**Julia Greenberg** has been working on HIV/AIDS, human rights and community development for over a decade. Currently she serves as the Associate Director of AIDS-Free World, a global AIDS advocacy organization speaking out for more urgent and effective global action to address the pandemic. She coordinates AIDS-Free World's advocacy efforts to demand that the United Nations deliver on its commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment by creating a new international agency for women. From 2003-2008 Ms. Greenberg served as the Director of the Grants Department at American Jewish World Service (AJWS), where she advocated for increased direct financial support for activists making change at the grassroots level, and traveled extensively in Africa working with women's and PWLHA groups to develop AJWS' HIV/AIDS program.

**Siphiwe Hlophe** is a founding member and current Director of Swaziland Positive Living (SWAPOL), formed in 2001 in response to stigma, victimization and discrimination faced by people living with HIV. She is responsible for resource mobilization, advocating for rights of PLWHA (especially women) and promoting food security. Before her position as director for SWAPOL, she held a management position in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives working closely with women in rural areas on an income generation project to alleviate poverty. Ms. Hlophe is a member of the UN Secretary General's Task Force on Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa and a board member of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS.

**Julia Kim** is a physician and public health specialist who has been based in South Africa for the past 10 years. She holds joint appointments as a Senior Researcher within the School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand (RSA) and the Health Policy Unit, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK). Research interests include clinical and structural interventions addressing the intersections between poverty, gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS. Intervention research has included developing a nurse-driven model for delivering HIV post-

exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and sexual assault care, strengthening approaches to addressing domestic violence through the health and education sectors, and exploring microfinance as a potential platform for women's economic empowerment.

**Martha Kwataine** is the national coordinator for the Malawi Health Equity Network. She is an economist and policy analyst and holds a Master of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Malawi. Ms. Kwataine has expertise in media advocacy, and has worked on HIV/AIDS issues since 2000.

**Gabriela Silva Leite** is the director of Davida–Prostitution, Civil Rights and Health, an NGO located in Rio de Janeiro that aims to strengthen prostitutes' citizenship by helping them to organize as well as defend and promote their civil and human rights. Daspu is a fashion label started as a Davida initiative to gain visibility for prostitutes as leaders and educators about safer sex. Ms. Leite is also a consultant for preventative actions among prostitutes in the National STD/AIDS Program of the Brazilian Health Ministry, as well as the founder of the Brazilian Prostitutes' Network, which has brought together some 30 associations of prostitutes from all over the country and which is also part of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Sex Workers. Ms. Leite worked as a prostitute for more than a decade during the 1970s and '80s, a period in which she witnessed frequent violations of her colleagues' basic rights. She thus began to work towards organizing sex professionals, and became a pioneer of the prostitutes' movement, struggling in particular against the exploitation that many of these women suffer.

**Suzanne Maman** is an Assistant Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Public Health. Dr. Maman has been conducting research related to HIV and gender-based violence in East and South Africa for the past 10 years. Together with colleagues in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, she has conducted a series of studies examining the intersection between HIV and violence among women. She is the Principal Investigator for a 5-year study in Durban, South Africa designed to evaluate an integrated model of HIV post-test support for pregnant women that includes legal support.

**Catherine Mumma** is a board member and technical adviser to the Kenya Legal and Ethical Network on HIV/AIDS (KELIN), which was formed to address legal and human rights concerns relating to health and HIV. She is a former Commissioner with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), where she initiated a project to work with cultural structures to protect the rights of women. The project is now being expanded to communities across Kenya. Ms. Mumma is also a member of an international committee of experts working with the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network to develop a model law on women and HIV. Ms. Mumma holds a Bachelor of Law from the University of Nairobi and a Master of Laws in Human Rights from the University of London. She is currently a commissioner with the Independent Review Commission appointed following post-election violence to investigate the 2007 electoral process in Kenya.

**Esther Mwaura-Muiru** is a founder and coordinator of GROOTS Kenya (Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood), a network of more than 2000 self-help groups from poor communities in urban slums and rural areas. GROOTS Kenya has been represented at decision-making forums including the UN Millennium Review, UNAIDS advisory meetings, the Kenya National AIDS Authority and several International AIDS Conferences. Ms. Mwaura-Muiru grew up in a rural section of Kenya's Central Province and earned a merit scholarship to attend university to study sociology and economics. She is a consulting writer and environmental specialist who documented several award winning Kenyan community development practices and is a leader within an international network of grassroots women – GROOTS International, focusing on local governance, secure land tenure, and community responses to HIV and AIDS. In 2007, she stood for Parliament as a Green Party candidate in Kenya's national elections, though unfortunately did not gain the seat. Since that election she has coordinated GROOTS Kenya's response to political and ethnic violence, supported the provision of direct relief, and led dialogues towards reconciliation and long-term re-building of communities.

**Cynthia Navarette** works with APROASE, a civil society association of sex workers organized to advocate for human and labor rights within the sex work industry in Mexico, where she is the Technical and Administrative Director of the organization's Dysplasia Clinic, COLSAVI. Additionally, Ms. Navarette plans and manages advocacy and educational campaigns on issues around HIV/AIDS, HPV, cervical and breast cancer and preventing the transmission of STDs.

She has expertise in designing educational materials and worked with the National Center for Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS (CENSIDA) to develop the “HIV Prevention Guide for Sex Workers.” She has won scholarships from CENSIDA to present at the Mexican National HIV/AIDS and STDs Congress, and was a panel moderator during the 1st National Forum of HIV/AIDS Preventive Actions, “Prevention in Mexico until 2015” in November 2006.

**Sibongile Ndashe** is currently a lawyer at INTERIGHTS, an organization that defends and promotes human rights and freedoms worldwide through the use of international and comparative law. She holds a B.Proc and LLB from the University of the Western Cape and was admitted to practice as an attorney in 2001. She has worked as a candidate attorney for the Legal Resources Centre (1999-2000), a researcher at the South African Constitutional court (2001) and an attorney at the Women’s Legal Centre, a public interest law center that conducts litigation on women’s constitutional rights (2002-2007). Her work has focused on customary law, religious laws and women’s property rights. Ms. Ndashe has made written and oral submissions to various parliamentary committees on laws impacting on women and conducted training courses with other human rights organizations in various countries in Eastern and Southern Africa on the domestication of international human rights.

**Patricia Ndhlovu** is currently programs manager for the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), Zambia. YWCA is a member of the Zambia Rainbow Coalition (ZRC), a group of eight civil society organizations with a common mission of securing funds for HIV prevention, treatment and care interventions focused on women and girls in Zambia. Ms. Ndhlovu has been actively involved in implementing activities and designing programs aimed at HIV/AIDS prevention and impact mitigation such as awareness on HIV prevention, HIV and AIDS from a gender perspective, reduction of stigma and discrimination, support for orphans and vulnerable children and socio-economic empowerment for women and girls.

**Elena Reynaga** is a sex worker, founder and secretary general of the Association of Women Prostitutes from Argentina (AMMAR). AMMAR has 1,700 members in Argentina, holds the executive secretariat of the Network of Sexual Workers from Latin America and the Caribbean (RedTraSex) and works to suppress police and institutional violence. Ms. Reynaga has persuaded sex workers of the importance

to be an organized union and has advocated to end stigma and discrimination against sex workers. She is a feminist activist committed to reducing the specific vulnerabilities that women living with HIV face. She has presented her vision on sex workers' rights in global fora such as the 2008 High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in New York, NY. Ms. Reynaga frequently says: "We are not vulnerable, our rights are violated." She vigorously debates in all spheres for prostitutes to be acknowledged as what they are: women workers.

**Sekar Wulan Sari** is a Director of STIGMA Foundation, Jakarta, Indonesia, a community-based organization whose members include former drug users and people living with HIV. STIGMA advocates for drug users' rights and promotes gender sensitivity in harm reduction interventions. Ms. Sari has been a long-time advocate for harm reduction and drug users' rights at the local and national level. She has recently turned her attention to female drug users and partners of male IDUs, and is conducting qualitative research about their access to harm reduction services. Prior to starting STIGMA, Ms. Sari formed a self-help group for recovering drug addicts and wrote policy brief newsletters for the Jakarta Provincial Narcotic Board.

**Anna Shapoval** is currently the Country Director for Doctors of the World-USA (DOW) in Ukraine. In July 2005, she launched the two-year USAID-funded international technical assistance MAMA+ program seeking to prevent abandonment of children born to HIV-positive women. Ms. Shapoval has ten years of professional experience in the field of public health, HIV/AIDS prevention and provision of services for HIV-affected women, youth and at-risk children in Ukraine and Moldova. She has worked with the International Renaissance Foundation (Ukraine), Medecins Sans Frontieres (Holland), the AIDS Foundation East-West, and the International Harm Reduction Development Program (IHRD) of the Open Society Institute in New York City. Ms. Shapoval holds a Master of Arts Degree from the Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration and Certificate in Non-Profit Management from the University of Pennsylvania, for which she received a Fulbright Fellowship in 2003-2004.

## **Open Society Institute**

The Open Society Institute (OSI), a private operating and grantmaking foundation, aims to shape public policy to promote democratic governance, human rights, and economic, legal, and social reform. On a local level, OSI implements a range of initiatives to support the rule of law, education, public health, and independent media. At the same time, OSI works to build alliances across borders and continents on issues such as combating corruption and rights abuses.

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## **Public Health Program**

The Open Society Institute's Public Health Program aims to promote health policies based on social inclusion, human rights, justice, and scientific evidence. The program works with civil society organizations to promote the participation and interests of socially marginalized groups in public health policy and foster greater government accountability and transparency through civil society monitoring and advocacy, with a particular emphasis on HIV and AIDS. Program areas focus on addressing the human rights and health needs of marginalized persons and advocating for a strong civil society role in public health policy and practice.

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## Innovations for a More “Woman-Friendly” Response to HIV



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