



ATHENA

## ATHENA Statement on World AIDS Day 2016: Progress Depends on Realising #WhatWomenWant

As we close 2016, we are at an historical moment of contradictions, challenges, and opportunities. The connections we make, the work we each lead, the experience we bring, the vision we shape, and the future we build together is more important than ever for achieving a world where women, including young women, lead and realize their dreams, and where we achieve rights, health, dignity, justice, safety, and equality for all. We see this reflected in and manifested by the attention to gender equality as a stand-alone goal in the Sustainable Development Goals, and, finally, we are seeing an alignment of the stars with the attention to women, girls, and gender equality in the HIV universe. This moment also heralds a waking up to the public health emergency young women and adolescent girls face: 1000 young women are acquiring HIV every day globally. Much more must be done to promote full sexual and reproductive rights for young women, including access to the full range of HIV prevention tools and targeted action to address harmful gender norms and end gender based violence in all forms, and commitment to promote young women’s agency. Achieving this transformation depends on promoting and supporting the leadership of young women themselves – young women need to be at the center and at the helm.

**The most effective solutions will be authored by the most affected communities.**

This principle is at the core of ATHENA’s work, and led us to launch the #WhatWomenWant campaign. #WhatWomenWant was launched as a campaign, powered by young women who want to be meaningfully involved in making change for *all* women and girls. Using social media, it offers an innovative vehicle to amplify new voices, meet young women where they are, allow them to connect with others, lead with lived expertise, bring their solutions to the table, and build across and between issues, sectors, and movements.

**#WhatWomenWant aims to:**

-  bring attention to the urgent need to address women’s rights and gender-related disparities within and beyond the HIV response
-  catalyze joined up action where gender equality, human rights, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, and HIV intersect
-  harness the lived experience of women and young women in all of their diversity to create advocacy tools and agendas by, with and for women, to advance their own solutions wherever they are
-  identify leadership opportunities for women and young women in all of their diversity to engage stakeholders and be meaningfully involved in the decision-making processes that most affect their lives.

This World AIDS Day, join us in calling for #WhatWomenWant to be prioritised and centred in the HIV response and for meaningful investment in women and young women to support a strong women’s civil society.

[Read](#) the UNAIDS story on #WhatWomenWant

[Advocate](#) on Twitter, using #WhatWomenWant

[Watch](#) the #WhatWomenWant video to hear young women describe their solutions in their own words

[Join](#) us on Facebook

[Donate](#) to support our work

[Learn](#) more at the campaign website



## Get Involved in a Photo Series

### #WhatWomenWant

Take a [photo](#) with a sign saying what you want to prevent and address HIV and achieve gender equality, and share it on social media. Tag @NetworkATHENA and use the hashtag, #WhatWomenWant. You can also write for the [Young Feminist Blog Series](#).

### Hands Up for #HIVPrevention

What does HIV prevention mean to you? Write it on your hand, take a photo, and share it on social media. Tag @UNAIDS and use the hashtag, #HIVPrevention.

### #IPledge

What will you do to protect the rights of all people to prevent HIV? Write your commitment, take a photo, and share it on social media. Tag @UNWomen4Youth and use the hashtag, #IPledge – and encourage others to make their own commitments.

## Sample Tweets

#WhatWomenWant is to bring our solutions&lead #HIVPrevention at every level from grassroots to national strategies #DREAMSChallenge #WAD2016

#IPledge to advocate for human rights and #HIVprevention for women and girls to achieve their #BigDREAMS #WorldAIDSDay

Women need #HIVPrevention tools that they can control & that fit into their daily lives #WAD2016 #WhatWomenWant

WATCH! #DREAMSInnovation winners are keeping girls #HIVfree to reduce new infections by 40%! #WhatWomenWant #WAD2016 [bit.ly/2gDqS9f](http://bit.ly/2gDqS9f)

In situations of vulnerability and disempowerment, #PrEP puts #HIVprevention into women's hands #WAD2016 #WhatWomenWant

#IPledge to advocate for comprehensive #sexed to give young people the tools & knowledge for #HIVPrevention #WhatWomenWant #WAD2016

#WhatWomenWant is to be at the center of ending the dual epidemics of #VAW and #HIV #WAD2016 #IPledge to promote gender equality.

A strong women's civil society can hold governments accountable, push for change & lead communities to #EndAIDS2030 #WhatWomenWant #WAD2016

"The protection of #humanrights provides the foundation to #EndAIDS2030" - #AmbBirx #WhatWomenWant #WAD2016

Girls account for 75% of new infections among adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa. Let's help girls stay #HIVfree & live #BigDREAMS. #WAD2016 #WhatWomenWant

## Handles & Hashtags

Use the following hashtags and handles on Twitter or Facebook to join the conversation:

@NetworkATHENA	@ICW_EastAfrica	@PipeTrust
@UNAIDS	@UNWomen4Youth	@PEPFAR
@AIDSgov	@GHDatState	#WhatWomenWant
#WAD2016	#HIVPrevention	#EndAIDS2030
#16Days	#IPledge	#Youth4GenderEquality