



National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network Commemorates Anniversary

June 17, 2010: The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN) celebrated its Fourth Anniversary on June 15, 2010 with a recommitment of its mission *to be a voice and advocate for Black women and girls living with or affected by HIV/AIDS by engaging in policy and program initiatives that fight gender, social and health inequities.*

NBWHAN calls upon Black women and girls living with and affected by HIV/ADS to come together and ensure that the needs of African American women, girls and their families living with and affected by HIV/AIDS become an integral part of this country's HIV/AIDS agenda.

“A significant facet of our present and future work is to forward a clear message to community that We're Still Standing and prioritizing the needs of Black Women & HIV Prevention and related issues,” said Jacqueline Coleman, Co-Chair of NBWHAN. The future provides us an unprecedented opportunity for critical thinking and strategic forecasting on the Black community, Black women and HIV/AIDS. The Network utilizes an asset-based, community engagement model to marshal forward with awakened realities relative to funding, support, prioritization of black women's issues and the soon to be released National AIDS Strategy.

We are at a time in this epidemic when every 35 minutes a woman tests positive for HIV and when it is estimated that one in 30 Black women will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetime.[\[1\]\[1\]](#)

With an HIV prevalence rate that is 20 times the rate of white women, Black women and girls infected with HIV/AIDS find themselves in a national state of public health emergency. “We will continue to make strong appeals to the government to have a representative voice of an openly HIV positive Black woman on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. We exist to deliver a consistent, resounding alert that Black women's lives matter,” stated Barbara Joseph, Co-Chair of NBWHAN.

About the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN)

The NBWHAN has been successful in working with many advocacy groups as well as local and national organizations to garner support for women's issues in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Founded in 2007 the NBWHAN

has worked to influence the development of research initiatives and resources that will have a positive impact on program development and design for women and produce scientific based evidence of success. The NBWHAN is a community led initiative born out of the urgent need for Black women to set and implement a national HIV/AIDS agenda for Black women and adolescent girls in the areas of prevention, care, treatment, public policy and funding for all Black women and adolescent girls living with or at risk of HIV and AIDS and their families.

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References:

[1][1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2008). CDC HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet-HIV/AIDS among Women. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.