

Dear Friends : as many of you already know, the IX International Conference on AIDS and the IV STD World Conference are due to take place from 7th to 11th June 1993 in Berlin ... / Mabel Bianco.

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Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer

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FUNDACION PARA
ESTUDIO E INVESTIGACION
DE LA MUJER



Buenos Aires, 30th September. 1992.

Dear Friends,

As many of you already know, the IX International Conference on AIDS and the IV STD World Conference are due to take place from 7th to 11th June 1993 in Berlin.

I was nominated in June as a member of the International Steering Committee. The committee met for the first time in July in Amsterdam, during the VIII International Conference.

As the only female member, I put forward the need for greater female representation on the committee and reiterated this in a letter to the President of the Conference at the end of August. As a result, I was informed in late September that the number of female members on the committee had been increased in two members: Lieve Franssen (Belgium) and Jane Mauriithi (Kenia).

The Amsterdam Conference represented a significant step forward in the treatment of issues related to AIDS and women and the inclusion of women in panels and all presentations. However we still feel that women's participation should be given more importance in the Berlin Conference.

The subject was discussed in various meetings in Amsterdam attended by women from all over the world. It was decided to establish a Caucus of Women and some of us set up a Promoting Committee of which I was the focal person due to be the only female member of the International Steering Committee at that moment.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of these activities and to invite you to become part of the network we are trying to establish concerning issues of Women and AIDS. I would be very grateful for any suggestions regarding organization or any thoughts you might have. If there is anything you would like to suggest or comment on, please write to me before the next meeting of the International Steering Committee which will take place this November 20th. Our aim is to institute a significant number of female representatives from all over the world in the Berlin Conference and to ensure that the issues related to AIDS and women which concern us are dealt with during the Conference. After consultation with various different groups of women we came up with the following issues: "Sexuality and sexual behaviour in relation to HIV/AIDS"; "Abortion and AIDS"; "Prenatal Transmission"; "Breastfeeding and AIDS"; "Sexuality transmitted diseases and the health of women"; "Comprehensive women's health programs which include VIH/AIDS"; and "The participation of women in health care programmes".

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In order to help get these and other issues onto the agenda for the Berlin Conference, I invite you to submit abstracts of studies and research work before 15th January. If you haven't received information from the IX Conference please write to the address below to ask for them.

The submission of abstract does not imply registration payment or any other form. This is in order to give people time to raise the funds necessary to finance the journey.

We are convinced that until these issues are properly dealt with, further research is undertaken and the efforts of scientists, activists, health and media professional combined, the adverse effects of AIDS will continue to strike the entire population, and in particular women

I invite you to keep us in contact and join with us in the struggle against this pandemic; and the battle to achieve a better, more worthy and fairer life for all -both men and women.



MABEL BIANCO*

PS: The address of the President of the IX Conference is:

Prof. Dr. -O Habermehl
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of the Free University of Berlin
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* President of FEIM, member of the Advisory Committee of the Latin American Network for the Health of Women, member of the International Steering Committee of the IX International Conference on AIDS, and focal person of the AIDS Women's Caucus.