



## Global Campaign News May 7, 2002

Welcome to the biweekly *Global Campaign News*! The *Global Campaign News* is a forum for international exchange on microbicide activities and information with an aim to build a more informed and integrated movement for microbicide development and other prevention options against HIV and STDs.

We welcome your input and contributions. Correspondence can be addressed to [info@global-campaign.org](mailto:info@global-campaign.org). If you would like to unsubscribe to the Global Campaign News, please reply to this e-mail with the subject line: UNSUBSCRIBE.

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### **Women at Barcelona pre-conference satellite**

*By Manju Chatanti, HDN*

Health & Development Networks (HDN), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International AIDS Society's Women's Caucus invite you to join a special e-mail discussion on the Gender-AIDS e-forum focusing on women and HIV/AIDS. As the global rates of new HIV infection among women continue to rise, we are reminded of the importance of looking specifically at the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS, especially its differential impact on *young* women.

Using the Gender-AIDS electronic forum, the nearly 2000 existing members (and hopefully many more new participants) will come together to discuss issues related to women and HIV/AIDS that will be on the agenda at the XIV World AIDS Conference in Barcelona. In particular, this exchange will lead up to the pre-conference satellite on July 7th, 2002 called "Women At Barcelona."

The first key area for discussion is Research and Treatment and the first issue we look at is "Microbicides". Microbicides 2002 and AIDS 2002 are rapidly approaching and this is an opportunity to take stock of what has happened related to microbicide research and advocacy since Durban 2000. The exchange will help us focus on the challenges and opportunities at hand as we prioritize discussion topics for these upcoming conferences. To launch the discussion, we will draw upon a team of key resource people and HDN Key Correspondents, and we look to you and your colleagues to participate actively in what should prove to be an exciting, lively and informative online discussion.

If you would like to be part of this exciting process, join Gender-AIDS by sending an e-mail to: [join-gender-aids@hdnet.org](mailto:join-gender-aids@hdnet.org). For more information about this project please go to: <http://www.hdnet.org/> or <http://www.womenatbarcelona.org>

### Easy Reading on Microbicides

As a coalition, the Global Campaign strives to involve people at all educational and economic levels. However, much of the published material on microbicides is written for those at a sophisticated reading level. Making sense of the scientific literature can be challenging for those of us without advanced degrees. Even articles in the popular press can present a daunting array of long words and unfamiliar terms. For this reason, some advocates have been working to develop "easy reading" materials on microbicides and microbicide advocacy.

The Pennsylvania Campaign for Microbicides (PA), for example, recently came out with a brief, illustrated brochure that seeks to explain its goals in short sentences and familiar language. This brochure (soon available at [www.global-campaign.org](http://www.global-campaign.org)) is being distributed in family planning clinics, HIV/AIDS primary care clinics and other social service sites.

The PA advocates invite others to access this brochure, adapt it for their own use and reproduce it for distribution in their own communities. Standardized readability testing instruments suggest that the current brochure requires a 7-8th grade reading level. Efforts to reduce the reading level are still ongoing.

As of May 20, advocates will also have the opportunity to access an "easy reading" microbicides article from a web site called [PositiveWords.com](http://PositiveWords.com). This site describes itself as a "free, easy-to-use newsletter service designed to assist community-based providers in delivering appropriate, credible and timely health management information to people living with HIV". Its content -- basic, non-technical information offered at the 6th-8th grade reading level -- is available free of charge to anyone and used by a wide range of health care advocates, community groups, substance use treatment center, housing programs and other health promoters.

"Something that's not a condom" (working title of the upcoming article) was written by Global Campaign Field Organizer Anna Forbes and is about 650 words in length. Anyone interested in placing a relatively easy-to-read microbicides article in their organizational newsletter, distributing it to constituents or using it as an educational handout at speaking engagements may want to go to [www.positivewords.com](http://www.positivewords.com) and check out this piece later this month.

## **HDN/Global Campaign Looking for Key Correspondents to Write on Prevention Options for Women**

*By Manju Chatanti, HDN*

Would you like to do more as an advocate for microbicides and prevention options for women? Would you like to network locally and internationally with others regarding microbicides? Do you like writing and are you looking for some further opportunities to do so? Then, talk to us about becoming an HDN/Global Campaign Key Correspondent. As a co-sponsor and in collaboration with the Global Campaign for Microbicides, Health & Development Networks (HDN) is developing a team of six Key Correspondents (KCs) to follow and write about issues around prevention options for women during 2002. We are still looking for a few more KCs.

### *What is the KC Team?*

The KC Team will comprise of capable and experienced country-based writers with a bias towards countries where microbicide trials are occurring or being planned for -- in the Asia-Pacific region, Africa, and Latin America. Members of the Team will come from diverse backgrounds, and have a variety of technical HIV/AIDS expertise, community and women's health activism, research, epidemiology, counselling/training, journalism, programme management, and policy/strategic planning.

### *What will the KC Team do?*

KCs will devote a few days every month to the team, attending and reporting on relevant conferences or local/regional meetings (related to HIV, reproductive health, women's health, and prevention). As only few are able to attend such events, it is important that the content of such meetings are captured and disseminated - so we have a sense of the synergy between advocacy efforts worldwide. Reports will be filtered into various e-forums such as Gender-AIDS, AF-AIDS, SEA-AIDS and into other media. KCs will also make linkages with local media and network with relevant NGOs, CBOs and other organizations.

### *What do you get from being a KC?*

For many of the KCs, being a part of the KC team, investigating local and national issues and opportunities to attend conferences and other events helps them to develop new contacts, gather information and ideas for new articles and to get published in a wide range of channels and networks.

*"I had not known before that I could write and deliver quality reports against deadlines and enjoy the friendly spirit of a cohesive team. No doubt, finding out the untapped potential within oneself has been a novel learning experience, so much so that I would love to be a KC once more!"* HDN KC, India (KC for 5<sup>th</sup> Home and Community Care Conference)

Interested? Want to know more? Send a CV and a sample of your writing to:

[correspondents@hdnet.org](mailto:correspondents@hdnet.org) and [manju@hdnet.org](mailto:manju@hdnet.org). If you plan to be at Microbicides 2002 in Antwerp next month, look out for the HDN team on-site and come chat with us.