

Gender, Youth and Inclusion Roadmap



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Part 1 Introduction and background

Gender, youth and inclusion are an integral part of Love Alliance - built on the principle of leaving no one behind. The Gender, Youth, and Inclusion (GYI) working group will coordinate the implementation of the consortium's gender responsive approach and commitment to ethical and meaningful engagement, and participation of young key populations, including young people living with HIV, young people in sex work, young people who use drugs (PWUD) and young LGBTIQ+ people.

This GYI Roadmap aims to create a common and clear understanding across the Love Alliance partnership on what gender transformative approaches and the ethical and meaningful engagement and participation of young people in their diversity mean in practice.

Its purpose is to provide the strategic partners of the Love Alliance with a set of practices and interventions for the coordinated promotion of a common set of messages about gender, youth and inclusion to cut across all areas of Love Alliance programmatic processes (planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning (PMEL), grant-making, governance, communication and advocacy).

It is also a tool for holding the partnership to account on its commitment to gender justice and meaningful youth engagement. To this end, the Roadmap includes a scorecard which can be used alongside other PMEL tools and processes to track implementation and progress on these areas. The Roadmap is intended as an internal document that can be regularly consulted and updated.

Rationale: why does Love Alliance include a specific focus on gender, youth and inclusion?

The overarching vision of the Love Alliance is to see a world where the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of all people are protected, respected and fulfilled.

We will achieve that vision by advancing the following goals

1. Capable, inclusive, influential and mutually supportive Key Population movements in an unrestricted civic space



2. An end to sexual and gender-based violence, stigmatisation and discrimination against key populations



3. Equal access to inclusive, people-centred, accountable and integrated HIV and comprehensive SRH services



These goals cannot be achieved without addressing structural barriers including gender and age-related inequalities that stymie progress. Gender and age-related barriers have long been recognised as drivers of HIV and barriers to an effective response. (See annex 1 - Global HIV data).

Mandate: How does the GYI Roadmap respond to global commitments on HIV?

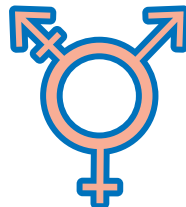
The Global AIDS strategy 2021-2026 focuses on ending inequalities in order to end AIDS and explicitly mandates efforts to address structural barriers which create and reinforce inequalities through the 10-10-10 societal enabler goals.

10-10-10 objectives of social enablers

1. Less than 10% of countries have legal and policy environments that impede access to HIV services



2. Less than 10% of women, girls and key populations experience gender inequality and violence



3. Less than 10% of people living with HIV and key populations experience stigma and discrimination



The Strategy forecasts that without reaching these targets, the goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 will be missed. A rights based and gender transformative HIV response also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as to other global commitments.

How Love Alliance contributes to the achievement of the SDGs



Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being includes targets to end AIDS as a public health threat, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, and achieve universal health coverage.



Goal 5: Gender Equality and the empowerment of women and girls includes targets to eliminate all forms of sexual and gender based violence, ensure universal access to SRHR, and to strengthen the legal and policy environment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.



Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities within and between countries includes targets on social, economic and political inclusion, and levelling the playing field by removing laws, policies and practices which are discriminatory so that everyone has equal access to opportunities, resources and outcomes.



Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions includes targets on reducing violence, promoting the rule of law and access to justice, representation and participation in decision-making, and non-discrimination.

In its conceptualisation, the Love Alliance recognises the importance of embedding gender equality and gender justice throughout the consortium's processes and advocacy; and integrating meaningful youth engagement to maximise the inclusivity of the partnership and to harness its potential for breaking down structural barriers which stand in the way of an effective HIV response.

The Love Alliance programming model places youth networks at a strategic position of acquiring funding to build their capacity and actively engage in the programming.

The Gender Youth and Inclusion (GYI) working group

To oversee the implementation of these commitments to gender equality and meaningful youth engagement, the Love Alliance GYI working group was established, with the following mandate from Love Alliance partners:

- to **articulate and understand the potential** of Love Alliance to make an impact in terms of gender, youth and inclusion
 - to provide **technical support** in applying the principles of a gender transformative approach and meaningful youth engagement across all areas of the partnership (e.g. grant-making, advocacy, leadership, communications, PMEL, etc)
 - to **support partner/grantee engagement** in relevant advocacy and policy spaces and **cross-movement building** by linking the HIV movement into feminist and youth spaces, and bring their principles, practices and world views into ours
 - **coordination** across the alliance: the Gender, Youth and Inclusion working group coordinates all efforts with the relevant other working groups (Advocacy, Grantmaking, PMEL) and the Strategic Board across the Love Alliance.
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The Love Alliance Gender, Youth and Inclusion Roadmap

Purpose

The Roadmap has been developed by the Love Alliance GYI working group to:

- Guide the work of the GYI working group, and hold the Love Alliance partnership accountable to advocating for gender justice and ethical and meaningful youth engagement including by critically reflecting on power within their own working structures
- Create and promote a common and clear understanding of what gender transformative approaches and young people's ethical and meaningful engagement and participation mean in practice
- Outline key advocacy messages, vehicles and opportunities
- Provide an overview of good practices that partners and grantees can consult.

Objectives of the GYI Roadmap

The specific objectives of the Roadmap fall under three critical intersecting and mutually supporting areas that the Love Alliance commits to upholding which are outlined below.



Critical area 1: Gender Transformative Approach (GTA):
Embed a gender transformative approach across Love Alliance partners



Critical area 2: Meaningful Youth Engagement (MYE):
Ensure the ethical and meaningful youth engagement as a cross-cutting commitment



Critical area 3: Countering the anti-gender movement (CAGM):
Understand the impact of and counter opposition in the form of gender restrictive or anti-gender forces

Strategic approaches

To achieve the objectives of the roadmap under each of these critical areas, we will adopt three strategic approaches, as follows:

1. Coordination, capacity building and critical reflection.

Coordinate the understanding and implementation of gender transformative approaches, and ethical and meaningful youth engagement through: critical reflection, capacity building, knowledge sharing and strengthening processes and interventions that use GTA and MYE.

Priority actions include:

- Convene gender, youth and inclusion working group, to enable critical reflection, stock-taking and gender assessments/audits;
- Establish country learning hubs in Love Alliance countries, in collaboration with the Learning Officer, to coordinate GTA and MYE training, and knowledge sharing on anti-gender movement. Learning will be channelled towards LA grantees and national advocacy partners. Learning hubs will
 - facilitate intersectionality of communities
 - provide a safe space for learning
 - enable virtual connections to countries
 - provide a platform for exchange and knowledge sharing based on partners' expertise and practice
 - enable cross-regional connection between advocacy partners and thought leaders to connect with partners
- Coordinate across the partnership (for example through participation in other working groups, task groups or specific collaborations) to provide technical support to strengthen implementation of GTA and MYE in Love Alliance processes and interventions.

Key Love Alliance indicators

- S1.2 # of civil society organisations and community led organisations with increased capacity to advocate for the rights of LGBTIQ+ people, sex workers and people who use drugs.
- M1.2 # of national platforms and mechanisms that support community coordination, planning and engagement in country processes established/strengthened.

2. Advocacy, representation, voice and movement building:

Strengthen Love Alliance's interventions on advocacy platforms that are relevant to promote gender equality and diversity, comprehensive SHRH, and youth engagement and leadership, and harness opportunities for movement building, through: advocacy activities, grant-making, engagement in policy fora, developing and sharing communications materials (campaigns, advocacy messages, etc).

Priority actions include:

- Conduct gender and diversity analyses and/or use (existing) data on gender to inform advocacy. (see box)
- Support and promote the participation, leadership and mentorship of young people, women and girls, and key populations in their diversity, including in Love Alliance governance structures
- Coordinate across Advocacy and Communications Working Groups to support and align activities that seek to address gender inequality, advance meaningful youth participation and counter the anti-gender movement across the Love Alliance. Specifically:
 - Ensure cross-fertilisation between different working groups (e.g. invite focal point from other WGs to GYL coordination meetings; join quarterly WG meetings)
 - Join thematic task groups preparing for specific advocacy moments such as Women Deliver 2023, ICASA 2023, CSW and AIDS2024
 - Support Advocacy Working Group with GTA and MYE advocacy messages
 - Work with the Communications working group on specific campaigns to ensure GTA and MYE messages are included and in the collection and amplification of success stories - for use around international days and at regional/global advocacy events
 - Support Advocacy working group in monitoring the opposition
- Support cross-movement building by highlighting people living with HIV and key population rights as an intersectional feminist issues within gender equality, SRHR and women's rights spaces, and by presenting a gender transformative/feminist analysis and approach within HIV spaces (for example, supporting the Women's Networking Zone at International AIDS Conferences); ensuring the visibility, representation and leadership of women living with HIV and key populations in gender and SRHR spaces such as CSW and Women Deliver 2023).

Gender and diversity analysis

Gender and diversity analyses can focus on the following areas:

- **Social and legal context relating to gender power:**

- Who has power? Who doesn't?
- Who is most at risk of gender-based violence (GBV)?
- Does the legal and policy environment criminalise the population or restrict decision-making and access to justice?

- **Data on the specific population:**

- Do we have data about this specific population – eg trans women living with HIV?
- Women sex workers who inject drugs?
- What do the data tell us?

- **Harmful social and gender norms and stereotypes (including prevalence of gender based violence):**

- What are the gendered expectations, roles and responsibilities of girls/women and men/boys?
- Are the notions of sex and gender rigid/binary or fluid and embracing of all genders?
- What happens if people deviate from these cultural norms and expectations? Are same sex relationships criminalised?
- Is there a law against marital rape
- How normalised is gender discrimination, including violence against women and girls, and gender diverse communities?
- Is female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) legal and/or widely practiced?
- What is the legal age of marriage?

- **Gender barriers to services:**

- Do girls/women, boys/men, gender diverse youth and adults have access to friendly, knowledgeable, affordable, and good quality services?
- Are these a part of mainstream services or are they provided by CBOs and NGOs?
- What stands in the way of access to SRHR services for these populations and organisations?

- **Visibility, participation and leadership among the specific population:**

- Which populations have the greatest visibility, participation and leadership in decision making spaces which affects their lives?
- What is the capacity of women- youth- or key population-led networks and organisations?
- Is it safe for individuals from specific communities to be seen and heard, and to represent themselves and their communities?

- **Intersectional issues:**

- How do age, sexuality, location, race/ethnicity, poverty and disability interact with gender?
- How does this interaction affect different layers of stigma, discrimination or marginalisation experienced by communities?

Useful data sources:

- [UNAIDS HIV Gender Assessments](#)
- UNAIDS Country fact sheets
- Social Development Direct [GIPP Analyses](#) (Gender, Inclusion, Power and Politics)
- [Stigma Index reports](#)
- Community consultations / community-led research
- Community knowledge
- Programme data (e.g. DREAMS)

Key Love Alliance indicators

- M1.1 Key population movements have diverse leadership including next generation leaders
- M3.1 Reducing gender discrimination, challenge harmful gender norms and violence against women, trans and intersex persons and youth in all their diversity.
- M4.2 LGBTIQ+ people, sex workers and PWUD advocate for (gender equality and key population) inclusive laws and policies.

3. Build evidence, identify and scale up good practices

Document the need for and successful use of gender transformative approaches and meaningful youth engagement and participation across the Love Alliance. Build capacity on effective communication and information generation strategies. We will do this by: documenting good practice and learning, M&E, reporting, specific areas of evidence gathering, and consultation.

Priority actions include:

- document the implementation of the GYI Roadmap through development and implementation of the GYI scorecard (with support from PMEL working group)
- work with the Communications working group to support advocacy, movement building and resource mobilisation through:
 - sharing success stories and case studies,
 - crafting clear, concise and accessible advocacy and campaign messages, and amplifying learning through social media, events and publications
- work with the PMEL working group to ensure that annual reporting, mid-term review and endline evaluations include a GYI lens, through:
 - the articulation of critical learning questions
 - incorporation of the GYI scorecard into Love Alliance's programme evaluations
 - ensuring the engagement of young people in their diversity and key populations in PMEL processes
- consult with Love Alliance partners and grantees to inform prioritisation and agenda-setting.

Key Love Alliance indicators

- L1 LGBTI+ people, sex workers and PWUD effectively use accountability mechanisms towards SRHR.
- L3.2 Adequate funding is allocated to the HIV response and supports communities.





Part 3 Operationalising the Roadmap

This section looks in more detail at each of the three critical areas of the roadmap. It also includes key advocacy messages, priority activities, vehicles and moments for achieving the objectives under each area, as well as examples of good practice or expertise from GYI working group partners, and key resources.

Guiding principles for Gender youth and inclusion in the Love Alliance

- At a minimum, all our work is gender responsive (sensitive, empowering or transformative)
- We promote the leadership of young people in their diversity
- We share power and challenge inequitable power structures within and outside of our own organisations
- Our work uses an intersectional vulnerabilities lens
- We work collaboratively across organisations, networks, regions and spaces to remove silos and build movement
- We will not rely on the voluntarism, especially of young people: Young people represented in Love Alliance governance structures will be fairly compensated for the work they do.



Critical area 1: Gender Transformative Approach (GTA): Embed a gender transformative approach across Love Alliance partners

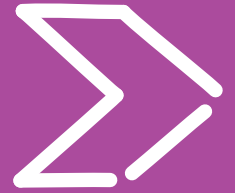


Critical area 2: Meaningful Youth Engagement (MYE): Ensure the ethical and meaningful youth engagement as a cross-cutting commitment



Critical area 3: Countering the anti-gender movement (CAGM): Understand the impact of and counter opposition in the form of gender restrictive or anti-gender forces

Critical Area 1: Embed a gender transformative approach across Love Alliance partners



Objectives

Under this Critical Area, the GYI roadmap will support the Love Alliance partners to:

- Ensure gender mainstreaming across the Love Alliance partnership to address intersectionalities leading to an exacerbated burden of stigmatisation/discrimination (e.g. women who use drugs).
- Support gender-transformative advocacy at global level for equitable access to inclusive, people-centred and comprehensive HIV and SRHR services.

The Love Alliance strives to mainstream gender across all levels of the partnership and in all stages of the programming cycle, applying gender transformative approaches that are inclusive and use an intersectional lens.

Gender justice is a concept that transcends equality alone. It's the notion that all services, opportunities, and establishments are open to all people and that male and female stereotypes do not define societal roles and expectations. In a patriarchal system, gender is defined in binary terms, and gender power dynamics are largely defined in terms of social relations between men and women. However, it is important to look beyond the binary and not erase identities that do not conform to traditional notions of masculinity or femininity under the LGBTIQ+ umbrella, and especially within the transgender community.

Harmful gender norms and gender inequality affect all and the effort to counter this - as well as sexual and gender based violence in all its forms – is a shared struggle where Love Alliance communities unify efforts. We recognize that different groups experience different types and levels of oppression based on a range of factors including gender, age and sexual orientation. Rather than focus on what makes us different, the Love Alliance seeks to unify the voice of people who use drugs, LGBTIQ+ people, sex workers and young people in their diversity in action to transform common struggles, build solidarity across movements, and address marginalisation in all its forms.

What do we mean by a gender transformative approach?

A gender transformative approach (GTA) is one which recognises gender as a prescribed system of norms, roles and relationships which affects us all: men and boys, women and girls and gender non-conforming individuals. Women, girls, and gender non-conforming people in particular can be negatively affected by patriarchal norms and gendered power inequalities that privilege cisgender men, whiteness, and heterosexuality. This is especially the case when gender roles or gender expectations intersect with other aspects of identity, such as age, disability, race and ethnicity, gender identity and expression and sexuality.

Understanding power

At the heart of implementing a gender transformative approach is an understanding of gender power at all levels in order to challenge and change patriarchal norms, and an intention to both expose and challenge power imbalances, be they based on gender, race, age, sexuality or geography. The mandate of the GYI working group is to critically examine relationships of power at the individual/interpersonal, organisational/institutional, and societal levels. The analytical framework illustrated below was adapted from [Gender at Work](#) by the Partnership to Inspire, Transform and Connect the HIV response (PITCH).¹

By utilising this framework we can examine power relationships using a feminist, intersectional approach, in 5 domains/dimensions:



Dimension 1: Looking at how power is distributed and held within our own organisations and partnerships



Dimension 2: Examining power in the informal interpersonal realm. This means exploring our own individual biases (conscious or unconscious), as well as how these biases play out within our practices and relationships



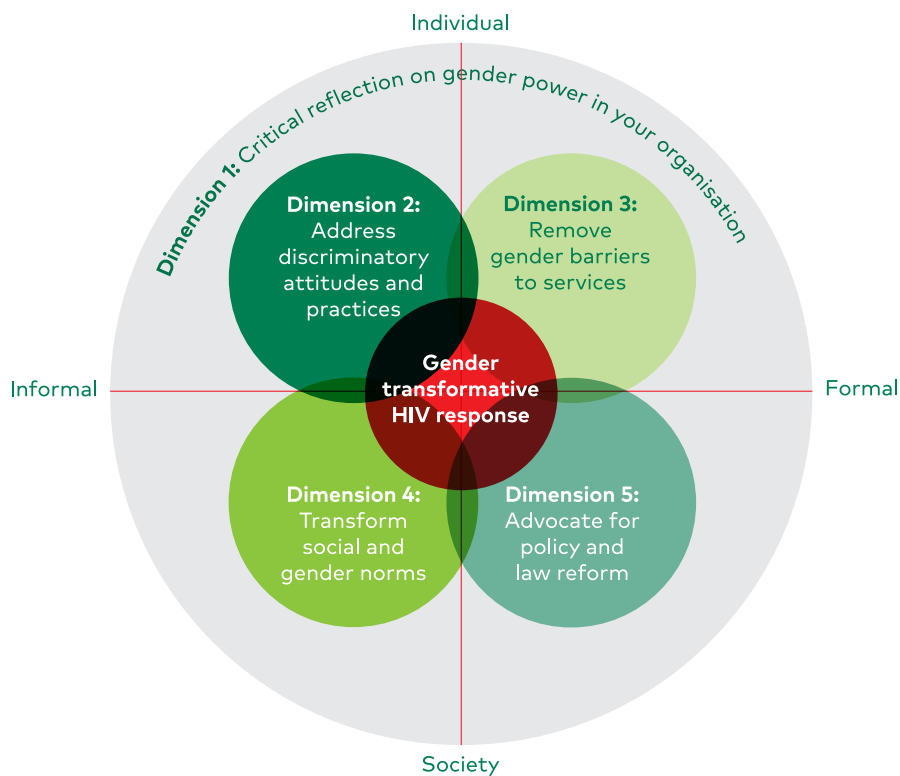
Dimension 3: Looking at how gender and age discrimination create barriers to accessing public and private resources, such as healthcare, education and other goods and resources



Dimension 4: Exploring social constructs around gender, sexuality, age and race (among others) to understand how power is eroded through both adherence and non-adherence to social and gender norms which are expressed in cultural and traditional practices and beliefs



Dimension 5: Analysing and challenging the formal codification of inequity through laws, policies, resource allocations and systems (e.g. the justice system)



Five dimensions of a gender transformative HIV response. From: Frontline AIDS, What does it take to achieve a gender transformative HIV response (www.frontlineaids.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Pitch-Gender-Guide-FINAL.pdf)

This framework can be used by Love Alliance partners as a guiding tool for contextual analysis, planning, implementing and measuring change in each of the five dimensions. While it is often not feasible for one organisation or entity to be working across all five dimensions, as an Alliance we would seek to be shifting power within each. As we plan and critically reflect on our work, it is useful to map our activities against these five areas, identify gaps or strive towards next horizons.

How do we do this?

The gender responsiveness continuum can help to locate interventions on a spectrum ranging from gender blind to aware and different degrees of responsiveness leading to more or less equitable outcomes. A number of tools are available to support this analysis (see resources box below). Common factors included in a gender transformative approach include:

- applying critical reflection to examine how we hold and distribute power at an individual and organisational level (looking at ourselves and our organisations and partnerships)
- analysing gender power – by looking at social and gender norms and expectations and the structures which maintain them – across different dimensions of the gendered power matrix above
- looking at how gender intersects with other factors of vulnerability and/or marginalisation
- using a participatory approach and grounding interventions in the lived realities, needs and priorities of affected communities

- empowering women, girls and gender non-binary/trans diverse individuals in their diversity, supporting and recognising their leadership
- engaging men and boys in their diversity through adopting whole-community approaches to change harmful gender norms, while ensuring accountability to women, girls and gender non-binary/trans diverse communities
- advancing a comprehensive SRHR agenda including preventing and addressing SGBV in all its forms, and promoting comprehensive sexuality education
- addressing the chronic scarcity of funding for women-, youth- and LGBTIQ+-led organisations and networks by developing and applying feminist funding principles.

In a programme that is:	
Gender blind	We intentionally or unintentionally fail to acknowledge the role of gender. We do not necessarily do harm but may directly or indirectly support the status quo.
Gender exploitative	We take advantage of rigid gender or social norms and existing imbalances in power. This causes harm.
Gender sensitive	We aim to meet practical needs and vulnerabilities of different genders within the process. This may involve consultation and an inclusive approach to ensure everyone's voice is heard.
Gender strategic/empowerment	We explicitly address strategic gender issues. We empower individuals to make active choices, and we build access to information, rights awareness, and pathways to accountability
Gender transformative	We address broader power structures that underpin gender inequality, often through collective, community-led action and influencing the enabling environment.



From: Frontline AIDS Good practice guide on gender transformative approach to HIV programming and advocacy – adapted from STAR Ghana/SDD.

While a gender sensitive programme ultimately aims to ensure equitable outcomes in terms of access to services and resources; a gender transformative approach goes beyond this. It aims to uproot and eradicate the social and legal structures which create gender barriers to services and resources in the first instance.

Expected or desired outcomes of a gender transformative programme which can be used as a reference to guide planning, monitoring and evaluation of programmes, might include (among others):²

- Changes in the gender division of labour, and workload reduction for women, girls and gender non-conforming people.
- Increased access to and control over resources for women, girls and gender non-conforming people compared to men (including increased mobility).
- Increased access to and control over benefits of own project/programme activities (including increased mobility) for women, girls and gender non-conforming people.
- Increased influence in decision-making at household, community and society levels for women, girls and gender non-conforming people (compared to men).
- Increased organisational capacity for women, girls and gender non-conforming people, and representation of the interests of women, girls and gender non-conforming people in organisations led by these groups and in mixed organisations.
- Increased self-esteem of women, girls and gender non-conforming people and positive changes in the social perceptions of women, girls and gender non-conforming people.
- Decreased violence against women, girls and gender non-conforming people (including safe mobility).
- Increased self-determination of women, girls and gender non-conforming people over their well-being, body, reproduction and sexuality.

In addition, a gender transformative approach will be attuned to - and seek to address – the different effects of gender inequality for women, girls and gender non-conforming people with intersecting identities: e.g. mothers who use drugs or transgender women who do sex work. This may call for approaches to be adapted to ensure desired outcomes are reached by groups who experience multiple and overlapping layers of discrimination, marginalisation and violence.

Language matters

The Love Alliance understands the power of language and uses trans*-inclusive language and approaches. We will include trans*-led (youth) organisations in our grantmaking and capacity strengthening, given the disparities.

UHAI EASHRI (www.uhai-eashri.org) has a 13-year track record and considerable expertise when it comes to supporting organising and movement building with LGBTIQ+ people and sex workers in their diversities. As a learning fund, we are interested in greater impact across ages and remain open to learning more. UHAI continues to apply a gender transformative approach in our work. In this new strategic plan, led and informed by our movements and in alignment with our politics around listening and actively learning, we are deliberately evolving our language in defining folks who identify with identities beyond the (male-female) gender binaries. has been leading the way in developing trans* inclusive language:

The term gender *non conforming* is often used to describe a range of transgender identities as well as people with diverse sexual orientations. However, this denotes a normalisation of the (male-female) binary gendering system and in describing folks that exist beyond this binary only works to further ostracise and alienate them. "Conformation" in the term "gender non conforming" as originally used speaks of a norm that requires to be subscribed and aspired to, for one to be considered normal and accepted, and in that regard affirms the normal at the expense of our non binary folk going against our principles of self determination.

Hence UHA is adopting the term "*trans diverse*" acknowledging the heterogeneity of trans identities beyond the (trans men-trans women) binary lenses. Even then in our insistence in continuing to define gender, we do acknowledge that gender was not a term that was developed with our communities in mind and that it has and continues to be weaponised to sustain the exclusion and stigma of our communities.



Key advocacy messages on GTA

Why does addressing gender inequality matters in the context of HIV and SRHR

1. Adolescent girls and young women, women in key populations, and LGBTIQ+ people continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV.
2. Gender inequality and harmful gender norms and practices are a barrier to realising sexual and reproductive health and rights, including HIV prevention, treatment and care.
3. Sexual and gender based violence increases the likelihood of HIV acquisition by up to 50% and stands in the way of accessing HIV prevention, treatment and care services and other SRHR services. One out of three women experience gender based violence from a partner/spouse or non-sexual partner during their lifetime, and this number can be even higher for women who use drugs, sex workers, lesbian, bisexual or transgender persons.
4. The Global AIDS Strategy commits to reducing the number of women, girls and people from key populations experiencing gender based discrimination or violence to less than 10% by 2025. This is one of three new 'societal enabler' goals which focus on addressing gender and human rights barriers to HIV prevention, treatment and care.



Key considerations

5. **LGBTIQ+ communities, sex workers and people who use drugs are marginalised within the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV which fails to recognise both the impact of HIV on gay and other men who have sex with men, transgender women, sex workers and people who use drugs, and their contribution to the HIV response.**

Most 'gender' programmes within the HIV response still work in a gender binary that can be summarised as 'Men and boys control women's and girls' bodies.' While there may be data to support this, we need a more nuanced and fluid understanding of gender, intersectionality, and human rights, to be able to support the work of individuals and communities across the gender spectrum.

6. **Women's civil society and feminist activism are a crucial factor in preventing and addressing gender based violence and harmful gender norms.** There is a growing body of evidence to support a feminist, gender transformative and intersectional approach to address these issues; for example, research by the Population Council in 2013.³
7. **Engaging men and boys in their diversity as partners and allies in gender transformative programming and advocacy is crucial.** However, it is important that male actors recognise the power dynamics that their engagement brings, are willing and able to critically reflect on their own power and privilege. Male engagement programmes must be accountable to women girls and gender diverse communities through governance and PMEL frameworks and processes which have at least equal representation and meaningful engagement by women, girls and gender diverse communities in their diversity.
8. **Human rights standards and instruments related to gender equality and SRHR – such as CEDAW, ICPD and Beijing - are embedded in and derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1996) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (1966). The Beijing Platform of Action sets out the most comprehensive blueprint for women's rights and gender equality. Yet over 25 years on from Beijing gender inequality including SGBV still affects women, girls and gender non conforming people in their diversity in every country in the world.**



What we want/need

9. We need comprehensive sexuality education that includes a focus on gender, sexuality and power, to be delivered in and out of school. Young people must be given the knowledge and agency to decide whether, when, with whom and how to have sex, marry and have children, safely. CSE which includes these elements has been shown to be more effective in reducing HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, than those that do not.⁴
10. We need long term core funding for women's, girls and LGBTIQ+ rights organisations to support effective community leadership and a strong accountable civil society. Women-, key population-, and other community-led and -serving organisations are notoriously under-funded, with funding most often project-based. Donor restrictions make it very difficult for smaller, grassroots organisations to be eligible for funding, while administrative costs associated with both registering as a legal entity, and managing/reporting on grants can squeeze community-led organisations dry.

Applying feminist principles in grant-making, including flexibility, core funding, trust-based funding and participatory funding mechanisms, with manageable reporting burdens enables smaller networks and organisations to advocate for human rights and gender transformative approaches.⁵

Key vehicles

- Gender / GTA training, through Love Alliance learning hubs
- Collaboration with / support to other working groups on GTA
- Gender audit/assessment and stock-take
- Feminist grantmaking criteria and principles
- Documentation of success stories and strategies (e.g. on: feminist grant-making, using/developing gender inclusive language,) in collaboration with Comms and grant-making working groups

Key advocacy opportunities

- CSW (annual)
- CEDAW reporting
- Women Deliver 2023
- Global Fund NFM windows in 2023
- 16 Days of activism against gender-based violence
- International Days: International women's day; IDAHOBIT; international day of the girl child; sex worker's rights day, etc



Good practice examples from Love Alliance partners

GALZ (galz.org) has developed a gender, equity, diversity and inclusion (GEDI) policy that speaks to gender mainstreaming and inclusion. The organisation is still trying to fully implement the policy to ensure there is gender responsive and youth inclusive programming within the organisation.

GALZ works to sensitise and inform stakeholders on SOGIESC through capacity building trainings. The SOGIESC trainings include challenging harmful norms, gender based violence and promotion of bodily autonomy. Stakeholder sensitisation takes place through:

1. Media engagements
2. Trainings with different stakeholders such as religious leaders, policy and law makers
3. Documentation of human rights violations for the GALZ annual violations report which is used for advocacy.

UHA!: grant-maker, East Africa. Focus on 7 countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, DRC (www.uhai-eashri.org).

Established in 2008 with a focus on intersectional grant making supporting LGBTIQ+ people and sex workers in their diversity, UHA! identifies as a feminist grant-maker. Most UHA! staff are activists and are drawn from the target populations. UHA!'s grant-making model is based on feminist principles and uses a participatory approach. Their peer grants committee (PGC) meets once a year to agree on multi-year general support grants which give more flexibility (having moved away from project specific grants during COVID).

Smaller, short-term strategic and opportunity requests for funding – e.g. support to attend a conference to increase representation/visibility of key populations – are decided by the secretariat. UHA! makes about 140 grants, half of which are currently covered by Love Alliance Advocacy and movement building are inherent in UHA!'s grant-making, and they are also involved in advocacy and movement building themselves, as well as convening key populations and relevant stakeholders in Kenya, Uganda and Burundi to build movement.



Resources for implementing a gender transformative approach in HIV and SRHR programming and advocacy.

- Aidsfonds (2020) The Big Picture [The Big Picture | Aidsfonds.org](https://aidsfonds.org/en/the-big-picture/)
- Frontline AIDS (2021) [Gender Transformative Approaches to HIV - Good Practice Guide](#) [Gender-transformative approaches to HIV - Good Practice Guide - Frontline AIDS](#) : Frontline AIDS and [Facilitators Handbook](#) [Gender-transformative approaches to HIV programming - Facilitators' handbook](#) - Frontline AIDS : Frontline AIDS
- Rutgers (2019) Gender Transformative Approach Toolkit [Gender Transformative Approach Toolkit Module 1 - Rutgers](#) . The Toolkit comprises five modules, which explore the inter-related components of GTA and the socio-ecological model; comprehensive sexuality education; youth-friendly services; advocacy; and GTA at the organisational/ institutional level.

References

1. Frontline AIDS [What does it take to achieve a gender transformative HIV response?](#)
2. Adapted from Aidsfonds (2020) [The Big Picture](#)
3. Weldon, SL, and Htun, M (2013) 'Feminist mobilisation and progressive policy change: why governments take action to combat violence against women', Gender and Development, 21 (2), 231-247.
4. Haberland, N. (2015) 'The case for addressing gender and power in sexuality and HIV education: a comprehensive review of evaluation studies', Int Perspect Sex Reprod Health, 41 (1) :31-42.
5. See for reference:
 - <https://aidsfonds.org/news/new-study-funding-for-key-populations-affected-by-hiv-and-aids-way-off-track>
 - <https://www.mamacash.org/resources/report-moving-more-money-to-the-drivers-of-change/>
 - <https://www.mamacash.org/en/report-vibrant-yet-under-resourced>
 - <https://youngfeministfund.org/a-look-into-fridas-participatory-grantmaking-model-resourcing-connections-reflections-on-feminist-participatory-grantmaking-practice/>

Critical Area 2: Ensure ethical and meaningful youth engagement in the work of the Love Alliance as a cross-cutting commitment



Objectives

Under this Critical Area, the GYI roadmap will support the Love Alliance partners to:

- Promote and be role models of youth leadership and engagement; address and challenges the non- inclusion of young people in spaces where any decision making about them happens;
- Ensure meaningful participation of diverse young people at all levels of the partnership

What do we mean by ethical and meaningful youth engagement?

Ethical and meaningful youth engagement in the context of HIV builds on the principle of the greater involvement of people living with HIV and AIDS (GIPA) coined by UNAIDS at the 1994 Paris AIDS Summit. The GIPA principle recognises the right of people living with HIV and AIDS to be involved in all decision making that affects their lives and as such are key stakeholders in shaping the global AIDS response: "Nothing about us without us".

As the global AIDS response has evolved the GIPA has been defined and refined – by communities of people living with and affected by HIV – to ensure that the involvement is meaningful, ethical, rights-based, embracing of people living with HIV in all their diversity, gender sensitive, and intersectional with overlapping marginalised identities. It has been the cornerstone of community engagement efforts and advocacy such as the Positive Health, Dignity and Prevention framework and the Stigma Index.

Young people's involvement in the HIV response has continued to be marginalised until relatively recently, despite the disproportionate impact of HIV on young people and particularly adolescent girls and young women (especially in sub-Saharan Africa), due to the intersection of gender and age discrimination. Despite this, young people – especially young women and young people from

marginalised communities – have been largely absent from decision-making spaces, and often, when present, it is in a tokenistic manner, for example to share a 'testimony' or tick a box. Young people are often invited to decision making spaces at the last minute, and may not have been part of consultations leading up to the event. They may have fewer personal resources to fall back on, and their very participation in advocacy spaces can cause them harm or put them at physical, emotional and financial risk.

Y+ Global has developed a toolkit based on the priority concerns of young people living with HIV working as campaigners, advocates, researchers, interns, and staff. The toolkit is based on the implementation of 7 identified priorities:

1. Keeping young people safe
2. Valuing the contribution of young people
3. Ensuring diverse representation of young people
4. Providing support
5. Building positive youth-adult partnerships
6. Investing in the sustainability of youth led organisations
7. Promoting greater accountability to young people

To ensure that people who use drugs-, LGBTIQ+- and sex worker-led organisations become more inclusive of young people, and to ensure that young people's engagement in policy-making processes and decision making increases, the Love Alliance partners with youth-led networks of people living with HIV such as Y+ Global, so that their youth advocates join forces with and mentor (youth) advocates from organisations and movements that are people who use drugs-, LGBTIQ+- and sex worker-led, and stimulate cross-community and inclusive youth movement building.

The category of 'young people' includes different age categories. While all alliance partners work with youth aged 18 and older, while working with young people under the age of 18 we need to be cautious. Laws and regulations preventing the inclusion of or service delivery to young people; and the likelihood of backlash (accusations of soliciting young people into selling sex or enticing them into 'becoming gay' or doing drugs) make working with minors risky if not impossible in most contexts, especially for LGBTIQ+-, people who use drugs- and sex worker-led organisations. We will include minors in our work where relevant and possible, for example by working directly with youth-led organisations and working with other SRHR partnerships focused on youth.



Key advocacy messages on MYE

Why this matters

1. Yet young people - especially adolescent girls and young women, young LGBTIQ+, young people who use drugs and young sex workers - are routinely excluded from decision-making spaces where decisions about their life are made. This must change.
2. Adolescent girls and young women are disproportionately affected by HIV. In 2020, 6 out of 7 young people aged 15-19 newly acquiring HIV in sub-Saharan Africa were girls.⁶
3. Young people do not have the knowledge and agency to protect themselves from HIV or to live well with the virus. Accurate knowledge of HIV prevention among young people is unacceptably low: only one in three.⁷ As a result, young people are still at risk of getting HIV. In 2019, 2 out of 7 people acquiring HIV globally were young people aged 15-24.⁸ In addition, HIV-related mortality is higher among young people than other groups. We need more information on prevention, treatment (including U=U) and our rights.

Key considerations

4. Organisations that engage young people have a duty of care to safeguard the rights of young people – including their right to be heard. Participation in policy and advocacy programmes can put young people at financial, emotional and physical risk.
5. Social and gender norms, age of consent laws and policies, and lack of comprehensive sexuality education stand in the way of adolescents and young people realising our sexual and reproductive health and rights, including HIV prevention, treatment and care.



What we want/need

6. We want sustained investment in youth-led and -serving organisations to build the capacity of young people in their diversity in advocacy, leadership and mentorship and to ensure their ethical and meaningful engagement
7. **Involve us.** We have the lived experience, knowledge and insight to know what they need and to drive change. Our engagement is crucial to advancing SRHR, reducing HIV transmission rates, improving the quality of life and access to SRH services, including HIV treatment for young people living with HIV, with models of care informed by their values and preferences.
8. We want access to high-quality, gender responsive, age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education programmes, both in school and out of school, to protect themselves from HIV and realise their SRHR.
9. **Young people are diverse.** One size does not fit us all. We want tailored programmes that speak to our diversity, and to see ourselves represented in all our diversity
10. **We Matter, Value Us** is a toolkit designed by and for young people ... Use it.

Key vehicles

- Capacity building on MYE through the learning hubs
- Collaboration with / support to other working groups on MYE
- Y+ Global We Matter, Value Us toolkit
- Young Emerging Leaders (YEL) programme
- Y+ Global and HJWW briefing paper on young people and HIV decriminalisation
- Youth leadership and mentorship
- Young people in LA governance structures
- Grant-making with and for youth-led and -serving organisations

Key opportunities

- ICASA 2023, 2025
- AIDS2024
- International Days: tbd
- Work with PMEL working group to implement the We Matter, Value Us scorecard among LA partners and grantees



Good practice examples from Love Alliance

GNP+ (www.gnpplus.net) is creating the Young Emerging Leaders (YEL) programme with Y+ Global. YEL is going to identify and form an elite squad of young global advocates. We plan to equip this cohort with the confidence and necessary skills to meaningfully voice the needs of young people at global platforms.

Y+ Global (www.gnpplus.net) is a youth serving and youth led organisation that has included diversity in all aspects of work and in organisational documents and policies. We include young people in diversity even at staff level. **Y+ Global** supports gender diverse representation at national committees including global fund processes and CCMs. Our programmes are internally directed on the principles of diversity inclusion which considers gender at all levels of programme management and implementation.

During the 24th International AIDS Conference in Montreal in 2022, Y+ Global organised virtual hubs to support engagement in the conference by young people in their diversity who were unable to attend the conference in person.

While the hybrid in person-online nature of the conference broadened the potential for participation by marginalised groups in the conference, the virtual hubs created a bridge between in person and online participation by bringing young people together in their diversity and providing opportunities for relationship building, discussions and shared learning among young people virtually participating in the conference.

Y+ Global developed a practical guide to setting up and making the most of virtual hubs, which can be found here: [https://yplusglobal.org/docs/resources/AIDS-2022-Virtual-Hub-English%20\(web\).pdf](https://yplusglobal.org/docs/resources/AIDS-2022-Virtual-Hub-English%20(web).pdf)



Resources for ensuring ethical and meaningful engagement of young people in their diversity

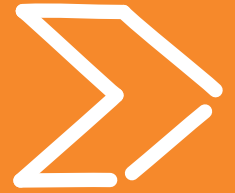
- Y+ Global (2022) Toolkit on ethical and meaningful youth engagement [Y+ Global | Resources – We Matter, Value Us. \(yplusglobal.org\)](https://yplusglobal.org/)
- CHOICE and YOUACT (2017) The Flower of Participation <https://www.youthdoit.org/assets/Uploads/20171122-Flower-of-Participation-Narrative2.pdf>

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6. <https://open.unaids.org/priority/strategy-result-areas/hiv-prevention-among-young-people>
7. UNAIDS 2021, Young People and HIV https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/young-people-and-hiv_en.pdf
8. UNAIDS 2021, Young People and HIV https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/young-people-and-hiv_en.pdf



Critical Area 3: Countering the anti-gender movement



Objectives

Under this Critical Area, the GYI roadmap will support the Love Alliance partners to:

- Support and strengthen people living with HIV and key population movements to work together to secure an unrestricted civic space.

What is the anti-gender movement?

The anti-gender movement is an international movement which opposes what it refers to as gender ideology, gender theory, or genderism (Kováts, Eszter, 2016).⁹ It is a well-funded decentralised movement of conservative and religious forces, operating nationally and transnationally to launch an attack on what it calls 'gender ideology' and to negatively influence public discourse and opinion away from LGBTIQ+ rights, women's rights, comprehensive sexuality education, and SRHR, among others.^{10, 11} The movement seeks to assert power and (re)-establish social and political hierarchies which it sees as having been eroded by the liberalisation of laws on (for example) marriage equality, abortion, and women's rights, among others.

The Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP) has undertaken a study called 'Power over Rights: Understanding and countering the transnational anti-gender movement' supported by the German and Finnish governments. In their analysis, the CFFP alludes to how the anti-gender movement has gathered momentum over recent years through the formation of transnational alliances and the mobilisation of grassroots conservatism in the protection of the 'three Ns: nature, the nation, and normality'.

This is achieved by conflating discourse on a range of progressive, human rights issues into one big threat in order to form unlikely but powerful alliances between diverse actors. In contrast, human rights and gender advocates and actors are less well funded, tend to work in silos and have a misguided belief in a progression towards the securing of rights. The roll-back on abortion rights in the US and parts of Europe is an example of how easily hard-won rights can be lost again.

An affirmation of feminist principles¹²

The (re)affirming of feminist principles by a coalition of feminist and LGBTIQ+ activist organisations and individuals constitutes an attempt to build solidarity and collective action through re-affirming pro-gender, sex and sexuality feminist positions, in an open sign-on letter. Specifically, these organisations affirm the principles of:

1. The universality of human rights, non-discrimination and freedom from violence
2. Bodily autonomy, integrity and the right to identity
3. Freedom from torture, ill treatment and medical abuse
4. The Rights of the Child
5. Sex, gender and sexuality are social constructs
6. Intersectionality
7. Self determination and liberation in and on all territories, of all bodies, collectives, institutions, societies, economy and ecology
8. Challenging power structures.



Maya Angelou

The anti-gender movement particularly targets trans, gender diverse and intersex (TGDI) people at the social, political and institutional level, often for political gain, capitalising on the rise of ultra-conservative, nationalist, right-wing and religious populist movements. The movement uses an obfuscating vocabulary of human rights in its attempts to *restrict or deny* the human rights of trans, gender diverse and intersex people, including by denying or creating barriers to their claiming autonomy and self-determination, depathologization, mental and bodily integrity, legal gender recognition and gender affirming healthcare, informed consent, sanitation, and freedom from discrimination and torture.

Analysis, including from GATE, suggests that anti-gender movements are growing in power and geographical reach, and becoming more successful in pushing back against the hard-won gains by the LGBTIQ+ communities. This is an ongoing area of work that encompasses building the capacity of TGDI movements to respond effectively to the opposition from the anti-gender movements.¹³

The Yogyakarta Principles

In addition to a number of human rights instruments focusing on gender equality, particularly through the empowerment of women and girls,¹⁴ the [Yogyakarta principles \(2006\)](#) and the [Yogyakarta principles +10 \(2017\)](#) are a set of international principles relating to sexual orientation and gender identity. They constitute a universal guide to human rights which affirm binding international legal standards with which all States must comply. The original 29 principles address a broad range of international human rights standards and their application to sexual orientation and gender identity issues.

These include areas such as the right to equality and non-discrimination, freedom from torture, the rights to work, security and safe housing, and freedom of thought, expression and association. On 10 November 2017, a panel of experts published nine (9) additional principles, reflecting post-2006 developments in international human rights law and practice. These include the rights to state protection, legal recognition and bodily and mental integrity. The Yogyakarta Principles +10 also contains 111 'additional state obligations' related to areas such as torture, asylum, privacy, health and the protection of human rights defenders.



Key advocacy messages on countering the anti-gender movement

Why this matters

1. The anti-gender movement threatens the safety, dignity and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people and sex workers of all genders, and rolls back on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls in their diversity.
2. The 2021-2026 Global AIDS Strategy commitment to reducing the number of countries with laws that hinder access to HIV and SRHR services to less than 10% by 2025. This is one of three new 'societal enabler' goals which focus on addressing gender and human rights barriers to HIV prevention, treatment and care. 68 countries¹⁵ – over half of them in Africa – criminalise same sex relationships, 130 some aspect of sex work, and 30 being transgender (though the lack of explicit protections for – or indeed legal recognition of – transgender people in most countries can also be regarded as a de-facto form of criminalisation). However, these laws are not irreversible. Successful advocacy has led to the decriminalisation of same sex relationships in several African countries including Botswana (2019), Angola (2019), and Mozambique (2015), and most recently Gabon in 2020.



Key Considerations

3. **Anti-gender campaigners have co-opted a language of human rights and child protection to advance aims that in reality seek to undermine the rights of women, LGBTIQ+ people, sex workers and other socially marginalised populations, including children.**¹⁶ Typically, anti-gender movements seek to promote 'family values,' ban and/or punish homosexuality, push for or maintain the criminalisation of sex work, sex workers, and/or their clients, and ban or limit access to comprehensive abortion care, and comprehensive sexuality education.

They position LGBTIQ+ individuals and feminists as a threat to society – and our rights agendas (in particular SRHR) as posing a danger to children. **We need to understand the way rights language is being used by the anti-gender movement to constrain the rights of some groups** so that we can spot when progressive-sounding language is being used to undermine our agenda

4. **Anti-gender funders and grantmakers prioritise long term 'world building' activities over specific, time-bound projects or programmes.** This means that the movement is extremely well funded, and not overburdened with meeting specific short or intermediate term objectives or goals. This means that organizations can be ambitious and take risks. In comparison, feminist, LGBTIQ+ rights, and other SRHR organizations tend to rely on short-term, restricted, project specific funding with heavy administrative and reporting burdens.¹⁷

What we want/need

5. **We need cross-movement solidarity, coordination and collaboration - including from donor partners.** Those working to address sexism, racism, colonialism and advance women's and girls, LGBTIQ+ people's, children's and human rights must work together to protect civic space and counter the anti-gender movement
6. **We need sustained investment, including flexible, trust-based, long-term and core or unrestricted funding for feminist, women's rights, LGBTIQ+ rights, and other community-led and -serving organisations to ensure community leadership and engagement**



- 7. We need a set of consolidated myth-busting messages about gender that can be used in high level spaces, public discourse and social dialogue to counter heteronormative gender narratives.** For example, that being gay is a mental illness or a 'condition' that can be 'cured' by prayer, compassion or rehabilitation/conversion therapy; if a woman is 'too' educated or successful she will never find a husband; sex workers are 'home-wreckers' or the cause of marriage/relationship breakdown; that homosexuality or being transgender are 'imported', 'Western' ideas and essentially 'un-African'
- 8. We want access to services** in particular sexual and reproductive health services, by trained providers who provide friendly, non-judgemental and non-discriminatory care. Universal Health Coverage (UHC) presents an opportunity to push for health as a fundamental human right, or 'health for all'. The core elements of UHC are embedded in a number of internationally agreed human rights conventions as well as national constitutions. It can be a vehicle for achieving health equity and the right to health, irrespective of a person's age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, HIV status or other socio-economic factors.
- 9. We want decriminalisation. Punitive laws must be reviewed and reformed.** These include laws that criminalise same sex sexual relationships, sex work, HIV non-disclosure, exposure and transmission, and personal drug use. We need legal literacy for communities, police and members of the judiciary so that they can use the law to protect our fundamental rights and freedoms, instead of using it against us.
- 10. We want supportive families and communities to help us maintain our wellbeing.** This calls for specific mental health support, and where needed, family mediation services tailored to our needs, provided by peer counsellors or appropriately trained providers.



Key vehicles

- Webinar/learning event looking at the anti-gender movement and how it negatively impacts on the global HIV response
- ISDAO report 'Who is afraid of Gender?'
- [HIV Language Compendium](#)
- The [affirmation of feminist principles](#) (see box above) is a source of allyship, unifying language and advocacy messages that can be used in movement building and solidarity to counter the opposition
- GNP+ Not a Criminal Campaign, which has been raising awareness and lobbying for the removal of punitive laws
- UPR reports in relevant countries
- UHC high level meeting

Key opportunities

- Work with the Advocacy working group to monitor opposition (e.g. through Not a Criminal), disseminate and activate the HIV Language Compendium
- Changing Faces, Changing Spaces
- IDAHOBIT
- Women Deliver, 2023
- CSW



Good practice examples from Love Alliance

ISDAO and Queer African Youth Network (QAYN) commissioned a [study](#) on gender ideology and the anti-gender campaigns that support it in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Senegal. This study aimed to better understand the structure, organisation and manifestation of the 'anti-gender' movement/s in West Africa.

The study found that, though scattered, the actions and rhetoric of anti-gender actors in the region are clear and visible and adhere to a unified and unifying rhetoric with a negative impact on feminist, LGBTIQ+ organising. The report provides recommendations for strengthening the LGBTIQ+ movement and building resilience at individual, family, community and societal levels, including through transnational movement building.



Resources on countering the anti-gender movement

- Elevate Children Funders Group (2021) [Manufacturing Moral Panic: Weaponizing children to undermine gender justice and human rights](#)
- ISDAO (2022) [Who is afraid of gender?](#)
- [Tip of the Iceberg - https://www.epfweb.org/node/837](https://www.epfweb.org/node/837)
- [The Observatory on the Universality of Rights \(OURs\) initiative](#)
- JASS (2019) [Defending Rights in Hostile Contexts: Understanding and Confronting the Crackdown Against Activists and Democratic Space in Southern Africa](#)
- Denkovski, et al (2021), [The Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy's work on countering anti-gender campaigns](#)
- Love Alliance, HIV Policy Lab, O'Neill Institute (2022) [HIV Language Compendium](#)

References

9. From GATE website
10. [Responding to the anti-gender movement - ILGA-Europe](#)
11. [Countering Anti-Gender Campaigns - CFFP \(centreforfeministforeignpolicy.org\)](#)
12. [Letter | Feminist Affirmatin](#)
13. GATE
14. These include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and Sustainable Development Goal 5.
15. <https://76crimes.com/76-countries-where-homosexuality-is-illegal/>
16. See for example, [manufacturing-moral-panic-report.pdf \(showit.co\)](#)
17. Ibid, page 12.

Annex 1: Global HIV data highlighting inequalities¹⁸

Marked inequalities, within and between countries, are stalling progress in the HIV response, and HIV is further widening those inequalities

Every day, 4000 people—including 1100 young people (aged 15 to 24 years)—become infected with HIV. If current trends continue, 1.2 million people will be newly infected with HIV in 2025—three times more than the 2025 target of 370 000 new infections.

Every two minutes in 2021, an adolescent girl or young woman was newly infected with HIV. The COVID-19 pandemic led to disruptions to key HIV treatment and prevention services, millions of girls out of school, and spikes in teenage pregnancies and gender-based violence.

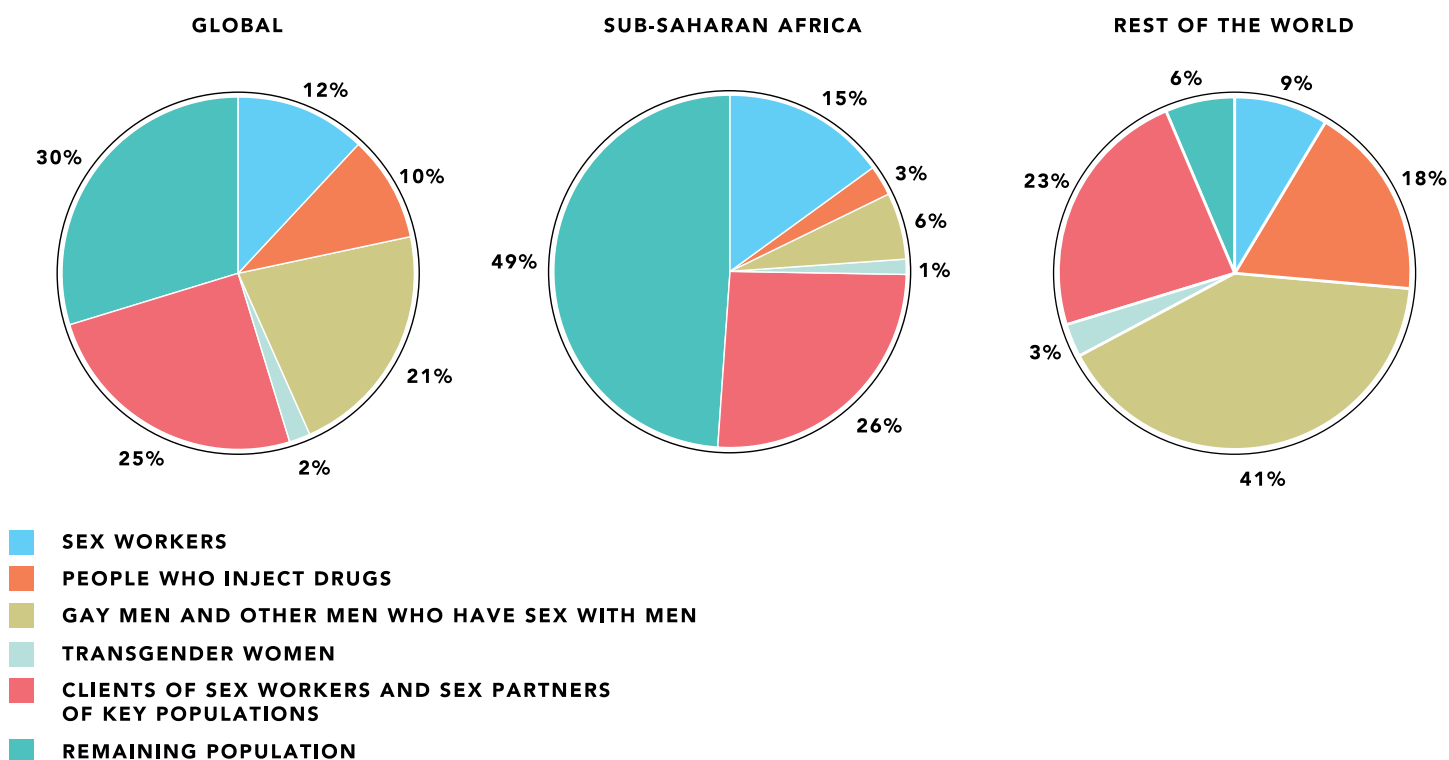
People with less social power and fewer protections under the law are often at higher risk of HIV infection. Adolescent girls and young women (aged 15 to 24 years)—one of whom becomes infected with HIV every three minutes—are three times more likely to acquire HIV than adolescent boys and young men of the same age group in sub-Saharan Africa.

Global estimates based on data from 2000–2018 also indicate that more than one in 10 ever-married or partnered women aged 15 to 49 years have experienced intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence within the past 12 months. Furthermore, the epidemic of domestic violence against women worldwide greatly intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key populations account for less than 5% of the global population, but they and their sexual partners comprised 70% of new HIV infections in 2021 (see Figure 1 on page 38).

In every region of the world, there are key populations who are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection (see Figure 2 on page 38).

➤ Figure 1: Distribution of acquisition of new HIV infections by population, global, sub-Saharan Africa and rest of the world, 2021 (source: [UNAIDS Global AIDS update 2022](#))



➤ Figure 2: Relative risk of HIV acquisition, global, 2021 (source: [UNAIDS Global AIDS update 2022](#))



Annex 2: Contribution towards commitments in the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS¹⁹

Para 63: Commit to put gender equality and the human rights of all women and girls in diverse situations and conditions at the forefront of efforts to mitigate the risk and impact of HIV by:

(d) Eliminating all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence, by adopting and enforcing laws, changing harmful gender stereotypes and negative social norms, perceptions and practices, and providing tailored services that address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence faced by women living with, at risk of and affected by HIV;

(e) Reducing to no more than 10 per cent the number of women, girls and people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV who experience gender-based inequalities and sexual and gender-based violence by 2025

Para 64. Commit to the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS principle and to empower communities of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, including women, adolescents and young people, to play their critical leadership roles in the HIV response

(a) Ensuring that relevant global, regional, national and subnational networks and other affected communities are included in HIV response decision-making, planning, implementing and monitoring and are provided with sufficient technical and financial support;

(b) Creating and maintaining a safe, open and enabling environment in which civil society can fully contribute to the implementation of the present declaration and the fight against HIV/AIDS;

Para 65. Commit to eliminating HIV-related stigma and discrimination and to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, through concrete resource investment and development of guidelines and training for health-care providers, by

(a) Creating an enabling legal environment by reviewing and reforming, as needed, restrictive legal and policy frameworks, including discriminatory laws and practices that create barriers or reinforce stigma and discrimination such as age of consent laws and laws related to HIV non-disclosure, exposure and transmission, those that impose HIV-related travel

restrictions and mandatory testing and laws that unfairly target people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, with the aim of ensuring that less than 10 per cent of countries have restrictive legal and policy frameworks that lead to the denial or limitation of access to services by 2025;

(b) Adopting and enforcing legislation, policies and practices that prevent violence and other rights violations against people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV and protect their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, right to education and right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, housing, employment and social protection, and that prevent the use of laws that discriminate against them;

(d) Ending impunity for human rights violations against people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV by meaningfully engaging and securing access to justice for them through the establishment of legal literacy programmes, increasing their access to legal support and representation and expanding sensitization training for judges, law enforcement, health-care workers, social workers and other duty bearers

(e) Working towards the vision of zero stigma toward and discrimination against people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, by ensuring that less than 10 per cent experience stigma and discrimination by 2025, including by leveraging the potential of Undetectable = Untransmittable;

References

18. All stats in this subsection are from UNAIDS Global AIDS Update 2022 'In Danger' available at [Full report — In Danger: UNAIDS Global AIDS Update 2022 \(aidsdatahub.org\)](https://aidsdatahub.org/publications/full-report-in-danger-unaids-global-aids-update-2022) (viewed 18th October 2022)
19. [Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030 | UNAIDS](#)



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© 2024 Love Alliance
Written by: Luisa Orza
Designed by: Y+ Global and
in collaboration with the
GYI working group