



July 14, 2010

The National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network commends President Barack Obama for honoring his commitment to addressing the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic. We are pleased that the President and his administration have been ever diligent in developing a National HIV/AIDS Strategy that presents a roadmap for the country's response to the epidemic with three primary goals:

- Reducing the number of new infections;
- Increasing access to care and optimizing health outcomes for people living with HIV; and
- Reducing HIV-related health disparities.

Though we remain hopeful, as Black women living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV/AIDS, we cannot help but wonder if this will be the plan that we **all** have been waiting for. If African American women are to embrace this strategy as a serious transparent plan, it must address the issues of gender and racial inequity relative to Black women and HIV/AIDS in this country. While indeed an ambitious plan, the National HIV/AIDS Strategy must fully recognize the impact of HIV/AIDS on African American Women as well as outline an approach that will follow the trends of the epidemic.

These are issues NBWHAN will focus on during our review of the strategy in addition to whether the plan indicates a clear strategy with and for African American women.

We call upon every Black woman living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV/AIDS to review the strategy and implementation documents. If you would like to share your reaction to the documents please email us at nbwhan@yahoo.com.

To read the Strategy and Implementation Plan please go to the following links:

www.WhiteHouse.gov/AIDS-Strategy

www.WhiteHouse.gov/Presidential-AIDS-Memo

www.WhiteHouse.gov/AIDS-Strategy-Implementation

NBWHAN looks forward to working with you, the White House, the US Department of Health and Human Services, and the Office of National AIDS Policy, in the battle against the HIV/AIDS epidemic in this country, particularly its impact on the lives of Black women.

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. We will no longer be ignored, invisible, or silent in this epidemic.

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