

**Dear Friends : I am writing to inform you about the activities we are organizing for women as part of the IX International Conference on AIDS to be held in Berlin next June ... / Mabel Bianco, Coordinator, International AIDS Women's Caucus/IAS.**

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DE LA MUJER



FEIM

Buenos Aires, 20th April, 1993.

Dear Friends:

I'm writing to inform you about the activities we are organizing for women as part of the IX International Conference on AIDS to be held in Berlin next June.

The International AIDS Women's Caucus/IAS was formed last July in Amsterdam to improve communication among and representation for women around the world who are HIV positive, HIV workers and HIV advocates.

The Caucus goal is that women play a major role in HIV epidemic worldwide and to establish a women's network with an equal partnership among women of developing and developed countries.

During this year we've been working organizing a mailing list of HIV women's workers, advocates and AIDS positives all around the world. As Coordinator, I wrote to more than 500 women and I received suggestions and names from all the world. I want to thank all the suggestions and proposals I received.

We integrated a Coordinating Committee with a cultural/geographic diversity criteria, in order to have different needs, epidemic situations and experiences included. I want to thank all of them for their help and I hope each of us we could meet in Berlin next June.

Also the Caucus through Joyce Hunter, Carola Marte and myself, we incorporated the group within the International AIDS Society (IAS) and let know it in U.N. Agencies and NGO groups. We can say the Caucus now is known worldwide.

As members of the Steering Committee, with Jane and Mary we participate in the programme discussions. We try to include women's issues, to increase women's participation and also that women have space for formal and informal meetings during the Conference. Personally or through letters, fax and communications I made all suggestions and proposals. Due to economical restrictions after the November 92 Steering Committee we haven't had any other meeting.

Our voice even was heard undirectly. I want to let you know that Jeannette Holjane from the NGO Liaison Committee was our voice and I've been in relation to her making suggestions and proposals.

As you know, till now we didn't know the final programme of the Conference. As far as I know it should include a considerable amount of women's issues and women's participants. I hope in the future the Caucus should be more represented.



The Caucus organize two Meetings during the Conference in Berlin; a ~~Pre-Meeting~~ to be held the 6th June from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the ~~Conclusions Meeting~~ the 10th June from 7 to 9 p.m. Both will be in Room 4-5 in the Congress Center and will have simultaneous translation in four languages: English, French, German and Spanish. The Pre-Meeting will be Co-Sponsorship by WHO/GPA.

The Preliminary Agenda for the Pre-Meeting is:

- 1) An overview of women's issues in the last Conference and in the IXth Conference.
- 2) The value of International AIDS Conference for women participants and suggestions for improvement.
- 3) The scope of women's AIDS strategy at WHO and other UN Agencies and national levels.
- 4) Future strategy for the women's AIDS Caucus, relations with other women's groups and UN Agencies.
- 5) Women's AIDS Caucus/IAS future organization in regional and cultural terms.

The Conclusions' Meeting will be to elaborate our conclusions of the Conference, remarking the most important facts for women's and to elaborate the strategy for the next Conference.

I'm inviting all of you to participate in both meetings and I'll thank you to send us by mail or fax the Registration Form till the 30th May here to Buenos Aires. After that date to the NGO Liasion Committee - Deutsche Hilfe AIDS: Dieffenbachstr 33 - D-1000 Berlin 61 - Germany. The registration it's free and we hope all of you attending the Conference will be there.

I hope we continue working colectively and see each others in Berlin.

Sincerely yours.

MABEL BIANCO  
COORDINATOR  
INTERNATIONAL AIDS WOMEN'S CAUCUS/IAS