

## **Expanding Global Access to Female and Male Condoms**

The 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing articulated a bold framework for achieving women's empowerment with a strong focus on women's human rights, sexual and reproductive health, and gender equality. Fifteen years after Beijing, access to prevention information and services remains an urgent health and human rights issue for women and adolescent girls. Today HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age globally,<sup>1</sup> and approximately 215 million women in developing countries who wish to prevent or postpone pregnancy have an unmet need for modern contraceptives.<sup>2</sup>

Female and male condoms are the only effective dual protection methods available to women, men, and young people that prevent HIV, sexually-transmitted infections (STIs), and unintended pregnancy. Building on the progress of Beijing, for the global community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals – specifically goals 3, 5, and 6 – both female and male condoms must be well-programmed and accessible to all people who wish to use them. This means female condoms must be made as available as male condoms and promoted equally in the fight against HIV/STIs and unintended pregnancy.

The female condom, moreover, gives women an important option for initiating protection and negotiating condom use. It has good acceptability, and evidence shows that when the female condom is promoted alongside the male condom, the total number of protected sex acts increases.<sup>3,4</sup> Female condoms are especially critical for women living with HIV and AIDS, who can use them to prevent pregnancy, reduce risk of HIV transmission to partners, and pursue safe and satisfying sex lives. Despite the acute impact of HIV and AIDS and reproductive ill-health on women and girls, female condoms remain underfunded, largely inaccessible, and underused because of a lack of effective programming.

As governments revisit and recommit to the Beijing Platform of Action, the undersigned non-governmental organizations call upon policymakers and donors to:

- **Expand access to female and male condoms by dramatically increasing funding for their purchase, distribution, and program support at the country level.** Successful female and male condom initiatives depend on a constellation of factors including steady funding, well-coordinated supply chain logistics, demand creation, and effective, large-scale programming. It is critical that governments and donors make coordinated, robust investments across procurement, distribution, marketing, and program support. In the case of female condoms, donors should redouble efforts to alleviate high per-unit costs to consumers.
- **Ensure comprehensive, rights-based programming to facilitate female and male condom uptake and sustained use.** Well-designed and executed programming is critical

to increasing demand and uptake and can help overcome biases and misconceptions about condoms. Among many things, this includes training on reproductive anatomy, female condom insertion and male condom use, and condom negotiation skills – in a supportive, gender-sensitive, and empowering environment. Programs should also embrace a human rights framework, allowing women and men to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health free from coercion, stigma, and discrimination.

- **Involve civil society, especially women’s groups, in female and male condom policy and program decision-making.** Governments and donors should actively seek civil society participation in condom policy and program decision-making. Community-based and non-governmental organizations offer valuable insights, resources, and gateways to populations most at risk of HIV, while helping to address social and cultural barriers to condom use. It is also critical that women and adolescent girls living with HIV are included in decision-making processes.
- **Invest in research and development of woman-initiated and controlled prevention methods, such as additional female condom products, microbicides, and vaccines.** People have different prevention needs and preferences, and adding additional safe and effective female condom products can offer women, men, and young people more prevention options from which to choose. While governments and donors must scale up investment in research and development of woman-initiated prevention technologies such as microbicides and vaccines, they must not overlook the importance of existing technologies such as female and male condoms in preventing HIV, STIs, and unintended pregnancy.

*(List in formation)*

ABCD Health Services

*United States*

ABIA - Brazilian Interdisciplinary Aids

Association

*Brazil*

ACORD

*Bangladesh*

Action Canada for Population and Development

(ACPD)

*Canada*

ActionAIDS

*United States*

Africa Action

*United States*

African Microbicides Advocacy Group  
(AMAG)

*Africa, Regional*

African Services Committee

*United States*

54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1-12 March 2010

Civil Society Statement

AIDOS - Italian Association for Women in  
Development  
*Italy*

AIDS Cell, Ibn Sina Academy  
*India*

Aids Fonds  
*Netherlands*

AIDS Orphans Care and Support Programme  
(AOCASP)  
*Kenya*

AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland  
*United States*

Alice Health Services  
*Kenya*

American Medical Women's Association  
*United States*

Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital  
*Nigeria*

Apoyo a Programas de Población (APROPO)  
*Peru*

APT Foundation  
*United States*

Asian Forum on Parliamentarians on Population  
and Development (AFPPD)  
*Thailand*

Association des Jeunes Volontaires  
Internationaux  
*Burundi*

Art AIDS Art  
*United States*

ATHENA Network  
*United States*

AVAC – Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention  
*United States*

Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y  
Juventud  
*Mexico*

Beijing AIZHIXING Institute of Health  
*China*

Black Action Society  
*United States*

Black Women's Health Imperative  
*United States*

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Community  
Services  
*United Kingdom*

BOCS Foundation  
*Hungary*

Bokamoso Private Hospital  
*Botswana*

Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association  
(ABIA)  
*Brazil*

Busia Widows and Orphans Association  
*Uganda*

California Black Women's Health Project  
*United States*

California Family Health Council  
*United States*

54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1-12 March 2010

Civil Society Statement

Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee  
(CEOC)

*United States*

Canada Treatment Action Council

*Canada*

Canadian AIDS Society

*Canada*

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

*Canada*

Católicas pelo Direito de Decidir

*Brazil*

Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir

*Mexico*

Citizens AIDS Project (CAVDA)

*United States*

Center for Health and Gender Equity  
(CHANGE)

*United States*

Central and Eastern European Women's  
Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health  
and Rights (ASTRA)

*Poland*

Centre for Development and Population  
Activities (CEDPA)

*United States*

Centro de Información y Desarrollo de la Mujer  
(CIFDEM)

*Bolivia*

Chicago Foundation for Women

*United States*

Colectiva Mujer y Salud

*Dominican Republic*

Colectivo por el Derecho a Decidir

*Argentina*

Community Health

*India*

Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project  
(CHAMP)

*United States*

The Condom Project

*United States*

Center for Studies and Applied Sciences in  
Gender, Family, Women and Adolescents  
(CSAGA)

*Viet Nam*

Czech AIDS Help Society

*Czech Republic*

Danish Family Planning Association

*Denmark*

DKT International

*United States*

Engenderhealth

*United States*

Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (CEEHRN)

*Lithuania*

European AIDS Treatment Group

*Belgium*

Family Health International (FHI/SNR)

*Nigeria*

Family Planning and Sexual Health Association

54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1-12 March 2010

Civil Society Statement

*Lithuania*

Family Planning Association (APF)

*Portugal*

Family Planning Association of Maine

*United States*

Family Planning Association of Trinidad and  
Tobago

*Trinidad and Tobago*

FAMSA Western Cape

*South Africa*

Fondation PH—Partnerships in Health

*Switzerland*

Fondo Alquimia

*Colombia*

Foundation Aid Solution for Talent  
Empowerment and Development (FASTED)

*Nigeria*

Foundation for Women

*Thailand*

Fundación Desafío

*Ecuador*

Fundamental Human Rights & Rural  
Development Association (FHRRDA)

*Pakistan*

Gay Men's Health Crisis

*United States*

Gender and Development Action (GADA)

*Nigeria*

Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy  
Prevention

*United States*

GESTOS – Seropositivity, Communication &  
Gender

*Brazil*

The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF)

*United States*

Global Justice Ministry, Metropolitan  
Community Churches

*United States*

Groupe de Reserche sur les Femmes et les Lois  
au Sénégal (GREFELS)

*Senegal*

Harvard College Peer Contraceptive Counselors

*United States*

Harvard Law Students for Reproductive Justice

*United States*

Health Hope and HIV Network

*Antigua*

Ibis Reproductive Health

*United States*

Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health

*United States*

Indonesian UNGASS Forum

*Indonesia*

Instituto Mexicano de Investigación Familiar y  
Población (IMIFAP)

*Mexico*

Instituto Peruano de Paternidad Responsable -  
INPPARES

*Peru*

54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1-12 March 2010

Civil Society Statement

Interact Worldwide Pakistan

*Pakistan*

International Community of Women Living with  
HIV/AIDS

*International*

International Planned Parenthood Federation

*United Kingdom*

International Rescue Committee

*United States*

International Roundtable on Increasing Access  
to HIV Treatment in Resource Poor Settings

*Australia*

International Women's Health Coalition

*United States*

Inwood House

*United States*

ISIS International - Women's International  
Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE)

*Uganda*

Japan's Network for Women and Health

*Japan*

JAZAS

*Spain*

Latin American Youth Center

*United States*

Latino Commission on AIDS

*United States*

Leadership Development Company

*Kenya*

Metropolitan Community Church of Washington

*United States*

Microbicides Society of India

*India*

Mosaic Training, Service, and Healing Centre  
for Women

*Zambia*

Mongolian Family Welfare Association

*Mongolia*

MSHP

*Chile*

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts

*United States*

NARAL Pro-Choice Wyoming Education  
Project

*United States*

National Coalition for LGBT Health

*United States*

National Council of Jewish Women

*United States*

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology  
and STD (NCHADS)

*Cambodia*

National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)

*United States*

Nebraska AIDS Project

*United States*

Nigerian Network on Ethics, Law, HIV/AIDS  
Prevention, Support and Care – NELA

*Nigeria*

54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1-12 March 2010

Civil Society Statement

Núcleo de Estudos da População Universidade  
Estadual de Campinas (NEPO/UNICAMP)  
*Brazil*

Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS  
(NEPWHAN)  
*Nigeria*

New Jersey Women and AIDS Network  
*United States*

Nukanti Foundation for Children  
*United Kingdom*

Nuru Lutheran Media Ministries  
*Kenya*

Oneinnine  
*South Africa*

Open Heart House  
*Ireland*

PeterCares House  
*United States*

Philadelphia FIGHT  
*United States*

Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health  
*United States*

PLAN  
*Brazil*

Population Action International  
*United States*

Population Institute  
*United States*

Population Services International  
*United States*

Positive Women's Network  
*Canada*

Positively Positive  
*Canada*

PozFem  
*United Kingdom*

Pro-Link Ghana  
*Ghana*

Programme Integral de Santé de Reproduction et  
Familial (PISRF)  
*Democratic Republic of the Congo*

PROMSEX, Centro de Promoción y Defensa de  
los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos  
*Peru*

Reach Out  
*United States*

REDESS Jóvenes  
*Peru*

Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice  
and Healing  
*United States*

Research Institute without Walls  
*United States*

RESULTS  
*United States*

Rozaria Memorial Trust  
*Zimbabwe*

Rwanda Family Welfare Association (ARBEF)  
*Rwanda*

54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1-12 March 2010

Civil Society Statement

SAfAIDS

*Zimbabwe*

SAFE Nepal

*Nepal*

Sahan Relief and Development Organization

*Somalia*

Sampada Gramin Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM)

*India*

Sexuality Information and Education Council of  
the United States (SIECUS)

*United States*

Shanti

*United States*

Siloam

*United States*

SisterSong

*United States*

Social Action Foundation for Equity (SAFE)

*India*

Society for Women against AIDS in Africa

*Africa, Regional*

STOP AIDS NOW!

*Netherlands*

State University of New York (SUNY)

*United States*

SUPPORT

*International*

Temple Kol Tikvah

*United States*

The AIDS Institute

*United States*

The Jaded Edge Club

*United States*

The Women's Center

*United States*

Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme  
(TVEP)

*South Africa*

Treatment Action Campaign

*South Africa*

Uganda Network on Law Ethics and HIV/AIDS  
(UGANET)

*Uganda*

Union de l'Action Féminine (UAF)

*Morocco*

United Church of Christ - Justice and Witness  
Ministries

*United States*

United Methodist Church - General Board of  
Church and Society

*United States*

Universal Family Connection, Inc.

*United States*

Vietnamese Community Mobilization

*Viet Nam*

Voice of People

*India*

54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1-12 March 2010

Civil Society Statement

VSO International

*United Kingdom*

Wellesley College - Sexual Health Educators

*United States*

Women and AIDS Support Network

*Zimbabwe*

Women and Law in Southern Africa

*Africa, Regional*

Women for a Change

*Cameroon*

Women of Reform Judaism

*United States*

Women's Action Group (WAG)

*Zimbabwe*

Women's Health Advocacy Foundation

*Thailand*

Women's Health Worldwide

*United States*

Women's Information Network

*United States*

World Population Foundation

*Netherlands*

World YWCA

*Switzerland*

Worldwide Orphans Foundation

*United States*

---

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). 2009. *Women and Health: Today's Evidence, Tomorrow's Agenda*. Geneva: WHO

<sup>2</sup> Singh, Susheela, Jacqueline E. Darroch, Lori S. Ashford, and Michael Vlassoff. 2009. *Adding it Up: The Costs and Benefits of Investing in Family Planning and Maternal and Newborn Health*. New York: Guttmacher Institute and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

<sup>3</sup> Hoke, Theresa Hatzell, P. Feldblum, K. Van Damme, M.D. Nasution, T.W. Grey, E.L. Wong, L. Ralimamonjy, L. Raharimala, and A. Rasamindrakotroka. 2007. Temporal Trends in Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevalence and Condom Use Following Introduction of the Female Condom to Madagascar Sex Workers. *International Journal of STD & AIDS* 18:461-466.

<sup>4</sup> Choi, Kyung-Hee, Colleen Hoff, Steven E. Gregorich, Olga Grinstead, Cynthia Gomez, and Wendy Hussey. 2008. The efficacy of a female condom skills training in HIV risk reduction among women: A randomized controlled trial. *American Journal of Public Health* 98(10): 1841-1848.