

# Translating community research into global policy reform for national action

A checklist for community engagement to implement the WHO Consolidated guideline on sexual and reproductive health and rights of women living with HIV



orfed and Coerced Sterilization of NV+ Women











Cover photo: Namibia Womens Health Network (NWHN) members at the High Court of Namibia in 2014 claiming justice and seeking accountability for being sterilized without their consent. Source: Namibia Womens Health Network



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Translating community research into global policy reform for national action: a checklist for community engagement to implement the WHO consolidated guideline on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women living with HIV.

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#### Foreword

This Checklist, and the process to implement the 2017 *Consolidated guideline on sexual and reproductive health and rights of women living with HIV* that it supports, has since been endorsed by the Heads of OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UN Women and WHO.

"The guideline is exceptional in its effort to specifically integrate the views and preferences of women living with HIV and, in this regard, we are confident that it is an important tool for contributing to better respect for the human rights of women and girls living with HIV. We have shared this guideline and associated tools amongst relevant OHCHR colleagues and remain committed to working with you to support its implementation."

Dr Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

"This is indeed an important step to ensure the guidelines are implemented. Zero discrimination is at the heart of the UNAIDS vision, and we are therefore happy to be part of supporting the implementation of the Checklist in Kenya led by WOFAK. This work will be key in the Agenda for Zero discrimination in health care settings, and we trust that Kenya will be the first of many countries to use the Checklist as a tool to ensure all women living with HIV access the full range of quality sexual and reproductive health and rights they are entitled to." **M. Michel Sidibe, Executive Director, UNAIDS** 

"Sincere congratulations on the development of the Checklist, which is a welcome enhancement for the implementation of the WHO guideline addressing the SRH rights and needs of women living with HIV. UNFPA is pleased to share this added tool with our regional and country offices; we will encourage them to share it locally and help ensure capacity for its use."

Dr Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, UNFPA

"Thank you for sending the Checklist to support the implementation of the guideline on the SRHR of women living with HIV. We will be sure to disseminate widely and to put to practical use in our work." **On behalf of Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women** 

"The development of this important tool is a significant achievement – please rest assured that I, and WHO, will make every effort to support Member States in its implementation so that sexual and reproductive health and rights can be realized by women throughout the life-course."

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO

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We also acknowledge those who supported work leading up to the development of the 2017 WHO *Consolidated guideline on sexual and reproductive health and rights of women living with HIV*, and subsequently this Checklist, through the global community values and preferences survey and its report *Building a safe house on firm ground: key findings from a global values and preferences survey regarding the* sexual and reproductive health and human rights of women living with HIV.<sup>1</sup>

Special thanks to the core team who worked on the Global Values and Preferences Survey (GVPS): Susan Bewley, E. Tyler Crone, Luisa Orza, Marijo Vazquez, Alice Welbourn; and to its Global Reference Group (GRG) members: Nukshinaro Ayo, Cecilia Chung, Sophie Dilmitis, Calorine Kenkem, Svitlana Moroz, Suzette Moses-Burton, Hajjarah Nagadya, Angelina Namiba, L'Orangelis Thomas, Negrón, Violeta Ross, Sophie Strachan, Martha Tholanah, Patricia Ukoli and Rita Wahab.

A pilot workshop took place in Nairobi, Kenya, at the end of April 2018 with 25 women living with HIV to review the Checklist and to validate the desk review findings. It also provided space for women to develop priorities and action plans to sustain community-led efforts on the SRHR of women living with HIV in all their diversity. This Checklist has been finalized based on the workshop and its outcomes. Click on the links to view the workshop presentations by Alice Welbourn and Sophie Dilmitis.

Development and finalization of the Checklist was funded by WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research, including the Special Programme for Human Reproduction (HRP), with technical support from Manjulaa Narasimhan and UNAIDS.

The Checklist and the WHO Consolidated guideline it supports can be found on the WHO website: https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/en/

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of all the networks of and led by women living with HIV and partners around the world that have endorsed this Checklist. The networks are as follows in alphabetical order. We list first the organizations / networks that work regionally or at country level and then the networks that work globally.

**Regional / country level:** Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (EWNA); ICW Asia Pacific; ICW Central Africa: ICW Eastern Africa; ICW Latina; ICW West Africa; ICW Zimbabwe; Ikatan Perempuan Positif Indonesia (IPPI) / Indonesia Positive Women Network; Jamaica Community of Positive Women; MENA Rosa; REDBOL (Bolivian Network of People Living with HIV): Namibia Women's Health Network; Pan African Positive Women's

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