



SOPHIA FORUM

www.sophiaforum.net

We are a UK-based voluntary women's network launched in 2005, which seeks to raise awareness of how HIV affects women, both in the UK and globally.

Sophia's objects are:

The protection and promotion of the good health of women, in particular women who are HIV positive or who are at risk of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV by:

- (a) promoting prevention and treatment for women living with HIV, both in the UK and internationally;
- (b) increasing awareness and understanding of women's sexual health, HIV and AIDS amongst health and other professionals, service providers and the public.

In all our work, Sophia Forum endeavours to uphold the principle of "GIPA" - ie the meaningful involvement of women living with HIV in all that we do.

The forum is the UK Chapter of the UNAIDS Global Coalition on Women and AIDS.

Achievements:

In June 2008, we held an event to raise awareness among the *business* sector of how HIV affects women's job-security and livelihoods, both in the UK and internationally.

In November 2008, we held an event to raise awareness amongst the *legal* sector of how punitive attitudes and legislation, both here in the UK and internationally are damaging the rights and lives both of HIV-positive women and their children.

We have launched our 'Conversations for Change' dinners, enabling our supporters to raise awareness in their own *communities* of how HIV affects women by stimulating discussion and providing information packs, thus promoting change.

You can read about all these events on our website.

We have a growing database of over 500 'friends of SOPHIA', as well as a growing facebook group of over 400.

In September 2009 we were granted charitable status by the Charity Commission.

Sophia Forum

The UK Chapter of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS
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London EC1V 1LR
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Charity No. 1131629

Useful Resources and Links specific to the health sector

The Well Project: http://www.thewellproject.org/en_US/ (Health information for women with HIV/AIDS such as negotiation for condom use, pregnancy and HIV, contraceptive options, etc.)

GIPA - Greater Involvement of People with HIV:
http://whqlibdoc.who.int/un aids/2007/policybrief_gipa_eng.pdf

The Greater Involvement of People living with HIV in health care:

<http://www.jiasociety.org/content/pdf/1758-2652-12-4.pdf>

Gender:

http://www.who.int/gender/documents/gender_hiv/en/index.html (Tools for addressing gender and HIV in the health sector)

Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV linkages benefits:

http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2008/linkages_evidence.PDF (Systematic literature review on benefits of linking sexual and reproductive health and HIV)

Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights:

<http://www.icw.org/files/SRH%20rights.pdf> (Briefing paper stating rights, concerns of women, and recommendations for action)

British HIV Association Guidelines: <http://www.bhiva.org/cms1191540.asp>
(UK specific health guidelines for treatment and management of HIV/AIDS)

The Body: <http://www.thebody.com/content/art32301.html> (Article on resources and guidelines for HIV positive women to maximize their health)

Positively Women Magazine 2009:

<http://www.positivelywomen.org.uk/pages/images/newsletter/2009summer.pdf> (Mental health and wellness of HIV positive women)

Article about issues facing HIV positive African women in London:

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/downloads/WIGAD-HIV_Pt.II_Chap.8.pdf

Poz-femUK report: about issues facing HIV-positive women across the UK:

<http://www.poz-fem-uk.org/docs/WomenHIVandSexualHealth.pdf>

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