



National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, Inc. Commemorates National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day I am My Brother's/Sister's Keeper: Fight HIV/AIDS

February 7, 2015: As we commemorate National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, Inc., honours all of our sisters and brothers that we have lost to this disease and continue to raise awareness of the profound impact that HIV/AIDS has on Black communities across this country.

We also take this opportunity to recognize the work of our brother organization - the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition- for its leadership in addressing issues related to HIV health disparities among Black gay men. Their efforts have resulted in a new four year demonstration project through the [Secretary of Health and Human Services Minority AIDS Initiative](#) that will support community-based models in strengthening HIV prevention efforts and the health care needs of Black men, particularly young Black men who have sex with men.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Black Americans represent approximately 12 percent of the U.S. population, but accounted for 44 percent of new HIV infections and 43 percent of all people living with HIV in 2010. While HIV incidence among Black women has declined somewhat, we are still 20 times more likely than white women and nearly 5 times more likely than Hispanic/Latino women to become infected. More than 70 percent of new HIV infections among Black men occur in black gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men and the incidence rate is higher among young black gay and bisexual men than any other group.

"We have to come together if we are going to win the battle against HIV," commented Barbara Joseph, Chair of the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, Inc. "Unless we truly become our brother's and sister's keepers and fight HIV/AIDS, we will lose many more to this disease."

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Black communities cannot be underestimated. Our challenge now is to stem the tide of this disease in our communities across the country and save the lives of Black people. We must become the voice of change and mobilize Black communities to unite to take care of one another and generations to come.

About the National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, Inc. The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (NBWHAN) is organized to provide leadership and expertise in the prevention and spread of HIV/AIDS and other health disparities that affect black women and

girls nationally and internationally. The mission of the NBWHAN is to reduce the burden of morbidity, mortality and stigma of HIV/AIDS and other health disparities associated with gender, social, and economic inequities among Black women and girls.

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5. *[“Mortality among Blacks/Africans Americans Diagnosed with HIV, 2008–2012 – United States”](#);