

**NAME AND TITLE OF PRESENTER AND ORGANIZATION**

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**Chair of the Board – ICW NA**

**International Community of Women Living with HIV – North America (ICW NA)**

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**INDICATE TRACK UNDER WHICH YOU'D LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED**

**Track 5 – Our Challenges**

**TITLE: Panel Discussion on the Intersection of HIV and Domestic Violence – *Cross training advocates***

**Abstract:** Many women living with HIV are impacted by intimate partner violence/domestic violence. Women and girls who experience sexual abuse increase their chances of becoming infected with HIV. 20 – 50% of women have experienced forced sexual intercourse, and it is impossible to talk about HIV and not address intimate partner violence and sexual violence. Violence against women and girls is a cause and a symptom of the HIV epidemic. Recognizing this intersection require integration of HIV and IPV movement to work together to meet and advance the rights of affected individuals and communities specifically of women and girls living with HIV.

**Objective:** Recognizing the intersection and working in partnership with IPV/DV advocates and HIV networks, we can work to build the capacity of affected individuals as well as providers of services. We can focus our work on supporting shared advocacy that meet the demands of women and girls living with HIV, and to mobilise the IVP/DV coalitions and HIV communities to jointly articulate demands for bodily integrity and autonomy.

There is a strong intersection between HIV and domestic violence. Women who were beaten or dominated by their intimate partner were 48 % more likely to become infected than women in non-violent relationships. Victims of DV may not be comfortable asking their partner to use protection during sex or be able to say no to sex if protection is not used. Lastly, forced sex acts can cause cuts or scrapes that make it easier for HIV to enter the body. All of these can put women at higher risk for HIV, and make living with HIV more difficult.

**METHODS:** Convene a panel discussion of IPV/DV advocates and WLHIV to discuss the importance of cross-training on domestic violence and HIV. The discussion will focus on the curriculum developed by the National Network to end Domestic Violence (NNEDV).

**RESULTS:** There is a need to increase knowledge, understanding and competencies. There is a need for better planning, coordination, and capacity building between IPV/DV coalitions and HIV women's movements. The need to provide platforms for exploring issues and connectivity between issues and to provide shared knowledge dissemination particularly related to advocacies. There is a continued need to build or enhance existing collaborations. In New Jersey, using the NNEDV curriculum agencies have began this cross training and collaboration.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Increasing the number of advocates who are trained to screen for signs of domestic violence in WLHIV and refer to resources that can assist them. Make women aware of the advocacy issues affecting access to domestic violence and HIV resources.

