



ICW Global International Community of Women Living with HIV AIDS

## **Information for women, girls and adolescents living with HIV, members of ICW in different regions.**

Dear Friends:

Since September 1st, 2009, the ISC gathered in Buenos Aires, has made decisions that pose a great change for ICW Global and which have also affected the regions.

These changes shall put ICW back in the levels of prestige, political incidence, active participation in the areas of decision taking on AIDS in particular, but also in the spaces where world Leaders deliberate on and decide on the heading of Humanity. These spaces, which have not been taken advantage of in the last few years or have not been accessed to due to the loss of our consistency as an organization, shall be employed responsibly, maintaining a strong attitude but also being cautious and showing enough soundness so as to be able to remain the reference network of women living with VIH in the world.

One of the keys of this new phase in the current process for ICW GLOBAL, is the combined work of the ISC, the Staff and membership participants, since ICW is a very large Network and there are not only a few women. Each one of them should have a specific position, but always in full exercise of their rights and obligations, with transparency, democracy in the decision taking processes and respectful horizontality that will turn us into a solid force ready to take on the most complex tasks and carry them out successfully.

In each one of the regions, we want the ICW Network to be strengthened. We want to do this seriously and prudentially which will decrease our mistakes to the minimum, because every mistake does not only weakens us as a network but also affects the hopes and illusions of thousands of women, girls and adolescents who commit to this organization or expect from us the 12 statements proposed ever since 1992. Thus, we need to focus on the goal and work deeply on the regions with an autonomy and work on promoting autonomy for those regions where it is nonexistent, but always with firm steps and not in a hurry that will make us act imprudently.

The conditions to accomplish this goal must have as an essential requirement, the same characteristics we've tested with success in other regions of the world, which are focused on the respect for the Human Person, their Human Rights and their Conditions as Women Living with HIV.

We need to have a respect for cultural, religious, social, ethnic diversity, positions in the social scale, ideologies, and any other elements that define and constitute the personalities of women, girls and adolescents members of ICW who put their effort into building the bases of ICW in each regions.

We must also get in touch again all our dear friends who helped found ICW back in 1992, who are now living in different parts of the world and who, for many reasons, are not with us nowadays. We need the experience all of them have acquired during the years and we must do our best to keep in touch with them, lending them our hand and holding them with warmth.

We must also take firm steps towards carrying out a large convocation to thousands of women from different countries so they can provide new ideas, fresh spirits, and with them and those most experiences, reach for the regional autonomy and to fortify the regions if we have that autonomy.

While reaching for that goal, we need to convene women that are already a part of ICW's membership and we should also get in contact with women who are not yet a part of ICW and all together we should help achieve greater Democracy in participation, consolidating the existing groups of women in each country so we can found the National Divisions and build a strong Global Network.

We shall do that respecting individual memberships, coordinating actions together with the ISC and taking advantage of all of the experience we've acquired in ICW ever since 1992, and always sticking to the world strategic plan.

We can do this together, so that our motto will become real when we say "Nothing for us, without us".

Fraternally,

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by ISC

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