



#GenderMatters Campaign Statement

The International Community of Women Living with HIV supported by our amazing Young Women's Media Team representing all regions around the world, is launched the campaign #GenderMatters to highlight the issues that women of various intersecting backgrounds were experiencing around the world.

Our definition of women is all and any self-identifying women living with HIV including adolescent girls and young women, transgender and intersex women, lesbian and queer women, and all women from other marginalized communities.

As the only global network led for and by women living with HIV we wanted to share why talking about gender and feminism is so important to us. Through talking about feminism, we also talk about and highlight injustices in our other intersecting identities. Often women have been left behind in the HIV response, women experience criminalization, lack of access to treatment and SRHR services, and they are discriminated against based on their HIV status.

Racism, transphobia, ableism, homophobia, classism, and misogyny are pervasive and deadly public health pandemics. We know that the impacts of these pandemics manifest in disproportionate health disparities amongst Black and Indigenous women, in the murder of transwomen, in unacceptably high rates of maternal mortality, and in reproductive oppressions including forced and coerced sterilization of women living with HIV around the world.

Through our campaign #GenderMatters we want to highlight how gender inequality and patriarchy underscores our health outcomes and intensifies the diverse issues women living with HIV experience in relation to our other intersecting identities.

We demand actions to end to the murder of Black and Indigenous women, we demand an end to the murder of transwomen, we demand an end to health disparities, stigma and discrimination that disproportionately harm Black and other marginalized and oppressed women globally. We demand resources and funding for mental health and well-being, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and for our communities and networking of women living with HIV to lead this important work.

ICW calls for our governments, health systems, the COVID-19 response, the HIV response to center Black and other marginalized women's lives, experiences, wisdom and well-being.

ICW continues to fight for a world where women living with HIV can live in safety and dignity. We can only do this together, by leading the feminist response for gender equality and human rights.